

**Analysis of the second session of the Working Group „Youth & Sport“
of GamCon – Gagauzian Modernization Convention**

The second session of the Working Group Youth & Sport was held on 5th of Decemeber 2017 in the Regional Gallery of Arts in Comrat, Gagauzia. Auditorium consisted of a diverse group - youth workers and representatives of various NGOs, students, representatives of the public sector. The meeting was opened by Dmitry Furtuna, Project and PR Coordinator of the GamCon project. At the Beginning of the session he presented the project in general, the objectives of the meeting and introduced both presenters.

As a local expert, my role at the session was to present the Slovak and European Union's approaches to youth development. To introduce the existing programs of youth mobility and state programs developed for youth support in Slovakia and EU countries.

My presentation was devided into 4 main parts. First part was about statistics and the situation of young people in SVK/EU. In the next section, I introduced which are the most important documents and laws on youth policy at European and national level. Later I explained how it looks like working with youth in Slovakia. I described work of IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute, and how is the youth participation on the life of municipality, school, region in our country. The last part of the presentation was more specific and probably the most useful for the auditorium because of the information about the possibilities of youth mobility. I have introduced the Erasmus + program – the EU programe for education, training, youth and sport and all 3 key actions, also the opportunities for volunteering in Europe through EVS and opportunities in a field of sport thanks to E+ programme. The participants of the working group have also information about EYF - European Youth Portal and about network Eurodesk. After the E+ programme we also looked at the opportunities through the Visegrad Fund and how they can apply for the international projects. At the end of the presentation I had prepared demonstrations - photos from various youth activities in the frame of participation from the

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school, municipal to the regional and national level. Photos from non-formal trainings, structured dialogues, camps and conferences in Slovakia for better understanding

After the presentation, the auditorium had several questions, mainly at the topic of the youth mobility possibilities through the E + and V4 Fund programs and about financing of youth work in Slovakia. I suggested to the participants that, if they are interested in engaging in some international exchanges as a partner for Slovak NGOs, they can contact me and I will connect them for further cooperation. Many of them have expressed interest.

I have identified 4 key recommendations in a relation to the follow-up discussion and they are:

- 1) To participate more in international mobilities for young people. For young people with fewer opportunities, little or no formal working experience, the skills gained during a (non-formal) learning mobility project are particularly valuable, including on the labour market. Important benefits are:
 - Increased confidence / self-esteem and autonomy;
 - Access to new (youth) networks and connections;
 - Better orientation on career ideas and goals;
 - Increased ability to be mobile for future employment
- 2) Youth policy have to be prepared in cooperation and consulted with young people. I recommend to promote and realize a structured dialogue between youth and adults – policymakers about the issues that concern life of young people.
- 3) To offer more accredited and for all available short-term trainings for young people to make it easier for them to find job after school (for example about soft skills, self development, business skills, financial literacy...)
- 4) Encourage institutionalized youth participation at all levels (school parliaments, city and municipal youth parliaments and regional youth councils) to maximize co-decisions of young people.

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Main aim of the session was to determine needs and opportunities as well as possible barriers and shortcomings of the future development of the youth sphere. I really hope that the session was useful and that one day it won't be only debates and formulations of recommendations, but our ideas and plans will be realizable and realized.

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