StreetGames Young Advisor Adam Eager blogs from his placement with the European Voluntary Service in Germany...

Hello my name is Adam Eager!

I have been a volunteer with StreetGames since January 2015. With Active Newcastle, based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, I have had the pleasure of being a part of a team of volunteers that deliver Doorstep Sport to young people from disadvantaged and deprived areas in addition to hosting various events in Newcastle to attract people from other communities.

During my time as a volunteer, I had the opportunity to take part in various training programmes from empowering coaching to a volleyball activator and this has led to my significant personal development as well as my knowledge as a volunteer.

I have been fortunate enough to attend many national events such as conferences, residential and festivals; this has led to me being able to socialise with other volunteers whilst sharing and learning from each other.

I was also offered the opportunity to become a Young Advisor through an ongoing collaboration with British Cycling in which I was able to share my opinions with a major national governing body (NGB) and experience cycling like I never had before.

The reason I am writing this blog is due to my acceptance on to a European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme in Germany; for those who don’t know, the EVS is funded by Erasmus+ to give young people like myself the opportunity to experience other cultures in a working environment.

For me it all started when I was accepted to be a part of the Young Leaders Across Borders (YLAB) project with StreetGames, this meant I – alongside StreetGames staff and other volunteers – was able to plan and present a blended mobility for other young leaders in Germany, Sweden and Poland. During this time, I participated in various training modules to learn and develop the skills required to become an ‘international leader’.

It became quite emotional for all of us at the end; we had created strong bonds across the borders which I am sure will develop into individual projects which will benefit communities across the world. In addition, towards the end of YLAB I was made aware of the EVS by Kim (another volunteer) and Mara (a member of staff from Germany) both of whom were former participants in this exact same programme I am now a part of.

So far I have been living here in Germany for just a few weeks, in the small village of Friedersdorf while working in Blossin (a short bike ride from my apartment). I share the apartment with two others, Matthias and Morgane; this is a new experience for me and I am not aware of any other 17 year olds who have moved abroad on their own and now have to cook and clean for themselves on a regular basis.

My work in Blossin has been unforgettable for me so far, I have met an amazing team of colleagues and have been able to work with a group of young students from a school in Potsdam who came for a week to learn more about teamwork.
In Germany they must learn English in school at a young age so I felt overwhelmed when I went out in the Canoe with a small group and they started talking and chanting in English so that I felt more involved.

For all the other young volunteers and young advisors, please take my advice and take all the opportunities that come your way because they will open doors you would never imagine; for me it was the door to Germany, I am living my dream so it is your turn to live yours.