The conception of trainings in frames of Training and Evaluation Cycle

of European Voluntary Service (EVS)

One of the key features of EVS is the training and evaluation it provides, guiding Young volunteers through a non-formal learning process before, during and after their period of service abroad. The training and evaluation dimension within EVS aims at providing young volunteers with continuous guidance and support throughout their voluntary service period. Such training and evaluation contributes to the education and development of each young person. It also helps resolve conflicts and prevent risks, and it provides a means of assessing the volunteer's EVS experience. Quality is the main objective of preparation, training and evaluation. Given the diversity of countries, National Agencies, and volunteers, there is a large degree of flexibility in the training format, whereas the quality indicators should be common to all training sessions. At the same time, the National Agency or the relevant SALTO should as far as possible try to ensure that the training/evaluation opportunities offered to each volunteer are in line with his/her specific needs.

GUIDELINES:

The guidelines of the pedagogical program of the trainings are based on European Commission document “Training and evaluation cycle of European Voluntary Service” and on practical experience of organizing EVS trainings by SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus (SALTO EECA) in years 2011 – 2013 within Youth in Action programme.

The pedagogical program should encompass volunteers realizing their EVS projects in countries of Eastern Partnership region and in Russia.

During seminars there are used active methods respecting experience, interests and needs of participants as well as needs and goals of SALTO EECA. The final shape of its program is created by trainers running the training, in consultation with participants, thanks to which they can feel co-responsible for training’s success. The methods that are being used during the training need to be based on methodology non-formal education: simulation games, discussions, small groups work, drama methods, integration games and others. The program can be completed with trips/thematic walks and with meetings with experts about discovering of the Polish culture. There are also introduced a conception of the Key Competences and the Youthpass.

Trainers should create frames, that will help participants to discover different aspects of their service abroad and of being a volunteers, confrontation with a different culture and tradition – they should become aware of their strengths and weaknesses, to find their own ways of how to solve difficult situations. Aside from passing a concrete knowledge, trainers should show participants where and how they can find useful information by themselves.

The pool of trainers running EVS trainings should, as far as it is possible, be complementary as for knowledge of foreign languages. Its members should be people experienced in work with young people and with volunteers, especially those working within international voluntary services. The pool should know the pedagogical conceptions from different countries regarding work with youth as well as make common preparations and summarize each training.

The number of trainings depends on number of volunteers hosted in EaP countries and in Russia registered for trainings prepared by SALTO EECA.