

**YOUTH ASSOCIATION DRONI NEWSLETTER**

**DRONI  
NEWS**

**June**

**2022**



# Activities in June

## ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL

On 5th of June DRONI team celebrated the World Environment Day by participating in an Environmental festival in Dighomi Meadows organized by Museum of Environment. Our volunteers presented their past and present enviro activities – trash picking at the Dendrological park in Tbilisi, eco seminars and training courses about outdoor education!



## YOUTH FORUM IN ZUGDIDI

DRONI team took part in a Youth Forum 2022 organized by the Zugdidi city hall on 18 June in Shota Meskhia State Teaching University in Zugdidi. The aim of the event was to talk about different youth opportunities and youth initiatives and meet people who represent the youth organizations in different regions. We talked about our local activities and the opportunities offered by the Erasmus Plus and European Solidarity Corps programmes.



# Activities in June

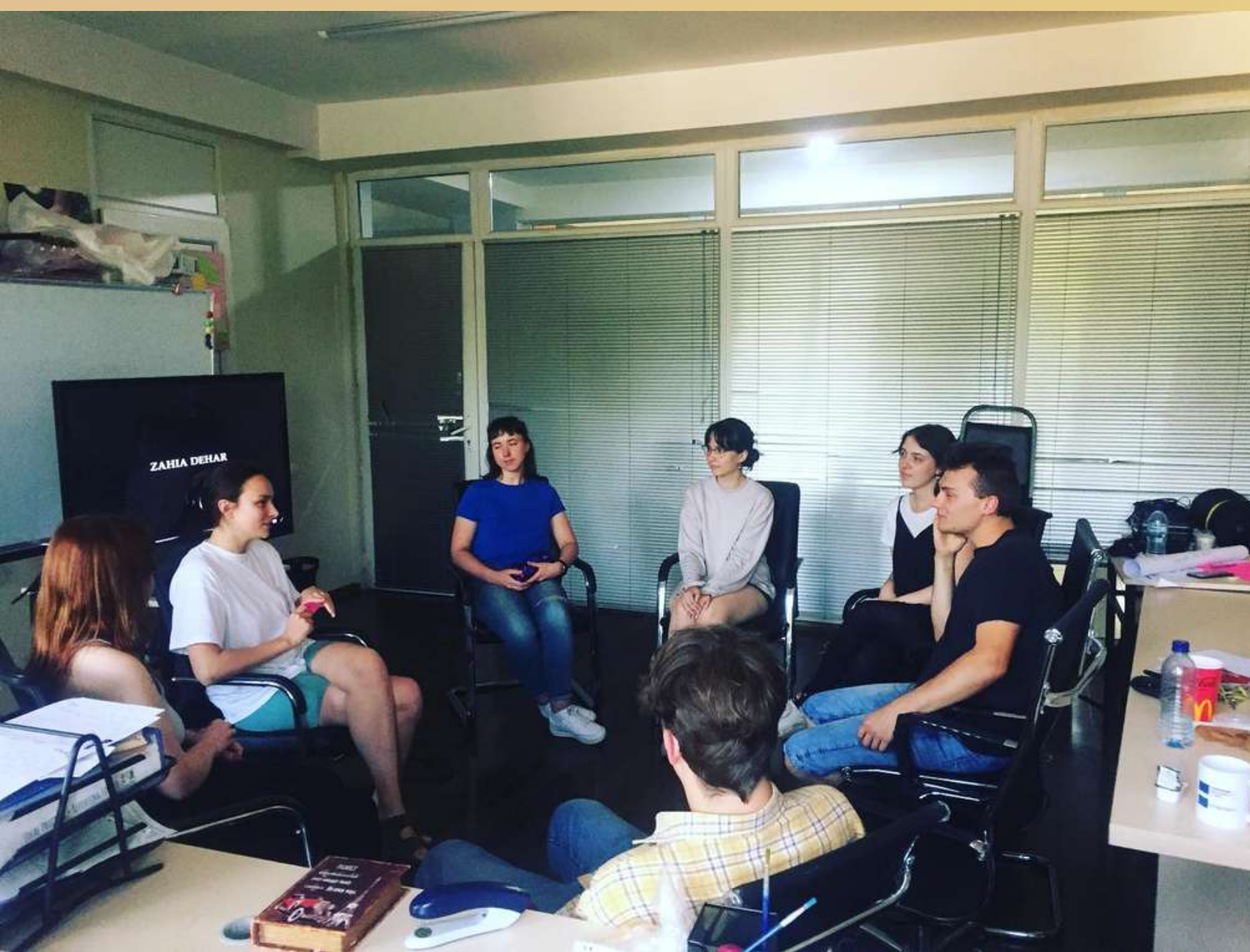
## GENDER EQUALITY WORKSHOPS



On 14th June, we started our first workshop in the series of workshops about Gender Equality! The workshops are facilitated by our French volunteer Marion together with the help of German volunteer Sam. In the first workshop the participants got to know each other, then they talked about identities. Later we tried an activity called Human rights walk and we discussed the situation regarding Human rights in Georgia



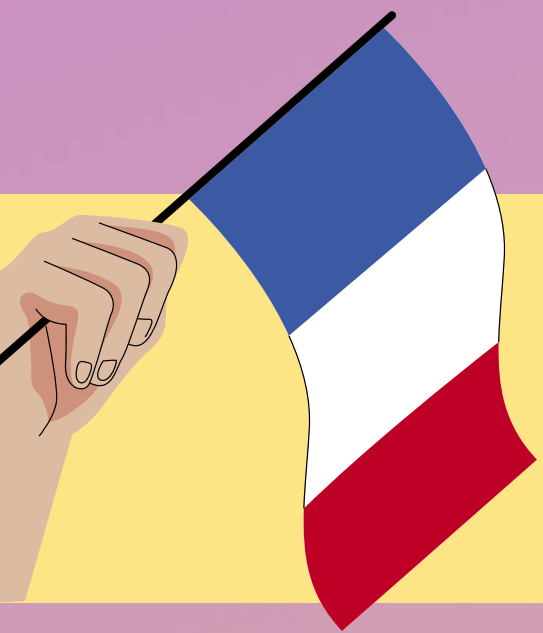
The second workshop took place on 21 June. The participants drew the worst society they could imagine and later discussed women's rights and human rights, intersectionality, equality and equity, played a bit of drama and had a glimpse at how to talk about gender and gender related issues.



