



Asociația de Tineri din Ardeal  
Youth Association from Transylvania  
Cristuru Secuiesc, Székelykeresztúr  
str. Libertății nr. 69, Harghita, 535400  
[office.ata@gmail.com](mailto:office.ata@gmail.com)  
[www.ata-ro.eu](http://www.ata-ro.eu)



**Are you aged 17 to 30?**  
Want to do  
**EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS**  
**in Transylvania, Romania?**

**HERE'S WHAT WE, THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION FROM TRANSYLVANIA OFFER!**

The Youth Association from Transylvania was founded in 2011 in the town of Cristuru Secuiesc, Romania. We aim to help develop, promote and represent the general interests of the communities in Transylvania by having social, cultural, sporting, educational, recreational and professional exchange, training and volunteering activities. Our Motto: **To show Europe to Transylvania and Transylvania to Europe!**



Since 2013 **we hosted more than 80 international volunteers** within the European Voluntary Service (EVS) program, all doing long term activities **to help support the development of our communities**. We also sent out more than 75 Romanian youth to a great number of European countries and a few to Africa. During this time, we set up a well-oiled foreign volunteer managing team of more than 15 supervisors plus local volunteers, mentors and local partners that enables us to host new volunteers yearly, within the new volunteering program of the EU, the **European Solidarity Corps (ESC)**.

**In 2019 and 2020 we will host 24 volunteers** in Cristuru Secuiesc through an already approved European Solidarity Corps project. The candidates have the choice to be active in 8 different areas: support person for entities working with disabled youth (1), kindergarten (2), herbalist (3), [www.keresztur.info](http://www.keresztur.info) news portal (4) and host organization (5) **support person**, up-cycling education (6) and puppet show group (7) **manager** and as **promoter** of rural traditions (8). Candidates can apply for an activity starting **April 1, 2019** for 2-2 volunteers from **Portugal, Spain and Hungary** and 1-1 from **Italy and Latvia**.



## ACTIVITIES, IN MORE DETAIL:



**1. Up-cycling education manager:** volunteers do up-cycling workshops for children, teens, youths or adults collaborating with the local and regional city and village schools. Cristuru Secuiesc and the region has a lack of options to recycle and act sustainable ecologically. To aid this lack, we continuously have volunteers who do activities on recycling and up-cycling with workshops, bazaars and other educational activities for teens and youths. It aims to make the children and youth who participate more aware and sensitive to waste, its negative effects and possible reuses. To achieve this, 3-4 workshops should be done weekly by the volunteers in the volunteering house in local schools and in villages, both for children and teenagers. Also 1 bazaar should be hosted every

2 months so that the community sees and uses the creations of their youths and of the volunteers.

**2. www.keresztur.info news portal support person:**

volunteers find news, report them, make videos about local news, present portraits of personalities, publish news and video-document the projects done by us. The

activity aims to answer to the lack of video coverage of the local happenings and news. To achieve this the volunteers will have to be on the spot at events, make interviews, and have filmed materials of the events and then they have to edit them and make articles for the keresztur.info news portal. A volunteer would do TV field work with them, gathering local news, presenting portraits of local personalities and doing personal cultural shows. The volunteer will have the necessary training, tools and materials in order to film digital raw material, edit and broadcast.



**3. Kindergarten support person:** volunteers collaborate with kindergartens, organize daily non-formal workshops for children to teach English, boost creativity, learn about the world, and develop dexterity, all with non-formal teaching methods.. The activity aims to make children aged 2 to 6 receptive to English as an important communication language, to diversity and creativity. Being exposed to this in a young age will make the children more open to learning foreign languages as they grow up. For this the volunteer goes to a kindergarten every morning and does language

lessons and creativity activities with the kids. Every week in a different class, always rotating. Larger monthly events can also be organized for all the kids.

**4. Herbalist support person:** The green areas in the region have a lot of unique and abundant herbs which are only partially gathered and used. To this opportunity we will have a volunteer who would join some local herbalists, associations and businesses and they will help in gathering, drying, packaging and commercializing these herbs. Volunteers need to show the people who are interested in herbalism or who is doing it as a hobby, that there is still interest in such practices, that there is a need to conserve the practices and to create new markets for these products. The volunteers will try to achieve all these things and will also promote herbalism through workshops and events. Besides this they would catalogue the working processes needed for different plants and they would create information tools and do promotional activities.





