

GLEN INTERSHIP REPORT 04/09/2014 – 23/11/2014

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Title of the internship: Youth Development through non-formal education
Internship number: 5000400610
Country of the internship: Georgia
Host organization: Koda Community Education Center

SUMMARY

GLEN internship took place in the Koda Community Education Center in the Settlement Koda Village, which was built for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from South Ossetia. This settlement is located about 30 minutes from the capital Tbilisi. Hosting organization Koda CEC was established in 2009. Its aim is to support community building within the IDPs from South Ossetia and local villagers of Koda, as well as giving new opportunities for adults to gain diverse skills which will help them to get employed. Project was aimed on Youth work and administrative support. Glen volunteers were assisting to various activities as workshops, cultural events and promotion activities. They also co-organized a Festival of Adult Education, which was held in the settlement. As a main results Glen volunteers started to run an English club which is still being run by local English teacher. They organized a theatre play for kids and participated during cultural events and The Adult Education Festival.

Tato stáž GLEN probíhala v komunitním vzdělávacím centru Koda v osadě, která nese název Koda a byla postavena pro Vnitřně vysídlené osoby z Jižní Ossetie. Osada se nachází přibližně 30 kilometrů od hlavního města Gruzie, Tbilisi. Komunitní centrum bylo založeno v roce 2009 a má za cíl poskytnout nové vzdělávací možnosti především pro dospělé a umožnit jim tak jednodušší vstoupit na trh práce. Tento projekt byl primárně zaměřen na práci s mládeží a administrativní podporu organizace. Náplní práce dobrovolníků byla především podpora místního klubu pro mladé a organizace kulturních aktivit, workshopů a aktivit na podporu propagace místní organizace. Jako hlavní výsledek práce je stále běžící neformální klub angličtiny, který nyní vede místní lektorka angličtiny. Dále uspořádali divadelní představení pro místní děti a podíleli se úspěšně organizaci Festivalu vzdělávání dospělých, který byl pořádán místním komunitním centrem.

What has happened during that time? What have we done? What have we learned? What was the impact of our presence for Koda CEC? These questions shall be answered in this report.

KODA COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

In 2008 when the war between Georgia and Russia started in the northern part of Georgia, called South Ossetia, Georgia had not only to solve that issue but also to find new homes for around 30,000 Internally Displaced People who fled from the war. Around 3,000 of those people were placed in a former Russian Military Base in Koda Village, near Tbilisi. This is also where we live and work for three months. In Koda people from different villages were settled and most of them were forced to leave all their belongings behind and start a completely new life. This is why our working place, the Koda CEC was established in 2009. Its aim is to support community building within the IDPs from South Ossetia and local villagers of Koda, as well as giving new opportunities for adults to gain diverse skills which will help them to get employed. With the financial help of DVV International the Center runs different non-formal vocational training courses such as shoe making, computer classes, knitting language courses etc. However, the Center provides even program for children and youth, which was, according to the project proposal, our target group.



Youth Club

During September we started activities with the Youth Club members, such as first meeting of English Club and Youth Club. We arranged dates and hours of next meetings, collected contact details of participants and prepared a few energizers.

First youth club meeting was held on 6/9/2014. We started this first meeting with introduction of yourselves and hold a small presentation for that. During the first meeting of Youth Club we discussed how the Youth Club shall be organized within the next three months, as the Center always makes three months action plans. The Youth Club is actually run by Jemal Bortsvadze, who is the Youth Club Coordinator and his assistant Sopo Beruashvili. We were present during the first session and helped during the brainstorming of topics for the sessions. Together with youth club members we set up the dates and hours for both English Club and Youth club. Both Clubs are organized every Saturday.

Trainings were mainly led by participants of the Youth Club. Most of them are taking part in the project financed by U.S. Embassy. This project is focused on training of youth leaders. There were various themes in the project such as nutrition, HIV, alcohol, tobacco, etc. Youth leaders were also trained in project management that gives them a base for their future individual projects. We were really surprised how well the group is organized and participative and they did not need our assistance during the sessions. Especially because they can hold their sessions than in Georgian and do not have to translate it just for us.

We also tried to continue with the work of previous GLEN volunteers who created a questionnaire to find out the needs of the community towards the offers of courses in the Center. We included Youth Club members to help us to run this research.



