

Background and Experience - KTCE

The Környezetvédő és Természetbarát Civil Egyesület (Environmental and Nature Lover Civilian Organization) was established in the autumn of 2007. We have 27 members, 70% of them are under 30. Its members includes mostly unemployed young people, high school and university students, who live and work in the region of Northern Great Plain and are interested in taking part in community and social issues. 80% of the members are under 30. During our events we activate about 60-100 members depending on the event.

Huge priority is given to the young people of this region and the organization also supports and represents their interests. We have lively cultural and youth-helping activities by supporting their initiations and activities and by organizing youth programmes and events. We are dedicated to the social integration of minorities, disabled people, the unemployed and disadvantaged people.

The activities of the organization are diverse and the formal and non-formal learning methods attempt to carry out youth helping tasks and to prepare young people for life. For example, we help youngsters to take responsibility by helping them write a project or by participating in a project. The events and programmes encourage them to collect knowledge and experiences about Europe, to feel their European identity and to make them consider starting a company not only in their homeland, but abroad as well. In this way, they can create a net of companies along with other European youngsters who can successfully cooperate. They are helped to become entrepreneurs, to understand Europe, the media, to learn intercultural communication and social integration.

Some real-life example:

- in the fall of 2008 we started an energy-saving programme along with a youth organization from Baia Mare, Romania and their 100 members
- in 2008, we analyzed and published the tourist values and services of the region; based on this, we participated in a Hungarian-Ukrainian tourism cooperation along our borders
- we organized talent clubs for outstanding talents for half a year – we welcomed high school students who had talent at dancing, music or handicrafts; this helped us establish the club life in the city for these young people; we also had guests from Slovakia (Perbenyik, Kralovsky Chlmec) and Romania (Mara Mures), when drama clubs and folk dance clubs came to our city
- many of our members are also members of the Nature Protection Student Club, so they also represent our organization when they enter the annual environmental competitions (along with Slovakian, Romanian, Romanian and Hungarian partners)
- we joined the planning activities of the regional Leader Action Group five years ago
- in 2011 we won the opportunity to create a website to promote and market the values, products, services, and attractions of the Bereg region along with creating a trademark system of Bereg products.
- We co-operate with many civilian organizations both in the Northern Great Plain region and in the European Union as well. Many of them work to support or integrate the disabled. We have partner organizations dealing with the disabled in Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, and Ukraine.
- we support the organizations dealing with blind and sight-impaired people every year

These days the organization focuses mainly on organizing and supporting international youth exchanges and helping integrating young people living in disadvantaged circumstances.

We also guarantee a free rehearsal room to the three rock groups of Vásárosnamény, we grant opportunities for them to perform at various events and we also grant rooms for the club activities of local high school students.

Through events and programmes we highly support the transformation of hobbies into a source of jobs, entrepreneurships and to establish and strengthen the entrepreneur attitude of young people.

In the last few years we supported various informal youth clubs as a welcoming organization and we also took responsibility so they could participate in youth exchanges.

In 2012 we organized a youth exchange titled Open Up! and we have also won support for a youth exchange titled Prepare Yourself!, to be organized in 2015.

Experienced and trained coaches, facilitators, moderators and animators are also members of our organization, who help us a lot carry out our activities. We have already had trainers from Ukraine, Romania and even from Ghana. The organization has also members who are young entrepreneurs and farmers.