



The Armenian Cultural Fund was established in 1995 in Hungary and after its 10 years active life in 2005 they were awarded a project by Brussels. The organization's active cultural and civic initiatives very soon and very broadly brought it a wide recognition among many volunteers, who, gradually, subscribed to its principles and activities by bringing their will and participation.

The Armenian Cultural Fund is a connecting bridge among many Armenian and Hungarian youth. It has already been 3 years since volunteers from Armenia personally attend and have been assisting to implement different types of Armenian cultural activities in Hungary. Those include and are not limited to helping in organizing expos or celebrations of national days, and many other initiatives that deliberately relate the viewers to the roots of the rich Armenian culture. In addition, the volunteers are involved in translating news from the „homeland”, which you are kindly invited to find at [www.armenians.hu](http://www.armenians.hu) website, as well they write articles about the latest Armenian events for the „ARMENIA” magazine. With the support and guidance of this organization the volunteers enjoy and discover the Hungarian culture, traditions and, of course, they get the opportunity of learning the language. The life of the volunteer follows an interesting and extraordinarily active routine, which is full of exciting introductions with many youngsters from all around the Europe. For instance this year, the first meeting of the EVS volunteers organized by Mobilitas on the 20th of November in Beregfurdo. The highlight of the meeting was that 28 EVS volunteers who were implementing different projects in Hungary were acknowledged about EVS in details, what could they change or develop in the projects that they were realizing and at least this meeting was a great opportunity to exchange experiences they gained when being here.

altThis very particular training for the Armenian volunteers had a significant value as the training was rich in information and interesting knowledge about the European way of living. However, it would be fair to say that the nail of the training was the presentations of the represented countries, where postcards, pictures, music and many other proxies were used to share with the participants the wealth of each nation. As you can imagine, the presentations were so close to the reality that all the countries, included Armenia, that all the participants felt themselves as virtual tourists.

altUnlike the big European countries, given that Armenia is a very distant and a small country, unfortunately, there was lack of information about its history and culture before the presentation by the Armenian volunteers was held. A huge wave of surprise and excitement took the group once the first sentences about Armenia were pronounced: „Armenia was the first country accepting Christianity as a state religion. The Arch of Noah landed on the Mount of Ararat, which is an Armenian mountain....etc.". This and similar information made Armenia a topic of interest, and many interesting questions were asked about its history, land, culture, music... Soon the three Armenian volunteers, who were making the presentation about Armenia, found themselves surrounded by their fellows, who started observing them as true holders of the culture that was being spoken in the auditorium with such an excitement.

altTo pass the true spirit among the group, it is worth mentioning that the discussion ended with a very strategic suggestion of making trips to Armenia, to honor its grandeurs, and spend wonderful evenings in its virgin nature probably in Lori with a good Khorovats picnic and singing „Ojakhes tkhur e..."

The aim of the training was to discuss the potential problems the volunteers have during their services, and the issues that bother them most of all when working and living in a foreign land. The discussions were to be followed by possible solution.

Getting together and discussing the similarities and differences in their experiences, the EVS volunteers realized the strength in network and decided to create their own network, which was, eventually the result of the 5-day training meetings. The idea was so encouraging that it seemed everyone forgot their problems and believed in their unity. The EVS volunteers, by creating their network, hoped to link to each other even closer, and help each other spend their time on overcoming any challenges in unity, and overcoming them together.