



# GYE BULLDOZER

clear the way for the news

Newsletter no.1 - October/November 2012

## Why bulldozer?

Because it is associated with...

Hot NEWS

Creative IDEAS

Huge ENERGY

Change-maker POWER

Creating & building SOMETHING NEW

FOLLOW our monthly activities in local and international levels

## Ceremony opening "Scout school"



Scout school is a perfect place to meet new friends, experience lots of adventures in nature, learn new things, discipline and get to know yourself better. Among others, you can learn how to survive in the forest, perform first aid, how to care about nature, interesting non-formal education with fun games, along with real scouts who would like to share their experience to youth.

Currently there are about 40 million Scouts in almost all countries worldwide and GYE organization hopes to expand scouting in Rustavi.

5 November 2011, Rustavi experienced opening ceremony of a Scout school. Many young enthusiastic people came to see the premises, to get a better understanding of what the program is prepared to do for the upcoming year and to listen to the local band Shelby. Volunteers from GYE also prepared non-formal activities, such as courses for foreign languages (English, German, French and Estonian), sport activities such as, yoga and strength training, cooking classes, movie club and debate club.

The scout house on Balanchevadze Street also operates as a hostel, where during the whole year, GYE organizes international projects such as youth exchanges for young people of all ages with a variety of interesting topics. There are conference rooms available, accommodation capacity is 80 people, there is a chill room, large garden and many utilities for games.

SCOUTING - LIFESTYLE OF A KNIGHT

## Art workshops

Each Wednesday at 5 pm the GYE Office changes in to a creative place. At the beginning of October we took inspiration from farawayChina and created a Chinese lamp. In previous weeks we decorated cups, made jewelry from fabric, created marionettes, but the funniest part came on the 31 October – Halloween! This day, which we have connected mainly with the United States, actually has its origins that date back to Ireland, in the Celtic festivals of the end of summer and harvest season. It arrived in America only with the immigration wave during the 19th century. Now it has also arrived to Georgia! The afternoon started with our invasion to the market, searching for the right sized pumpkin, explaining in sign language what we need. Then, cutting and carving took place, till all the lanterns were decorated with scary faces and lighted with candles. We finished our evening with a cake and coffee. We hope that in the years to come, future volunteers will continue the Halloween tradition and many others!



## Cooking club - every Friday at 5 pm in Scout center in Rustavi



My name is Zosia and I'm from Poland. Cooking, it's not only a passion, but also an important part of my life. It's one of the best ways to spend free time with my friends, especially when we can prepare something delicious, but also a great adventure in the world of different cultures, rich in so many tastes and smells. That is the main reason why I decided to organize a "Cooking Club", a place for all of you who are interested in discovering new cuisine or simply want to meet new people and taste some delicious dishes.



## Interview with Ala and Zosia from Poland - new long-term volunteers in GYE

### How long have you been here?

**Ala:** I came at the beginning of October. It's my second month here.

**Zosia:** Like Ala, I came here at the beginning of October and now I have started my second month in Georgia.

### Before arriving, what was your biggest fear?

**Ala:** Hm... I was afraid that I would die in a plane crash. And that Ukrainian Airlines would lose my luggage. But finally, I realized it wasn't very reasonable - I have AXA insurance....

**Zosia:** My nightmare was, how I would pack for one year with one piece of luggage. And of course, when I finally packed the Ukraine airlines lost it.

### Is Georgia as you expected it?

**Ala:** More or less - yes. But still I can't believe that most of the things that I have read/knew about Georgia before actually happen and exist.

**Zosia:** I was in Georgia last year on my holidays, so I knew what to expect.

### How is your Georgian language?

**Ala:** I think I was born to speak Georgian. I already know, hm.... one, two...or maybe five words.

**Zosia:** I like it very much, I want to learn it even if I can't manage to talk like native Georgians.

### Have you managed to travel in Georgia?

**Ala:** Yes. I've already seen some places in Georgia. Apart from Rustavi, of course. During the winter I plan to visit all museums, galleries and other cultural places and events in Tbilisi. I postpone travelling till spring. So if any of you knows something about any events taking place in the neighborhood - let me know.

