

*Nothing happens unless first we dream. This is the motto I am following on my way to become a world citizen.*

Hey Dear stranger, I am Ashot from Armenia, mainly from Nagorno Karabak, a conflict zone between Armenia and Azerbaijan. 17 years of my life I have lived in NKR and all that time the only thing I was dreaming about was/is peace, because I saw bullets flying instead of birds. Coming to Yerevan I just started to work on my career having in mind that I can make a change somewhere. I was applying to different Erasmus Training courses because I knew that the intercultural environment I will get would take me a step closer to my goal. It all started by volunteering in different organisations. In Kasa foundation I was running intercultural communication club and my supervisors saw my commitment and they offered me a training course about open badges we use. I just accepted the offer but at same time having in mind all these fears about my first travel experience. And I was right. Instead of Slovenia I got to Warsaw and then I was not allowed to take my transit flight to Croatia. But after 2 exhausting days I finally got to Slovenia. I will not tell you the stories we had during the training but I can say that Slovenia and the Youthpass itself changed my life. I learned that through intercultural communication we can erase all the prejudices we had before about different nations.



Now I can proudly say that In January I am going to Portugal for six-month Erasmus Exchange and all this thanks to the first Youthpass I got. Why? Because it opened a lot of doors for me, for my professional carrier and basically to the environment where I can proudly say that I am going to be a world citizen. So this is my story about my first Youthpass.

Oh, I forgot to mention, that thanks to the experience I had in Slovenia, I am going to open my social entrepreneurship which will be a youth center and a youth hostel at same time. Wish me good luck in this, because I will need it.

Ashot Gabrielyan- Armenia, Participant