

Uliana Bashniak & Francesca Pisano



Our experiences as ESC Volunteers



DURATION



- September 2017
- August 2018

LOCATION



Aarhus, Denmark

“As an ESC volunteer, I had the chance to join the fun and inspirational project of Aarhus Volunteering Capital 2018. I had the opportunity to observe old and young Danish generations (but not only!) discussing future challenges for civil society and putting ideas, thoughts and dreams into reality. As a Danish thirteen year-old kid once said during one of the many workshops organised within the Volunteering Capital year: “Social action is the ultimate exercise in Democracy. You vote in general elections only once every four years, but when you volunteer, you vote every day for what kind of community you want to live in”. I believe this quote perfectly describes what I feel about my 12 months as an ESC volunteer: the earlier young people start volunteering, the more likely it is to bring a habit of social action and, by extension, civic engagement, into life. (Francesca Pisano, Italy)”

“Volunteering by its definition implies a strong will and keen on helping for humanitarian reasons without any claim for money or self-praise. Still, I was always perceiving volunteering only as a way to give something back to the community or help those in need, and before actually becoming a full-time volunteer myself, have never been thinking of the fact that as a volunteer you can also learn a lot about yourself and the world around. During this year as an ESC Volunteer in the Aarhus 2018 - European Volunteering Capital Secretary I met so many nice dedicated people, found out about projects that make a difference and realised that out there is a whole world of civil society engagement. Now looking back, I believe that at some stage in your life, especially during the so-called “transition times” in between school and university, or university and full-time job, taking a gap year and trying yourself in a new role while working for a good case, is extremely helpful for young people when discovering their passions and defining priorities. And I’m very happy that I had a chance to spend my ESC volunteering year here in Aarhus. (Uliana Bashniak, Ukraine)”