**Zosia:** Yes, and I wait for other opportunities to discover beautiful Georgia.

### Have you had any unusual experiences in Georgia?

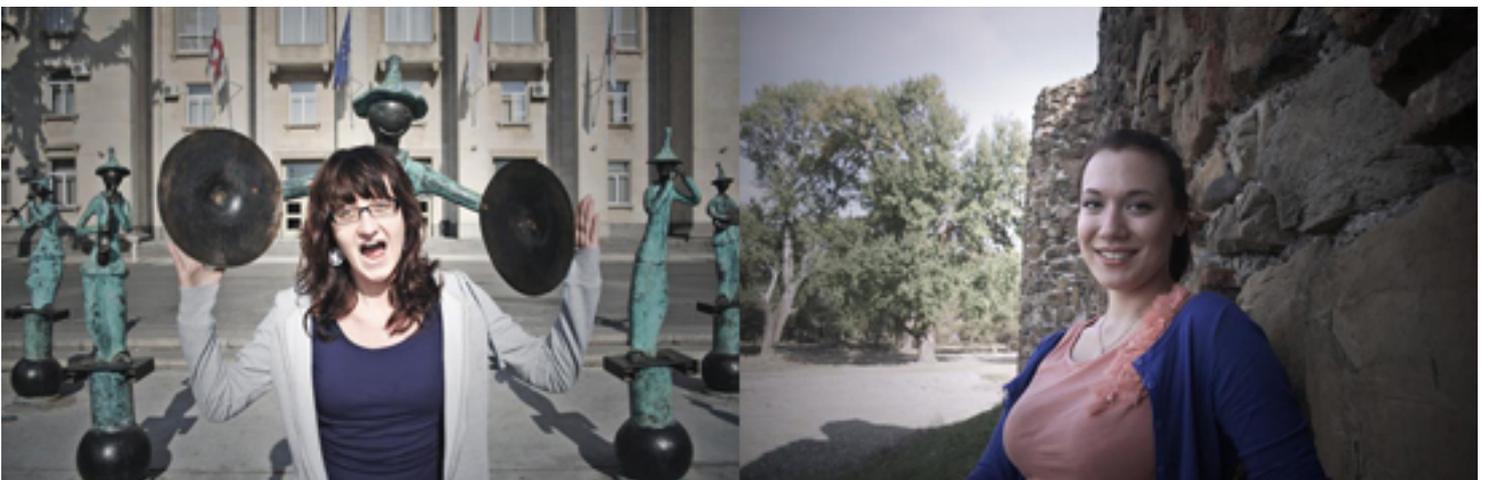
**Ala:** Everyday I experience something new and try to get used to Georgian perception of time and planning. But it's still in progress.....

**Zosia:** Yes, but if I told you I would have to kill you.

### Do you miss some food?

**Ala:** Food is one of our main topics, but it's still Georgian food, so it seems that I don't. Besides - what else does vegetarian need apart from vegetables, fruits, cheese and wine?

**Zosia:** Not yet, I am still amused by Georgian cuisine.



## Rustavi kalakoba

On 20 October took place the Day of city Rustavi, during which the EVS volunteers also prepared some activities for local youth. Old Rustavi square was full of children running around who wanted to see and try everything. They were so interested in our activities! We prepared painting on stones (which were brought from Mtkvari), face paintings and colored origami bracelets. Children were with us for a very long time and it was hard to finish, as they wanted to keep painting and folding.

Just a note at the end: to prepare for the activities EVS volunteers bravely went to the Istanbuli bazar in order to buy the special paints and spent whole afternoon practicing Georgian skills!



## Former EVS-ers' multicultural project in Georgia

Training, "Multiculturalism in an EVS project" united eleven different cultures from around Europe to discuss issues important in intercultural integration in all EVS projects. The project took place in International Scout Centre Rustavi (ISHR), hosted by "Georgian Youth for Europe" from 16 - 21 October.

The idea of project was developed in Poland, while ten EVS volunteers were at the end of their service. After living and working together in Poland for nine months, they decided to use the opportunity to organize an international project under Youth in Action Programme and meet up again all together in Georgia.

