

## Good practices in Hungary

32/2020

**Title:** Intercultural biking for helping  
**Owner:** Budapest Bike Mafia  
**Contact:** <https://bikemaffia.com/projektek/europai-unios-lehetosegek/>

**Good practice for:** Volunteering, community building, sensitisation, dissemination, awareness raising, positive role model

**Description:** The Budapest Bike Mafia (BMM) was created by young people in 2011, by a drive to move away from social apathy and to do something useful. BMM started its work by preparing food, collecting food donations and distributing the food and donation to homeless people on the streets, by bike. The goal was to help the life of homeless people. In the last few years, the organization has been growing dynamically, lot of volunteers have joined BMM, and as a result, they launched new projects and activities. Through BMM programs, they approach the problem of homelessness and prejudice with a different, more active attitude which in many cases go beyond primary care. In addition to the regular food donations, they raise awareness, effectively change attitude, their school programs aim at sensitization, and generally facilitating community building, volunteering. BMM food rescue project draw attention to waste management, the importance of environmental awareness. They also have a photo competition, with the tools of art, gives participants the joy of creation and a sense of success, while their Sweet Home project helps the lives of families in need. By joining the European Solidarity Committee, they are also launching international, European Union projects, which also allow the involvement of foreign participants. They have a creative, innovative approach, and their work is a great example of how to recruit, involve large numbers of volunteers.

Their best practice example is the project called Intercultural Biking for Helping, which was implemented within the framework of the European Union's Erasmus+ program. From March 2018, for 9 months foreign volunteers helped and enriched the work of BMM within the framework of European Voluntary Service. Volunteers joined them from Germany, Finland and Croatia, taking part in their running projects, bringing a lot of new colours and ideas to the work of the BMM. The Intercultural Biking for Helping program was chosen by the European Commission in March 2019 as a good example to be exhibited in the European Parliament. Thanks to this, on 29-30 April 2019, Budapest Bike Mafia had the opportunity to appear at the central event of the European Youth Week in Brussels. In addition to appearing, they were given the opportunity to present the project in person in front of more than 800 people in a plenary session.