



## THE PROJECT

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**Volunteering Circles** is a long-term initiative of the organization CVS-Bulgaria, which includes 6 motilities in 3 circles (Cinema, Refugees and Volunteering), as well as a number of complementary activities to improve the quality of the project results achieved in Bulgaria with international participation.

The envisaged activities will lead to strategic changes in the field of volunteering, the inclusion of young people from marginalized/ vulnerable groups as well as small settlements, encouraging active participation by young people and capacity building for critical thinking. The **short-term goals** of the project are to raise young people's awareness of:

- 1) opportunities for volunteering in Bulgaria, Europe and the world
- 2) human rights and freedoms in their real dimension and importance to our everyday lives
- 3) involvement of young people in cultural life and promotion of European citizenship.

Achieving these short-term goals will also lead to the achievement of the **long-term goals** as well that we set ourselves, namely:

- 1) improving social cohesion, inclusion and sense of civic belonging, initiative and activism
- 2) inclusion and empowerment of young people from marginalized / vulnerable groups, incl. migrants and refugees;
- 3) creating human and social capital by acquiring key competences and increasing the chances of realization in the labor market in the social and cultural sphere
- 4) transformation into action of basic European values such as justice, solidarity, nondiscrimination, non-violent conflict transformation, knowledge and respect for human rights and peaceful co-living in the conditions of cultural and religious pluralism.



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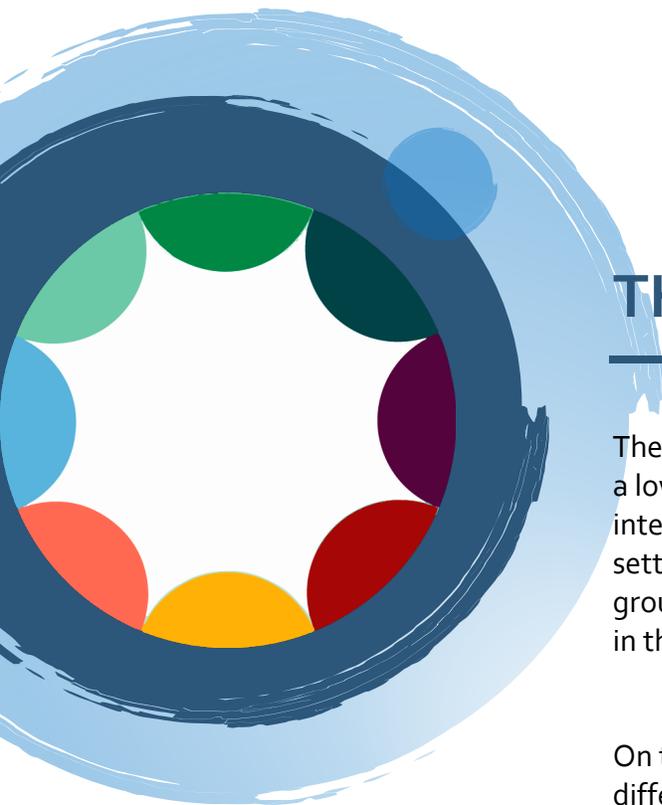
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## THE CONTEXT

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The context in which the activities will be implemented includes a low level of information on opportunities for participation in international mobility for disadvantaged young people (small settlements, representatives of the vulnerable and marginalized groups such as refugees and migrants); lack of capacity to work in the youth sector in small settlements.

On the other hand, young people are often the only users of different programs, not the engine of creating such programs, and often they do not respond to the problems that concern the target group themselves. Last but not least, extreme right-wing moods are growing in Europe and there is a clear need for collective measures to counteract the danger of youth radicalization, human rights violations, growing racism and intolerance. Activities with which volunteers will be engaged will enable young people to actively engage in other activities of partner organizations and thus enable them to become active citizens of their countries.

The project will contribute to a more tolerant European society and the promotion of Erasmus + through presentations, workshops, information events, trainings, seminars and various volunteer events that volunteers will carry out with the coordination team.

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