

## **Eyfon - European Youth Forum Neumarkt**

### **INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS**



*Let's delve into the future of your continent, explore your background, and foster critical thinking and perspectives for a modern Europe!*

#### **About EYFON**

EYFON - European Youth Forum, a meeting and dialogue centre at [Forchtenstein Castle \(Europaburg\) in Neumarkt in der Steiermark \(Region of Styria\)](#), was established in March 2018. It is located in a rural area, surrounded by mountains and forest. There are connections to Klagenfurt (approx. 40 min) and Graz (approx. 1,5-2h).

EYFON collaborates with young people/groups from all over Europe, providing a space for the promotion of European values and principles. A key motivation was to seek answers to the challenges currently faced by Europe. We organize weekly seminars where young Europeans discuss the future of the European continent, pose critical questions, and develop perspectives on how to strengthen European citizenship. In partnership with relevant European institutions, we offer an exciting and inspiring program for young people centred around European ideas and ideals. Our focus extends beyond the apparent question of individual nationality versus the European Community; it also includes topics such as tolerance within different regions of Europe, specific cultural characteristics, and diverse approaches to issues like migration. Professional talks, presentations, and workshops are interspersed with enjoyable social activities, cultural excursions, and sports events.

Young people between 16 and 25 are crucial in the context of current and forthcoming political changes – it is about your future, your expectations, and your outlook on life. We want you to fully leverage the potential and countless possibilities of the digital age, internationalization, and migration while recognizing and mitigating any potential risks and dangers. To achieve this goal, a united Europe is essential.

The European Youth Forum Neumarkt contributes to the inter-European dialogue by providing a platform for young people to meet, exchange thoughts and ideas. Experience the spirit of the European community firsthand and find answers to the question: What will Europe's future look like?

## Role of EYFON Volunteers

The volunteers support organizing events in EYFON, such as conferences, workshops, and summer camps. They assist in accompanying groups on excursions and free-time activities. They inform about the rules in the castle. They also help in the office, take care of social media, and participate in other publishing activities.

*Profile of an EYFON Volunteer:* We are seeking a young person who is responsible and motivated to help organize events. We appreciate assistance in photography, social media management, event management, accompanying groups on excursions, and participating in social or sports activities. We are looking for an open-minded, active, initiative-taking person with a specific interest in European topics.

*Volunteer Benefits:* Proper accommodation in Neumarkt is provided; volunteers will live in a flat. Self-allowance for food and pocket money follows program guidelines.

*Training and Support:* Volunteers will participate in On-Arrival Training organized by the National Agency. They will have access to the Online Language Support Tool. The organization provides task-related support, supervision, and guidance through experienced staff.

## Volunteer's Experience



„The decision to leave my country for three months and embark on this wonderful journey was a little spontaneous. Totally changing my everyday life (with no idea what it's going to be like) is scary, but certainly the most exciting thing I've experienced so far. My goal was to enjoy the small things I would achieve and the friendships I would make; to let go of the fear of the future and to unfold completely in the present.

I remember before taking a plane how surreal this opportunity seemed. This is how I feel now, as the project is already finished. Castle Europaburg really has become a special place for me and all the participants who have been there. The most amazing part of the project was getting to know so many different people. Looking back at the first event in which I took part, I hardly can find words to express the feelings that I experienced. Europaburg castle, filled with participants from different countries sharing the same view about Europe, is the purpose of EYFON. Discussions, getting to know each other and foreign cultures, and learning how to live in peace, even though there are many significant differences, are what our projects stand for. For many people, understanding the term "European" does not come naturally. That is why EYFON aims to spread information about the EU and the importance of the unity of Europe”.

EYFON has hosted a trainee in previous ESC program. Here is a video about this project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBj2ei-STLY>

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