The third workshop took place on 28 June. We watched An Easy Girl, a French « amoral summer tale » as described by its director. We then discussed relationships dynamics, power and domination and sex work.



# Volunteers diary



## MARION'S FIRST WEEKS AS A DRONI VOLUNTEER

Youth Association DRONI has a new ESC volunteer. Her name is Marion, she is coming from France and her project will last for a year. She wrote about her first impressions at DRONI.



“It is with a lot of excitement that I started volunteering with Droni this May. Though it was not my first time in Georgia, I was surprised to see how green the city was. Tbilisi is amazing in the Spring and the weather is perfect!

On the second day of arrival, I visited Droni’s office and got to meet most of the team members and the other volunteers. Everybody was very welcoming and kind. I immediately got involved in very stimulating projects, like participating in the creation of a map for young travelers in Tbilisi, getting in touch with participants from Erasmus+ activities, setting up workshops about Gender Equality... I felt very much encouraged to create my own projects and come up with new ideas that we could implement in Droni.

I am discovering the city and I really enjoy it. I’ve been to Dezerter Bazaar, I tried khinkali in different places (including french style khinkali with snails and boeuf bourguignon in café Metis), attended a few parties and concerts and visited some of the many second hand stores that you can find in Tbilisi. I am also taking modern jazz dance classes and running an english speaking club. There’s a lot of things to do in Tbilisi and little time to be bored. Nature is also amazing, the mountain is so beautiful at this moment of the year and it is the best time to hike on Mtastminda. The weather is also good to go to Tbilisi sea and potentially to swim if you are brave!