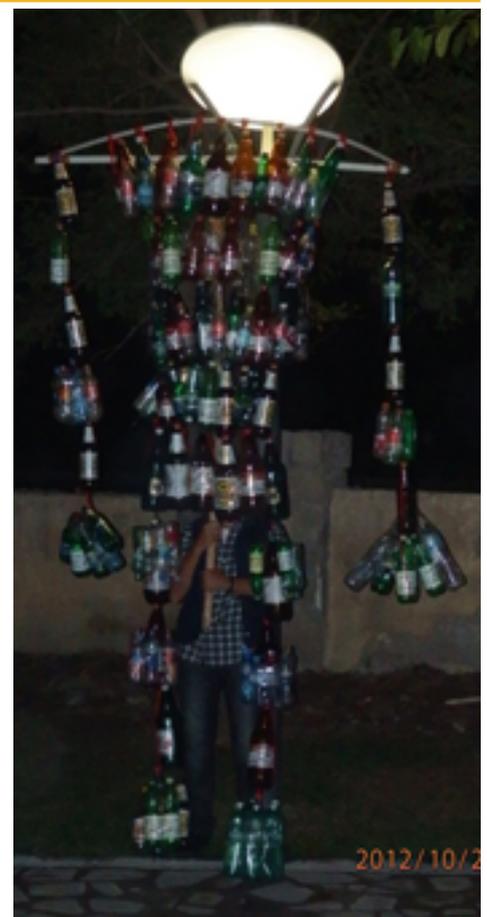
During the project, participants had a chance to remember EVS, cultural shock, problems and funny moments. Based on experiences, they developed recommendations to make the integration process easier in the multicultural environment of EVS and how to initiate new ideas of study visits to rebuild EVS back in Poland.

## Green stage

On 23 October 2012 there was a theatre play about natural environment in the premises of the local gymnasium in New Rustavi. Actors of this performance were the young people of five different countries; Norway, Armenia, Poland, Latvia and Georgia. The international actors were invited by our organization, Georgian Youth for Europe (GYE), for a youth exchange called, "Green Stage". The theme was, theatre and ecology, with the main objective being, how to express cultural differences of our individual countries and to address global and environmental issues around the world.

With this initiative youth can realize the seriousness of environmental pollution. In the end, all these issues were expressed in a theatre performance. During the ten days, the participants had an opportunity to show and express their views, find a hidden talent for theatre and think about the environment around them. On their own and also together as a group they searched for solutions to improve the environment. Among the participants there were professional actors but also amateurs and students of ecology. Together they created a play on how to treat the environment around us more gently. Participants prepared costumes, the plot, lighting and music themselves in the International Scout Centre.

Georgian participant Zuka Gaprindashvili, after youth exchange described his emotions and gained experience: "For me it was the best youth exchange. Because there were great people who wanted



to do something. They wanted to see some outcome. And result was an amazing performance. Before the performance I was so nervous, and after it I had only 3 - 4 hours to say bye to my friends. And they're were some exiting moments and also sad moments. But now I recognize that our performance was just great. And I was really surprised that the Georgian audience liked it. And why? Because before this project, when I was doing something for ecology, it was really boring and I've never liked to do that. But theatre and ecology are just great confluence. At first, I thought that it would be impossible to do something with these topics together, but we managed!"

## **First Georgian EVS with disabilities in Sigulda**

Association "Georgian Youth for Europe" (GYE) thinks that spending time abroad is a very important experience that erases prejudices and stereotypes regarding foreign cultures and religions. Unfortunately, these experiences are mostly not free, so that they stay inaccessible to people with fewer opportunities.

GYE has a good cooperation with "Rustavi Disability Centre of Youth and Children" for many years. At the centre GYE local & international volunteers are organizing children days, charity events and other activities. Also, GYE has two year cooperation with Latvian disability center "Aicinājums Tev", organizing common youth exchanges, short and long -term EVS projects.

