

1 Million Youthpass Certificate

Jana Dimitrijević - Belgrade, Serbia

For someone *Youthpass* is just a piece of paper for attending some project or training course, but for me it is more than five pages of printed paper. It is a reflection of my life, all my new experience and activities that I had done during two months in Italy, Matera, European Capital of Culture. I was a participant as volunteer in short-term EVS project *Human Capital of Culture* within Erasmus + programme in receiving organization Associazione Culturale Basilicata Link. I will expose some Key Competences where I made progress.

Communication in Mother Tongue. By accident I met journalists of Radio Television of Vojvodina in the middle of Matera and I gave an interview for emission *Mostovi za Materu (Bridges for Matera)* in Serbian language. That was my first interview ever and there I promoted my short-term EVS project.

Communication in Foreign Languages and Cultural Awareness. I improved my English skills in communication with other European volunteers. Before I came to Matera I did not know Italian language, but Italian classes were useful for understanding basics in public places such as supermarket, coffee shop, bus. I had an opportunity to notice the difference between dialects (Italian in Matera and Napoli). I upgraded my knowledge of Italian language by meeting a lot of Italian people and for better assimilating into the local culture I joined the choir of citizens who sang traditional songs in Opera project. I also had an opportunity to practice my Swedish language with performers from Sweden.

I learned to learn Italian language. Lot of people say that Italian is difficult language, but I find it very melodic and easy to remember. I listened very carefully what were locals speaking and also how were they acting in communication. Behind classes, I had my own Italian book and I studied it by myself. I listened to Italian music and watched Italian films, I was inspired by everything that is Italian. Now, I can understand a lot of language and I can also be involved in conversation.

Digital Competences and also Sense of Initiative. I wrote articles for blog *Human Capital of Culture 2019*. I took an initiative and I had my own freedom to do small researches. I also did some PR activities and created infopack for future volunteers of Matera.

Youthpass cannot show us how many “first times” there was in Matera. During my time in Matera, I did some things that I have never done before in Serbia. For example, I participated in cleaning of beach, distributed flyers and posters, I had a language barrier, wrote articles in English, gave two interviews in front of camera, lived abroad for two months, share an apartment with five foreigners and strangers with different temperaments, I cooked. It was two months of cultural infusion.

Matera was proclaimed as “national shame” in the past and now there is an exhibition *Architecture of Shame, Let’s Talk About Shame*. “Let’s talk about shame” has strong meaning and it was also my moto in Matera. Somehow, I find out that there is no fear and no shame, I can do everything I want or need. After all, I have matured. Thank you Matera 2019 Open Future!



