

## EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK 2014 IN ESZTERGOM



### IMPORTANT TOPICS

Partnership building  
Seminar in Slovenia

European Voluntary  
Service

More about countries:

- Serbia
- Ukraine

**INVITATION TO SLOVENIA: 23-26.10.2014**



## The European Year 2014 as an opportunity to create a community of remembrance

by Gregor Federhen, SEK's coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe



***This year is of particular interest for politically engaged people, because, once again, citizens are called on to elect their representatives in the European Parliament. In addition to the elections to the European Parliament, more anniversaries are being celebrated in 2014 which provide an opportunity to remind us of our common history: 10 years of Eastern enlargement of the EU, 25 years of fall of the Iron Curtain, 100 years after the beginning of World War I.***

*We often will be confronted with the question of what and how we remember these historical events and what we might better forget. In religion and culture, the past has and will always be very important, and the ability with which people keep the past present is based on the memory. People's memory has always been a fiercely competitive field, and the so-called policy of remembrance now plays an important role in many countries on our continent. Political interest groups and parties develop many strategies to conquer and occupy this field. The current tensions between Russia and Ukraine can also be understood as a conflict about the proper interpretation and classification of history.*

*Europe cannot only be held together by the common market, but also needs a common*

*memory. If a supranational Europe is to succeed, Europe must also be transformed into a transnational continental community of remembrance. If Europe wants to become attractive and make proud, it needs symbols which inspire people and allow identification, it needs popular hymns, cultural events and common European days of celebration.*

*The Spanish author Jorge Semprun once said that the enlargement and consolidation of the European Union can only be successful in its existence and culture "if we have shared and united our memories". This process has only just begun, however, a united Europe will only manage to build up a sustainable identity if contentious memories are mutually accepted and discussed in public. We are still shaped by divided memories. It is now essential to name clearly and in public the past conflicts which happened in the European history, and to work them in civil forms. Sharing and uniting our memories might contribute to the creation of a real European Community which would also be able to act in solidarity.*

*European election campaigns are usually a time of conjuring cultural similarities. That might be of short-term to treat the rampant resignation and dissatisfaction in Europe. However, the European memory could also provide a form of reassurance and safety net when it comes to stopping the small and big political crashes. Let us therefore use the commemoration days to share our different traditions, and let us fill Europe's memory with vivid content and answer the question of who we are and how we do want to live.*



## Erasmus + European Voluntary Service

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young people with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. In this way, it seeks to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship. Their learning experience is formally recognized through a Youthpass. Participation is free for the volunteers (with the exception of a possible contribution for travel costs) who also get board and lodging, insurance cover and an allowance for the duration of the project.

### How can you apply?

If you are between 17 and 30 and willing to spend from 2 weeks to 12 months abroad as an EVS volunteer you have two options:

- Contact an organisation that is recruiting volunteers for a granted project.
- Contact an organisation to discuss starting a project.

You can find organisations which hold a valid EVS accreditation here:  
[http://europa.eu/youth/evs\\_database](http://europa.eu/youth/evs_database)

### Financing:

The participation in an EVS activity must be free of charge for volunteers, with the exception of a possible contribution for travel costs (if the Erasmus+ grant does not fully cover these costs)

### Travel:

unit cost based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission.

### Accommodation and board:

„pocket money“ - the amounts depend on the country where the mobility activity takes place (55-145 EUR)

**A successful EVS project requires close co-operation among at least three key players:**

- a sending organization – in charge of sending young people, preparing them before departure, supporting them during the whole project;
- a receiving organization - in charge of hosting the activity, developing a programme of activities for participants;
- the volunteer



## Invitations and terms

### From 3th to 5th of October 2014

"Come loose 2014 – We're going to change Bavaria in a FAIR way"-weekend for everyone at the age of 14 to 30.

### From 23th to 26th of October 2014

international youth seminar about Partnership and team building of Kolping Youth Europe in Slovenij Gradec in Slovenia

27th of October 2014 - the World Day of Prayer of the International Kolping Society celebrated every year on October 27 reminds us of Adolph Kolping's beatification on October 27, 1991.

### OCTOBER 2014

Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### NOVEMBER 2014

Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### 4th of December 1865

Adolph Kolping died in Cologne

### 8th December 1813

The birthday of Adolph Kolping

### DECEMBER 2014

Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Media workshop

Dear Kolping Youth Europe Members,

We would like to kindly invite you to take part in Media workshop dedicated directly to young people from Europe. It will take place in Voiswinkel near Cologne in Germany between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2015.

This time we will focus on the preparation of tools to promote our activities not only among members of the Kolping Society, but also other people interested in activities for youngsters. We will work in three groups: radio, television and newspaper.