In October 2012 organization "Aicinajums Tev" had first time hosted young volunteer with disabilities from Georgia. Project "Your chances- 4", was challenging step not only for hosing organization but also for participant - Nino and her social worker-Elene. It was first short-term EVS experience for Nino dealing with volunteer activities for Young people in Sigulda, Latvia.

Elene, Nino's Social worker says: "In spite of the fact that it was the first trip abroad for Nino, she didn't have any difficulties with transportation, with work or with people around her. Nino was actively involved in local activities and happy to learn and share with others". She was very open to gain new experiences, knowledge and practical skills of sewing, embroidery, painting and managed to learn Russian and basics of Latvian languages.

After the First positive experience and nice emotions, Nino is more open for new possibilities to go abroad, meet new people and gain new experiences.

## **National English spelling competition to be held at the national youth and children's palace in Tbilisi**

The National English Spelling Competition Committee has partnered with the U.S. Embassy and American Corners to promote the first National English Spelling Competition (NESC) in Georgia. Thirty-six students from across the country will compete for the first time ever for the title of National English Spelling Competition Champion on 30 March 2013 at the National Youth and Children's Palace in Tbilisi. More than 171 schools and 2,460 students participated in the first stage of the competition. The top scoring students from each school will be invited to the Regional Competition taking place 3-7 December at designated regional centers. The winners from each of the nine participating regions will then advance to the National Competition in Tbilisi to compete on 30 March 2013.

The National English Spelling Competition (NESC) was established in 2012 to reward students and teachers for their hard work and celebrate their achievements in a public forum. The event is administered by the NESC Committee, which is comprised of a group of volunteers throughout Georgia who strive to improve the English language learning experience and increase the motivation to learn. The NESC Committee collaborates with all parties interested in supporting the NESC including non-governmental organizations, government bodies, schools and the private sector. Notable partners and supporters include the U.S. Embassy, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Peace Corps Georgia, American Corners, and American Friendship Club.

If you would like more information about this event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Gus Davidson, Peace Corp Volunteer in "Georgian Youth for Europe" at 599 093 608, [gdauidson86@gmail.com](mailto:gdauidson86@gmail.com) or visit [spellingcompgeorgia.tumblr.com](http://spellingcompgeorgia.tumblr.com).



## “Challenge your village!” - project funded by Eastern Partnership Youth Window

Over the period 2012-2013, additional funds are allocated to the Youth in Action Programme to support more projects involving young people, youth workers and youth organizations from the European Union as well as from the Eastern Partnership region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The Youth in Action Program includes; projects such as youth exchange, training and EVS (European voluntary service). The aim is to inspire young people to take part in European education, non-formal learning and to include all young people regardless of their educational, social, and cultural background. The program now includes the Caucasus countries, promote their projects, their organizations and motivate young workers, which is a very important step for Georgia.

The process of administrating these projects is not simple, it is learning the important links and dates, how to generate good project ideas, how to fill in the application form and how to avoid common mistakes. All of this resulted in our first Youth exchange project “Challenge your village,” which was submitted in Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) for the first round in 2012.

“Challenge Your Village!” (29 September – 8 October) is a youth exchange, which looks to link the topic of rural village reality problems and opportunities. Twenty-two young people from Georgia, France and Latvia came together in the rural outskirts of Rustavi and discussed life in their rural communities and tried to find out what kind of benefits they can gain from living there. Consequently, these are real problems that need attention in rural villages throughout Georgia and the rest of Europe. We look to focus on enabling the participants to work together to make creative messages in order to invite society to break stereotypes and prejudices. For video, please visit: <http://goo.gl/2ummP>



## Free weekly activities

MONDAY	19.00 Yoga (scout house)
TUESDAY	17.30 German club (Batumi str)
WEDNESDAY	17.00 Art workshop (Batumi str)
THURSDAY	17.00 English for beginners (Batumi str) 17.00 Fitness (Scout house)
FRIDAY	17.00 Cooking club (Scout house)
SATURDAY	16.00 English advanced (Scout house)

All organised activities are free of charge for all participants. They are lead by EVS volunteers who work in "Georgian Youth for Europe".

Feel invited if you want to spend time in an international group of people and learn something in the meantime!



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