Asociația de Tineri din Ardeal  
Youth Association from Transylvania  
Cristuru Secuiesc, Székelykeresztúr  
str. Libertății nr. 69, Harghita, 535400  
[office.ata@gmail.com](mailto:office.ata@gmail.com)  
[www.ata-ro.eu](http://www.ata-ro.eu)



**5. Host Organization support person:** This activity ensures that the ATA youth group that is active in organizing sports, cultural and leisure time events and activities in the city has a foreign and outside perspective. One volunteer will support the activities of this group, both with ideas and direct support. Also, we as hosting organization aim to do our local activities with volunteers support, so that we always get fresh and new ideas. The volunteer also supports the other foreign volunteers and develops his/her own weekly/monthly projects. Beside this, the volunteer will also work

directly with the staff and the volunteers of the NGO, in the office, supporting all the activities carried out by us on every level.

**6. Support person for entities working with the disabled:** volunteers support youth. The volunteer can choose to support both or just one of the experts of 2 entities that work with or organize weekly events for the disabled. One is a local, church managed center where certain members of the community -like youth with disabilities who live at home, soon to be mothers or with babies and the elderly- go daily for therapeutic and leisure time, community activities. The volunteers will help the staff members specialized on helping the youth with disabilities. This partner NGO does weekly therapeutic workshops, mainly for youths with disabilities, but also for others. They have 1-1 expert for each target group and volunteers will support these experts with new ideas and methods in order to develop the versatility of the workshops. They will also help with the annual events. The other entity is a state managed center for the deeply disabled. Here the volunteer would have to do similar activities, with disabled clients aged 3 to 18, just under more challenging mobility and interaction conditions. Trainings will be offered to do this activity.



**7. Puppet Show group manager:** Our city used to be very active in doing puppet shows for the children of the community. This got lost and we want to revive it with volunteers who can establish a club on city scale that will have local and international members. Volunteers will prepare and present interactive puppet shows every week in the office of the NGO, theaters, kindergartens, libraries and schools in the town and the region. The volunteer needs to create a group of children or youth who want to do puppet shows regularly. This will include learning about puppeteering, rehearsing, making the puppets and doing the shows. There is a lot of flexibility on how these are done, it can be an interactive play with the audience or a classical approach to puppet shows.

**8 Promoter of rural traditions:** volunteers visit elderly people, craftsman, religious and cultural sites curators, talk to them and make longer news articles pieces about them which they publish in a blog or vlog. In this activity a new website will be established, called Transylvania with Foreigner's Eyes. The role of the volunteers will be to discover all the human, tangible and non-tangible peculiarities of the larger region, identify people to explain and talk about these and record them in longer journalistic report that can be also accompanied by videos. These articles will be written in the language of the volunteer doing the activity, English, Hungarian and





Asociația de Tineri din Ardeal  
Youth Association from Tarnsylvania  
Cristuru Secuiesc, Székelykeresztúr  
str. Libertății nr. 69, Harghita, 535400  
[office.ata@gmail.com](mailto:office.ata@gmail.com)  
[www.ata-ro.eu](http://www.ata-ro.eu)



Romanian, so that multiple readers of the site could read the pieces. A facebook page of the site would also be managed and both the site and the page will also be promoted.



## HOUSING and LOGISTICS

The volunteers will be housed in a **rented house** which has 5 bedrooms that have 1, 2 and 3 beds in each, with bathrooms in the hallways and a yard.

The house is fully furnished with:

- spacious kitchen (image ←) that has 2 fridges, stove, microwave, dishes, glasses, furniture, etc.
- 3 bathrooms that have toilets, showers, washing machine and other cleaning appliances.
- 5 large bedrooms that have furniture and beds

(image →).

- the house also has electricity, gas, hot and cold water and internet connection with Wi-Fi connection

For meals, volunteers will receive an amount allocated for meals, to buy and cook their own food and provide bills for all the purchased food.

The house where the volunteers live is in the center of the city of Cristuru Secuiesc and it is a part of the small **youth center** and main **office** (image ↓) of the NGO. The house also features a living room and **workrooms** for some of the activities, such as the digital activities and the recycling and



upcycling activity. There is no local bus service in the city but we can provide a few **bikes** to the volunteers who require one.

The **working language** in the city and in the greater region is **Hungarian**, so the main focus will be put on learning this with a teacher, while **Romanian** will be learned with the Online Linguistic Support system.

The rules of conduct regarding mutual collaboration and respect between volunteers, association and community will be set up within the specific projects and **activity agreements** with the volunteers.



## FINANCIALS and VOLUNTEERING HOURS

Each volunteer will receive **120 € as food allowance and 90 € as pocket money each month**. Everything else, including house rental costs, gas, electricity, water and internet costs, appliances **and activity related costs** will be managed by the hosting organization. International travel is also reimbursed. Volunteers will do their activities in a flexible way, for about **6-7 hours/day and 5 days every week**. Two days are free every week and 2 other days are holidays every month. Beside these all regional and national free days and holidays are also considered free for the volunteers.