We will offer you interesting workshops on journalist techniques. Furthermore you can listen to lectures by practicing journalists and visit Domradio – catholic radio station in Cologne.

Travel cost reimbursement: up to 50% (but no more than 100 euro).

Application deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2015

Further information:

[pkwapik@kolping.pl](mailto:pkwapik@kolping.pl), phone: (+48) 12 418 77 62

**With the support of the Youth in Action programme of the European Union"**



Education and Culture DG

**'Youth in Action' Programme**

## Partnership and team building in Slovenia



**D**ear members of Kolping Youth Europe,

The international youth seminar about Partnership and team building of KYE will be held in Slovenia from the 23<sup>rd</sup> till the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2014.

Further information:

pkwapik@kolping.pl  
phone: +48 124187762

Internet:

www.kolpingwerk-  
europa.net

Project will be supported by **Renovabis Foundation** and „Youth in Action” Programme of the European Union

We will spend these few days in my home town: Slovenj Gradec in hotel Vabo, which is right in the city center. We will present our work from the previous year, attend some seminars and have time to catch up from our previous meeting or make new friends with the people that will come anew. There will also be opportunities to explore Slovenia, at least a little.

(Travelling memo; it is advisable to plan in advance to get good tickets. The best locations are Maribor – for train trips, and Klagenfurt (AU) - for train and plane. We will also be able to pick you up there and transport you to Slovenj Gradec when needed, should anyone arrive early, we will also find you accommodation. :))

Hope to see you in October, I am already excited.

All the best till then,  
**Mateja Šavc**  
Kolping Slovenia



<http://www.gmaj.si/>



Education and Culture DG

‘Youth in Action’ Programme



## Slovenia in a few words...



**The Republic of Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe, where the Alps and the Mediterranean meet the Pannonian plains and the mysterious Karst.**

Furthermore Slovenia is the place of ethnic crossroads. From the time of their earliest settlement here in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Slovenes have had to struggle for living space and to safeguard their cultural, political and economic existence with more populous Germanic, Latin, Magyar and Slavic peoples. In this struggle the Slovenes lost nearly two-thirds of the territory they originally settled. Currently Slovenia is a nation state in southern Central Europe. It borders Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Croatia to the south and southeast and Hungary to the northeast. It covers about 20 300 square kilometers and has population of 2,05 million. It is parliamentary republic and member of the European Union and NATO. Its capital and largest city is Ljubljana. The second-largest city is Maribor, where Kolping Society has its headquarter.

In Slovenia the sun shines approximately 2000 hours per year. And there is plenty of snow in winter. The average temperature are -2 °C in

January and 21°C in July. Green is the dominant colour. There are many woods and forests in Slovenia – covering more than half of the country – and numerous preserved and protected plant and animal species.

Slovenia makes a great tourist destination. You can ski in the morning and surrender yourself to the luxury of the Adriatic Sea in the afternoon.

The highest mountain is called *Triglav* – the name meaning “three-heads” – and it is 2864 m high. The mountain is a true national symbol, featured on the national coat of arms and the flag.

The country is also known for its great wines and delicious traditional food.

*According to:*

<http://www.slovenia.si/slovenia/>

## Kolping Serbia – short introduction



**Kolping Society in Serbia is one of the most active association in Europe. Since the end of 2013 there have been a stronger relations between Kolping Youth Europe and youth coordinators from the office in Serbia.**

Michal Ptak (Poland) held the first meeting with young Serbians in February 2014 during the Kolping educational conference in Novi Sad. Together with young people from Lithuania, Slovenia, Moldova, Slovakia and Kosovo they tried to find the best solutions for making groups of youngsters stronger and more active on the local field and

networking them. There were many ideas which are worth to pursue/ implement. For nowadays Kolping Serbia prepared very realistic and useful project proposal for young people who were affected by floods in Serbia this year. Now project is in the phase of application.



## Kolping Serbia – short introduction

In accordance with long term strategy of Kolping Serbia which is focused on young people, there has been developed educative programme for youngsters, in order to enable them for labour market and to provide them opportunity to develop skills needed in their future professional career development. This program consists of several trainings, with a content which is being used in practice as very useful tool.