Overall it is a very good start and I am excited to see what is coming! I am planning on visiting a friend in Zugdidi, go to Bakuriani for the arrival training and may be other places if I can!”



# Droni members abroad

## WHAT MAY WAS LIKE FOR OUR ESC VOLUNTEERS ABROAD?

**NATIA GOJORASHVILI**  
ESC volunteer in Turkey



Second month in Gaziantep was fascinating. It's my cup of tea to learn something new about culture and civilizations, so I visited different museums. I must say that Gaziantep is a land of museums. One of the top museums in Turkey is Zeugma Mosaic Museum. The heart of the city they have Atatürk Remembrance Museum, Game and Toy Museum, Turkish Bath Museum, Culinary museum and most amazing – Panorama Museum. If you are interested in history you should visit this place. The museum illustrates the resistance struggle of Antep's people against the French and English occupation, the battlefields, the heroes fighting in these battlefields, the attacks, as well as the actions and the difficulties people faced. I'm still impressed by this museum. Besides, I wanted to share Georgian culture here so I participated in an intercultural food presentation event at Hasan Kalyoncu University. Young people from different countries were introducing cultures through international cuisines with the gastronomy department. I prepared Mchadi and Pkhali. Fortunately people liked it, they were asking questions about ingredients and in about two minutes my food was gone from the plates.

Sadly, I have to leave Gaziantep, however I hope I will come back to this city which is as old as mankind.



Through my collaboration with the local organization, I have participated in many exciting and fun activities and I want to tell you about my amazing experience. This project helped me to be more independent, to be more social, to learn the language better, and to discover myself. For these 2 months, we had various workshops around Slovenia, workshops included: helping local people, supporting charity actions of Slovene KARITAS, packing action for 13.000 families, inclusion sport activities, inclusion walk with people in wheelchairs, gardening actions with people from VDC Radovljica, helping horse and wild animal shelter, working with children, practical work at the house.

**BADRI DGEBUADZE**  
ESC volunteer in Slovenia

This month was a little bit boring. I was at home mostly because I had online training and also I had flu after. But in the beginning we organized some events for the intercultural day. I was presenting Georgia. The rest of the things are going the same as in previous months. I am still working with kids, teaching them some English words and etc. Mostly I am working at the university and for Europe direct, we are going to schools for workshops and presentations. Also, I am doing some stuff in the library like scanning and putting the labels on the books. My roommate and flatmate doing well, we are planning some trips.

**MARIAM BARBAKADZE**  
ESC volunteer in Poland



**MARIAM VEKUA**  
ESC volunteer in Estonia



Spring in Tartu starts in May. Because of the location, the beginning of the Spring is still cold in Estonia. I got lucky and got here at the perfect time! We're having nice weather every day, people come out to hang out and to have fun. It's pretty easy to make friends here because it is a city of international students. Tartu is a calm and relaxed city. You will see many parks here, which make you feel like you're around nature all the time. This is a great place to rest and refresh your mind.

In my project, we already had many outdoor activities. We often go outside for a walk or to ride a bicycle. I also had an opportunity to learn how to take care of plants and how to plant a seed in the garden. Recently, we had a grill in a really beautiful forest with the whole crew and volunteers. I had a lot of fun and enjoyed meeting new people.

**MIRANDA KOBALIA**  
ESC volunteer in Austria



In May we arranged a preparatory meeting for the next youth exchange. Group leaders from 8 countries arrived in Austria in order to plan the second youth exchange which will take place at the end of June. We were in Italy for four days with 35 highschool students and mentors. We visited Milan and Turin. This was one of the unforgettable experiences during my volunteering period. We had the opportunity to see the Main Cathedral of Milan as well as the Egyptian museum and Christ tablecloth in Turin. Since 29th May we take part in the annual sport solidarity marathon called TriAngola. During one week we can run, swim or cycle.

May was amazing in Finland, the nature changes a lot and also it is not getting dark at night and it will last till July, it is an amazing experience. Finnish people are very honest and humble. One impressive thing which we (all volunteers) find amazing is that they leave the key to the car when they leave it and also they don't close the doors of the houses when they leave. It is very safe to live or to travel in Finland and we travel a lot, and meet new and interesting people.

