

**”What’s behind
volunteering with the
Chamber of
Commerce and
Industry of the
Republic of Moldova”,
Estelle Beuve**



I’m **Estelle Beuve**, 21 years old, from **France** and I have been a **European Voluntary Service** in Moldova, Chisinau for 9 months (from October 2018 to June 2019).

Working for the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova (CCI a RM)** was really one of the most fruitful experiences I ever had in my life. I’ve learned lots of things during this gap year right after my Bachelor in Accounting and Management in France that I couldn’t have expected during a basic University year. When I first arrived I didn’t really know what the CCI a RM was expecting from me and it took me almost a month to clearly understand the different features of the organization and how it was working in Moldova i.e. locally and nationally as well as at the European and international level.

Over time I understood the core role of the CCI a RM in promoting Moldovan entrepreneurship. Firstly through the annual exhibition *Fabricat în Moldova* (« *Made in Moldova* ») which was held early February 2019. I had the opportunity to help them processing with the official invitations to embassies as well as to other Chambers of Commerce and Industry abroad. A good opportunity to enhance my skills both in Romanian, English and Russian! Afterwards, while helping my colleague in charge of the program Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs I got a grip to what extent the CCI a RM was striving to widen and enriching Moldovan young business leaders’ scope of activities by promoting their mobility within the European Union.

From October 2018 until March 2019 I was mainly working for the International relations department. After I moved to the Entrepreneurial Training Center in which I have discovered a spectrum of projects implemented in cooperation with other partners in Europe. For instance I’ve

been pleased to discover the Manager Training program that has been implemented in Moldova in 2009 together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany and the German Agency for International cooperation (GIZ). It provides to any Moldovan an opportunity for enhancing their skills in the framework of a 4-week internship in Germany in which they could specialise in a sector of their interest (Agriculture, Energy efficiency and Medicine). I'm convinced this cooperation helps them growing their business by gaining in maturity. For this project we were needing applicants by April 2019 so I edited a video on social media. At first it was a real challenge to me, I never did videos before and I truly had no skills in that matter. That's why I usually say my European Voluntary Service enhanced my resilience, my inability to challenge myself and to overcome hardships. So I did it. As well as for the Austrian Partnership provided together with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (WKO).

To any European keen on volunteering, Moldova could be the place to be! If you are a challenge-minded person, curious and helping this project may be for you. And in the end, you'll feel rewarded in both your personal and professional prospects.