### Trainings which have been provided within Kolping Serbia are:

1. Motivation, leadership and team work;
2. Business negotiation skills;
3. PR and relationship with users;
4. Project management;
5. Writing of project applications
6. Career development

### Some of the topics which have been processed during trainings were:

- personality traits of good leaders; different concepts of leadership depending on the situation; in order to improve the management and efficiency; small team's features and ability to manage them; variety of techniques to motivate team members
- importance of preparation for business negotiation; different phases during business negotiation process; characteristics of conflicts and different methods and approaches how to overcome them; cultural impacts for business negotiation process
- Forms of Public relation function; methods and techniques for efficient public relation campaign; crisis management and Customer Relationship Management
- project activities planning; methods and techniques for project preparation and project management; teamwork; different software solutions which are being used for planning and management
- EU projects, sources of available information regarding projects and partners, development as



well as management of the project, project analysis and planning and project evaluation

- CV and application letter, self-assessment and its importance; preparation and interview with employer;

Participants were mostly interested in practical part of the training, since it was the opportunity to learn pragmatic issues which they could use in practice.

There have been included more than 70 participants, who took part in the educative program.

Current activities are focused towards development of annual strategy for educative program and methodology in order to strengthen relationship with young people and expand Kolping network. These activities would be performed in close cooperation with Kolping Youth Europe.

*Melinda Tomić and Marina Kukin*

### Contact:

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21000 Novi Sad  
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## Kolping Ukraine



We – as a Kolping Youth Europe – are aware of very difficult situation in Ukraine. Many of our friends live in that country and experience the effects of armed conflict. We would like to invite you to read three testimonies of Kolping members, who describe their emotions and feelings on that political case.

As President of KYE wrote in his letter to Ukrainian people: We believe that the Ukrainian democracy will rise again after these hard months with the intercession of Adolph Kolping. Remember that you are in our hearts and prayers!

**Julia Wonsowych,  
Kolping Youth Ukraine:**

*"Last months are really very difficult for our country. Sometimes I think it's so good, that we don't live in eastern Ukraine. But it's not right, because we have to be together now as never before. Now we often think about sense of life and we are closer to each other as Christians and as Kolping members here. I often think about our future in my country, but I do not know. It's difficult to assess something now. But as for me we have to learn to be really independent, because Ukraine cannot exist without independence. Now we cannot exist without support of our friends and neighbours – older brothers EU – countries. But Ukraine must be much stronger in the future."*



## Kolping Ukraine

**Galja Ieromina,  
Kolping Ukraine:**

*"I always thought that the war is something from the history that can never happen in my country. Nobody could believe it even last year. But it happened and it is so close. It's terribly to think, but people die every day, different people with different opinions die just because somebody wants to have more power. I just want to stop it. I love my country and I want that our men come back home from the east of Ukraine and they forget that they ever used weapons. And the people who leaved their homes in the east could come back home and we would leave in peace as used to be earlier. Perhaps I'm too romantic. My family, my friends and my job at Kolping Society are the only parts of life which help me to be still optimistic. We all grow up from last year and realize many things, we are closer to the friends, to the parents and also people in the Kolping Families are closer to each other. It's the best possibility to understand what is really important in this life. But even now in that difficult situation I still believe in our future. Every country must pay for its independence, our price is huge but I believe in Ukraine, I do not have another homeland and I really hope that someday somehow everything will be all right."*

**Vasyl Savka,  
Kolping Ukraine:**

*"The events in Ukraine in November 13 – February 14 gave us the hope to get free from corrupt and criminal regime of Janukowich and his henchmen to become democratic and independent state, which is moving into the big European family, but we didn't expect so massive (also military) aggression from the side of Russia. Now it is a war and I cannot stop thinking and feeling compassion and pain with the parents, wives, children of hundreds of soldiers killed in the East. I do not understand the policy of our military Headquarters how do they lead this so called antiterrorism operation in Donbass, why soldiers are not equipped and victualled, why troops are abandoned for dying under the fire of terrorists without any support..."*

*I pray for the ending of this war and I give all my hope to the Ukraine to become a strong and developed country as a member of the European Community as soon as possible."*





## Youth Week 2014: Esztergom – where is it?



***Esztergom – where is it? I have never heard about this place and I was curious what to expect - talk Theresa Hartmann about the Youth Week***

Project was supported by  
**Renovabis Foundation**  
and „Youth in Action“  
Programme of the  
European Union



Esztergom is located in Hungary, north of Budapest. This town lovely placed by the Danube river is the third place with the biggest cathedral in Europe – I have never known about this fact before.

37 young people from all Europe met between 30.06 and 06.07.2014 in Esztergom - including myself Theresa Hartmann - President of Kolping Youth Bavaria.

Organizers provided us with a rich program, including sightseeing and learning about the Hungarian culture. During a visit to Budapest we could see the Parliament and had time to explore the city. Beyond the cultural program of the Kolping

Youth Week participants learned better thoughts and works of Adolph Kolping, especially his thinking about professional work. During the workshop we could expand our knowledge of the recruitment process to work and conducting job interview.