**MARIAM SAMADASHVILI**  
ESC volunteer in Finland



*Droni members abroad*

**TRACK  
ONE**

# **TRACK ONE KA2 PROJECT**

## **STUDY VISIT IN ROMANIA**



In mid-June, there was a study visit to Straja, Romania. The participants learned about the working methods of the Romanian organization New Horizons Foundation. The study visit focused on using experiential learning in a broad understanding, and specifically - Outdoor Adventure Education as a tool to have a positive impact on society. Different activities were implemented: a low ropes course, a visit to a local summer camp in Straja and team-building activities and games, which can be implemented with kids from different age groups.



# Droni members abroad

## RUZOMBEROK, SLOVAKIA

An international Training Course **“Keep Your Prejudices in Media!”** took place in Ruzomberok, Slovakia from 9th to 19th of May. During this project we had trainings about photography, videography, video and photo editing, as powerful tools that youth workers can use to tackle stereotypes or manipulation. We visited places around the city and village to take pictures and videos, and prepare them for our exhibition. We gained more knowledge on how to be socially more active, we developed photography and movie making skills. The project also gave us a chance to meet new people, make friends and have unforgettable memories of Slovakia.



## ARAD, ROMANIA

**“Peers for Equality”** was an international training course that took place in Arad, Romania from May 18 till May 21. The purpose of the project was to increase the awareness among the youngsters in the field of gender equality, support the development of critical thinking with respect to traditions and stereotypes that contradict human rights - especially in relation to gender, and empower the peers to face the existing social pressure that fosters this form of discrimination and assist them to become more tolerant.



# Droni members abroad



## SADA, SPAIN

**„Eco Bubble”** was a training course that was held in Sada, Spain between 1 - 7 June. The objective of the project was to teach, train and plant seeds all over Europe to create sustainable initiatives and networks that can work together towards a more sustainable future. During the project, 22 participants from 10 countries gathered, shared their experiences and discussed 4 main themes of the project, such as concepts and good practices related to the circular economy, zero waste philosophy, use of cruelty-free products, how to create a sustainable enterprise starting from scratch and many others.



## ZAKRZEWO, POLAND

**„Green(washing)”** was a training course that was held in Poland between 19 - 30 May in the wonderfully green, eco-friendly farm, Zywa Ziemia. During the project, participants learned about the theory of greenwashing and also how to live more sustainably. They played a lot of change-making games, watched some educational documentaries, had debating sessions, and had hands-on sessions about gardening or how to take care of horses, how to recycle a paper, and created the Yurt and tiny houses, where we learned about alternative living in nature, wood work etc.





# *Droni members abroad*

## **DAX, FRANCE**

An international training course titled **"No Hate Speech Compass"** took place between 13 - 19 June in Dax, France. The project was focused on the development of competencies of youth leaders, youth workers and teachers in the field of anti-hate speech activism and human rights education. The aim was to train participants to use the Compass Guide for HRE for anti-hate speech activities and to integrate HRE into youth work and develop future HRE related projects in partner countries.



## **MURZASICHLE, POLAND**

**"Homo Ludens in Youth Work Lab"** was a Practical Seminar on Game Design that took place between 6 - 12 June 2022 in Murzasichle, Poland. Homo Ludens is translated as "Man the Player" and this project was a practical seminar on game design. Youth workers, trainers, youth leaders and educators from Hungary, Poland, Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, and Ukraine got together, reflected and analysed some of the existing educational games and created games in teams or individually under the supervision and support of trainers.



# Upcoming activities



DRONI will be implementing three international projects:

- NATURE CALLS - Outdoor Education for Mental Health and Self-Development
- ECODING - New Technologies For Environment, Employability And Civil Activism
- PROJECT BOOSTER - Project Writing Skills For Youth Workers



We will also continue with our Gender Equality workshops, which are held every Tuesday at our office at Kote Marjanishvili 24/89.

Contact person



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