Asociația de Tineri din Ardeal  
Youth Association from Tarnsylvania  
Cristuru Secuiesc, Székelykeresztúr  
str. Libertății nr. 69, Harghita, 535400  
[office.ata@gmail.com](mailto:office.ata@gmail.com)  
[www.ata-ro.eu](http://www.ata-ro.eu)



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE AND DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES

We are **looking for any youth aged 17 to 30** who is **serious and motivated** to come to a small city and support us in the development of a community with a lot of potential. **We do not require volunteers to have any pre-determined skill sets** or aptitudes in order to carry out the activity, only an inquisitive demeanor and an openness to learn new things which may be needed for the activity. Also, we do not require participants to have advanced or intermediate English speaking skills, we only require them to have a basic skill in English and an openness to learn the local language in order to effectively communicate with the local community. Last but not least, **we are looking for energetic, creative open minded and independent youth.**

Each volunteer has to allocate 70% of their time to work on the main activity, 20% to do common monthly events and 10% to promote their own activity and to do community volunteering in the city. In the first weeks volunteers get used to the community, the culture, habits, logistics and the activity. Mentoring support, training for the activity and learning monitoring is also provided. Beside all these we also regularly have **team-building activities** where we go for weekends to a surrounding village or a touristic place in Transylvania. Beside these, we have culture nights, where volunteers have an afternoon and night to present their cuisine and culture. On top of these, if volunteers require **training** on how to manage events, non-formal education, establishing NGOs, applying and managing Erasmus+ projects, etc., we offer these. We will also offer a Digital Storytelling training to them so that they learn how to edit sound and video to make movies. Mentors attend some of these activities and independently do some outings and hikes with the volunteers. **Each volunteer will be in charge of one of the activity** and will have the possibility to help and take part in others also.

The volunteers will come in a small community where they will have the opportunity to get involved in a specific activity which will **help them to develop concrete skills, professionally, personally and socially**, more concretely, they will:

- become more open towards cultural differences
- learn to express cultural and linguistic values
- plan and follow own development process
- develop creativity, initiative and entrepreneurship
- develop digital skills connected to making promotion materials such as flyers, posters and videos
- develop tolerance and sense of solidarity
- become informed about the characteristics of the local culture and the culture of other foreign volunteers
- develop analytical and comparing skills
- develop vocabulary and expression in English
- learn the basis of Hungarian and Romanian
- become conscious about learning phases and outcomes



## RECRUITMENT PROCESS

For anyone wishing to join us as an ESC volunteer, we will firstly require a **CV and a motivation letter**. **DEADLINE for applying is the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2019**. We encourage candidates to be creative with their applications, to include anything that might reveal their individuality, their likes, dislikes and potential skill sets. **These can be sent to us at [office.ata@gmail.com](mailto:office.ata@gmail.com)**. Also, we require all candidates to fill the short application form on this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/zY86MDdrUEdXv8Cf2>.



Asociația de Tineri din Ardeal  
Youth Association from Tarnsylvania  
Cristuru Secuiesc, Székelykeresztúr  
str. Libertății nr. 69, Harghita, 535400

[office.ata@gmail.com](mailto:office.ata@gmail.com)

[www.ata-ro.eu](http://www.ata-ro.eu)



It is **extremely important to choose the primary and secondary possibility** that volunteers want to do and also **the time when the** volunteers want to do their activities. Upon receipt of applications, the board of the NGO will decide whether the presented profile is appropriate for our activities. In light of this decision we will either refuse candidates or move on to a **Skype interview** with the candidates to evaluate motivation and personality in a direct and oral environment. After the interview, the board will

take a decision **and inform the candidates.**

## ABOUT THE TOWN

Regarding the location, CRISTURU SECUIESC lies at the **eastern end of the Transylvanian plateau** between the towns of Odorheiu Secuiesc and Sighișoara, **400 meters above sea level**. There are a lot of hills, meadows, rivers and forests for hikes and the Harghita mountains are also close. In 2011 there were **9491 inhabitants**, 9266 of which were declared Hungarian, 183 Romanian and 8 German while most of the Roma community declared themselves as Hungarian. The community nowadays work in the smaller textile, shoe, toy and furniture factories which popped up in town with foreign companies. **The town still has an agricultural aspect** though as most of the community owns a few acres of land around the town and many have kitchen gardens.



The youth community is abundant, with youth from all around the region going to the **2 high schools and 1 VET school**. Some of the youth moving back from universities in the area also help the youth life.

Beside this headquarter, after gathering a bit of experience, volunteers **can** do a few of the activities in the 4 larger cities around Cristuru Secuiesc, in Brașov, Sighișoara, Odorheiu Secuiesc and Băile Tușnad.