

CASE STUDY IN CREATIVE YOUTHWORk NETWORK

CZECH REPUBLIC



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EDUcentrum (<http://www.educentrum.eu/>) is a non-governmental organisation based in the Czech Republic which sent 3 youth workers to Erasmus+ Learning, Teaching, Training Activity implemented in Wolverhampton, UK and hosted by GECKO: Patrik, Simona and Anna.

In this case study, we bring you a story of **Patrik**.

Patrik is 29 years old and comes from Kladno, Czech Republic. Even though he completed civil building engineering studies, he did not find self-realization in this field. He was always attracted **by creative methods of self-expression**, mainly music, photography and videography. For that reason he started to work in a centre for leisure time activities and deliver his own workshops for youngsters. Besides, he also produces music together with his friend and supports interesting music projects. One of them was a project called „I Want to Hear Music!“ (2008-2013). During this project Patrik organized and managed more than 80 concerts with no grants or financial support. Together with his colleagues, they raised around 3600 Euros for an orphanage based in Prague. Patrik is a great example of how a hobby can become a job that you love.

The 3week training programme in Wolverhampton was a great experience for Patrik. He learnt a lot of new things not only about workshop production but also about himself. He appreciated sessions focused **on facilitation skills** because it gave him a lot of new inputs on how to structure and implement his own workshops.

He admits that he is usually a bit non-organised and facilitation skills sessions helped him to realise how important it is to set objectives and outcomes when preparing a workshop. He really enjoys to prepare his workshops now because he knows better how to facilitate them more efficiently. He also got used to different British accents and realised that he is good in communicating with people. Last but not least, it was great for him to live in a campus with other international students.

Besides new knowledge, skills and competences, Patrik made many new friends and learnt a lot about people from different cultures. Now, he is more confident to speak in English and he is better aware of his talents and skills. All these experiences changed his perspective on many things and after his return and he was eager to share them with others: *„After my return from Wolverhampton I told basically everybody I know about how my experience impacted me and how it helped my career. I was, in many ways, a life changing experience.“*