Despite the fact that there were a lot of activities we had time to play also. Participants prepared short presentations on the European countries, furthermore we could taste typical dishes for these countries. Dancing, laughter and fun ... without borders and language barriers!

That week I have gained a lot of great experiences, I found many new friends and just have fun. Maybe next time you'll take part in the Kolping Youth Week?

***Theresa Hartmann***

## Peace Building and Reconciliation meeting with youth from Kolping Serbia, Kolping Kosova und Kolping Albania

Balkan region, infamous for its conflicts during the 90s, still has some unresolved issues. In 2008 Kosovo proclaimed independence from Serbia, but Serbia still doesn't recognize it as a separate country. There aren't any armed conflicts at this time, but because of these political tensions, people from different ethnic groups are still not cooperating normally. Young people, who did not have the chance to travel that much, and meet people living in other countries, are full of prejudice and even negative attitudes towards their peers from the region.

Main goal of the meeting was to break the prejudices and raise the level of awareness of young members from Albania, Kosovo and Serbia towards people in other countries, as well as to establish the connections for future joint work on conflict resolution and peace building in the region.

Through this meeting, the young people learned

about the country, culture and work of these countries. Each of them tried to deliver an original presentation of their country and the work which is done in Kolping organization and activity of youth.

Leaders and Youth Kolping of Shkodra organized a very good hospitality for the participants. They visited: Museum of Shkoder-Osa Kuka, The Castle of Shkodra, Lake of Shkodra and beach of Velipoj.

Besides participation in the workshops, the program was conducted in such a way that participants had enough time to organize and engage in leisure and team building activities on the Velipoja beach. These activities created stronger connections between all participants, which were also one of the objectives of the meeting. Not only this allowed easier and more efficient implementation of workshops and discussions, but it has also contributed to creating a basis for future work.

*Mimoza Thaqi*



## European Parliament: exciting, committed and versatile – visit to Brussels



**Loud discussions and serious negotiations in the European Parliament – this is nothing new – but it is surprising when young people from various Kolping associations are present at this place.**

In a role play in the European Parliament more than 100 dedicated youth are trying to find the balance between the different interests of the parties, the national states and the common good. In the Parliament it is already a challenge to agree on a common line regarding a proposed guideline of the European Commission. And when the Council of Ministers of the EU (ministers of all member countries) also present their own perspective and the commission shows low readiness to negotiate, it becomes clear how difficult everyday life is for a European parliamentarian. However, the young people are able to reach consensus and finally a clearly modified guideline is adopted.

With this an informative and intensive day in the European Parliament comes to an end. A total of more than 100 young people from 15 European countries travelled to Brussels. Some of the young people grew up in the European Union, like the participants from France, Belgium and Germany. Others came in 2004 or 2007 with the Eastern enlargement (e.g. Poland, Slovenia, Romania) and for others the European Union is still an objective – as for the participants from the Ukraine, Serbia and Kosovo.

Apart from a better understanding for the cooperation of the European Institutions, the experts gave an insight into the historical development and current topics. The speech of the more than 90 year old Paul Collowald who reminded of the original objective – peace – and the speech of Robert Schuman on May 9, 1950 was moving. All speakers took up the issue as to how fragile peace is when they analysed the situation in the Ukraine and thereby described the challenges for the EU. This subject was an important focus in the conversations with the candidates for the forthcoming European elections, apart from economic and social questions.

The intercultural evening organized by the participants was another highlight. French, Polish and Slovakian cheese, sausages from Hungary and the Ukraine, sweets from Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo as well as beer from Belgium were served while the participants were



## European Parliament: exciting, committed and versatile – visit to Brussels

telling jokes, talking about the beauty of their countries and singing and dancing.

The last day had the motto European citizenship and commitment for Europe. Father Patrick Daly, General Secretary of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community held an impressive speech about the question of identity and clearly called nationalistic tendencies into question. He also addressed Europe's Christian roots and promoted a mindful maintenance of interpersonal contacts, especially in times where "identity" has become fast-paced and fragile due to Facebook and other modern media.

At the end some participants described their experiences and described how encouraging and exciting these days were and how the own horizon has become a bit more European.

**Daniela Stehlik**



*This seminar was funded with the support of the "Youth in Action" Programme of the European Union and Renovabis Foundation*





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**The Kolping Youth Europe** has its own juridical person, the Kolping youth Europe e.V.

Like the European Kolping Society, the youth has the task to coordinate networking on the European level, to distribute relevant European information and to support national and regional Kolping youth groups. Every year a summer camp is organized and formation events are conducted. The general assembly that is supposed to take place every year deals with various youth topics and offers training for the work with youth groups.

The Kolping Youth Europe is represented through one elected person in the board of the European Kolping Society.