ADULT EDUCATION FESTIVAL

Koda CEC organized a festival focused on Adult Education and learning opportunities that is offered there. The festival took place in the Cultural Center on 8/11/2014. We were part of the preparation team and tried to help especially there, where Georgian language is not needed. Our main responsibility was the promotion of the festival. So we were in charge of creating flier, poster and informational triplets. We also included Youth Club members to help us during the festival. Some of them were responsible for logistics, children corner and other tasks. We also took pictures and videos during the festival.





English Club

Once per week we were running an English Club for kids from 8 – 14 years, but actually the Club was open for everybody. The aim of the English Club was to give one more opportunity to practice the language and to experience the English language from a different perspective, because we used most of the time methods of the non-formal Education. We were playing games, doing many energizers and activities where our participants could practice vocabulary, pronunciation and had just fun speaking English. We had around 20 participants in the class and we tried to pick the topics of our sessions according to their age and needs. So one session was about professions and the kids had fun to guess different professions and to explain what they want to do in the future. Anano, a Georgian English teacher, was running a grammar class after our club. She was also participating during our class and learning new skills about non formal methods. Now she is currently running the English club on her own.



Koda CEC



Club for Kids

Another weekly activity was to assist during the Kids Club. This club is focused on drawing, painting and crafting and it is led by one of the youth volunteers of the center. Sopo is 16 years old so we were helping her to develop some skills of how to lead the sessions and organize it for a large number of kids. We helped her to structure and organize the session, gave her tips where to find ideas for activities and we also assisted during the sessions. We also created a handbook with useful tips concerning this theme. Furthermore we were trying to involve other youngsters who could help during such activities and who could gain some new skills and experiences.



Theatre club

Besides the English, Youth and Kids Club we started to run theater sessions for kids two times per week. We had still a lot of time during our working hours in the Center and we decided to offer some more activities for kids not knowing that the kids are actually quite busy with school, dance class, kids Club and English Lessons. However, we found some free hours and the kids decided to perform “Konkia”, which is Georgian for “Cinderella”. It is awesome with how much enthusiasm and energy the kids were coming for the Theater Sessions and to help us coordinating them and explain the exercises we have help from Nino, who lives in Koda and speaks German fluently.





Art Koda

Another field where we liked to assist is “Art Koda” a social enterprise, where women from the settlement are making different kind of handicrafts to sell them on the market. Koda CEC is also running classes for those who are interested to learn for example embroidery, enamel and other kind of crafts. Part of the enterprise is a polygraphs – t-shirt, bag, cup printings that are also used as promotion material. We were not fully involved in this activity but we were helping to make new pictures and other materials to promote the center.



This and That

Besides our regular tasks we were happy to help and support the people in the settlement and the center during their work. We are also really familiar with a task to help out when the English teacher is late or does not appear at all. 7/9/2014 KODA CEC hosted a study visit from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Most of the participants were representatives of non-governmental organization who are interested in sharing good practice. Director of Koda CEC Khatia Tsiramua gave a presentation about the center and its programs. Participants could see how the center works, which courses are offered, etc. During the study visit we had an opportunity to exchange our contact details and we shared experiences about our projects and organizations. We presented GLEN program and to those who were interested we provided contacts, websites and general information needed to apply for GLEN interns.



Life in Koda

How is life in Koda? Life in Koda is for us: work in the center, our flat, running water schedule, a small shop in our house, dogs, chickens and cows all around and the most important: people we talk to – our neighbors, kids from our class, marshrutka drivers and of course colleagues and volunteers in the center. Although it is not a long time we are here we feel like a part of the settlement and its inhabitants. When we walk the short way home, kids are shouting our names and we are happy that we made it during that short time from a simple “Hello” to “How are you?”. In the evenings our neighbors visit us and we have fun with our multilingual conversation in Georgian, Czech, English and Russian. Another day we go to visit a family who welcomes us like their own grandchildren. During weekends we went for trips and specially enjoy the time when our friend and personal tour guide Lucy took us to secret places which we would never be able to find without her help.



Some questions at the end?

We are still trying to figure out why we are here. What is our aim, what we can do and if this all makes any sense.

We like the country, we are happy to be here and have the opportunity to live and work in a different place. But do they already know how to do their job? They know energizers, youth is active and participative. Kids are so busy with dancing and English classes. And three months are too short to plan and run some project that could actually have some impact. What can we do?

We do not feel our presence so necessary. We came with an idea that people here have never heard about non-formal education, but if they start to teach me new energizers? Who is benefiting. We feel it is mostly us.



Koda CEC