

## **My months of Inspirations: While being part of European Solidarity Project, I was not working as an historian, I was living my life as one.**

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination and finish with the education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

My name is Florentina Qorri and I'm from a small Mountain Western Balkan Country such as Albania. With a dream of being a historian and an archivist in the future (I had always been an archivist of my family :) I chose to study History at University of Fan.S.Noli (Albania) in the Faculty of Philology. In addition of that I enrolled in some Master Courses in Education/Concertation in Teaching History. I was an intern in one of my hometown high school (teaching the 'History') and from my experience I can tell that *Having a degree and trying to use that degree in the real job environment is not actually the same thing.* Being a 'good student' was so far away from being a 'really good and cool teacher.'

Sometimes it is really hard knowing what you really are capable of doing unless you leave your comfort zone, and stop playing always safe. *One of my favorite singer Rachel Platten in her song emphasizes that "Nothing ever happened if you stay in your room, nothing ever happened if you leave the party to soon. You don't know if you win or lose if you don't try to play the game at least"...* So, I decided that my next move was to leave my "Albanian Comfortable Room" and be part of European Solidarity Corp, volunteering in one of Public Library in Lithuania. (Plunge's Clock Tower Library).

In one of my Volunteer Notebook, written by previous volunteers who were part of European Solidarity Corps before me, I read a Chapter that gained my attention. ... *"Zones of Learning, only take place outside the comfort zone, is there where you experiment and doubt your abilities and mobilize your recourse in order to overcome the new challenges that you are facing. ... For example: If you are interested in History but you are not really fun of books, you can make a visit to a Museum."*

And then I remember I asked myself: "What about when you are interested in History a lot, but you are tired reading the history books because you had studied them for 5 years including Museums, you don't want to visit them because your profession is an Historian?! A museum? No, I don't think so... Why? Because a Museum, an Archive, is a job place for us, Historians. We create them, we make them alive for the public, so sometimes is really hard to get inspired even there for us. So, I said to myself: "Florentina, your life is not just a move, a traveling from one point to another. You are not moving, you are growing! You are an historian, so live your life as an Historian! Meet the real cultural by hugging new people, drinking their famous drinks and discuss with them their real-life stories."

Being Part of European Solidarity Corps for 4 months until now, and volunteering in Plunge Public Library (Lithuania) made me understand the process of Lifelong Learning. *Modern Library* is dealing and facing with lots of issues and concept but one it hasn't change yet: "Library is the place of a *"Life/Along/Learning /Community"* Library it is not just a place where you restore old dusty books and where quiet Librarians are shushing you all the time. It is an Institution where you can enroll in other activities that are part of informal education and learn how to still be in touch with the World.

Somehow, I was able to create one English Club for kids and adult's community. From different backgrounds and ages. It was one of the most impact activity that change my way of thinking. The class didn't have a teacher, really everyone was learning something new and teaching something that they knew before. Every day was something new to learn and something new to teach, the age wasn't telling anything, they behaved as a student for that one

hour of English Corner. I was just a leader who were showing them where to start and where to finish, that was all. They weren't just learning English, they were telling their own stories. They were educating me with the real value of Solidarity "Corp".

*And me? Yes, I was not working as a historian now on, I was living all of my volunteering days as an historian, my four months of inspiration. Be a student and learn new competences any time doesn't make you look unprofessional, it makes you look even more wiser.*

