

Everybody can do fundraising!

Hello, I will introduce myself. I am Niels, 19 years old and I live in Zutphen, a small city in the east of the Netherlands. This year, I decided not to go to university, instead I am working and travelling. This way I can save some money and travel too, which so far has been a great experience!

I came in contact with At Sea Sail Training a while ago, and they made me very enthusiastic about their international youth exchanges. Seven different nationalities onboard a large sailing vessel, working together, living together. All in all a great opportunity for a special experience.

Not so good are the costs associated to the exchange, because I live on my own I can not afford myself to spend such amount of money. Monique (founder of At sea sail training), gave me a fundraising guide to assist me in covering the costs of the exchange. You see, it happens that companies and groups such as Rotary International Clubs sponsor great opportunities for youngsters (cause that's what we are, grrrr...). So I went writing a few companies about the EU exchange, explaining why this is good for me and the Dutch society.

At first I found it rather difficult to explain why the company should sponsor me. I am not a poor kid, socially excluded or anything else so I believed I would be unable to get a sponsor.



But the difference between paying 500 and 1000 Euro for the exchange, meant that I could not easily afford the whole cost. So if I could find a company who could sponsor me 500 Euro, I would be able to go. I wrote several letters, explaining what I would learn onboard, and why that is important for the rest of the society. People appreciate it when an individual grows, gains leadership, responsibility and how to work in a team, and they really are willing to sponsor you.

I ended up with two companies sponsoring me, each sponsoring 250 euro, and I can join the exchange now.

How about you? Will I SEE YOU AT SEA?

Greetings,

Niels