

EVS IN METZ -FRANCE

EVS PROJECTS IN FRANCE

TOGETHER



TOGETHER IS A
NON-PROFIT
ORGANISATION
FOUNDED IN 2003



THE COORDINATION OF EVS GREW NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!!!

Since 2005 we coordinate volunteers' projects in the region.

At the beginning, there were 2, 3, or 4 young volunteers coming from Europe.

Every year different organisations around us saw the positive impact that we did through the local projects and being the pioneers in the region, we made the coordination grow.

the local authorities felt also interested in our projects and the regional council of Lorraine, and straight after the general council of Moselle supported us in the project of coordination, called "the embassy" based on the idea that young people were the ambassadors of their countries.

EVS is not only a voluntary project in an organisation. It is a great non-formal education experience, it is a chance to learn how to deal in foreign countries, to cope with an unknown environment, to study other languages, to discover together with other volunteers different cultures.

To give and to get, and this during the whole time of an EVS project, and once it is finished, it is time to multiply the effect.

the coordination has already promoted eight projects, in the nearest future the number of the projects will grow and like that will give more opportunities to young people.

LUC WENDLING
THE FOUNDER OF THE NETWORK



The volunteer spirit

Our Philosophy

By Anna Roganova Project coordinator

The word "volunteer" is derived from Latin "voluntas" and is the synonym for free will, or personal choice. Ever since the beginning of the movement, volunteers have been driven by the wish to contribute positively to today's societies, working towards peaceful living conditions through a common effort. **Peace and international understanding, friendship and co-operation** form the part of the overall aims of voluntary service. These are pursued through a common commitment based on a free personal decision and through the coming together of individuals and groups of different backgrounds.

We are expecting you as a volunteer to join our team and philosophy of the organisation with all your enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment. We will provide you with possibilities to use our resources but asking you your **time and enthusiasm to help, your willingness to learn, openness to new experience** (sometimes it may be negative also...) and certainly the **respect** of rules and agreements, as well as the respect of our members, and your colleague volunteers.

For all this we will offer you:

- Possibility to work in an international NGO
- Possibility to learn new skills, e.g. project management (but many-many others besides - you will be surprised yourself how much you'll learn!)
- New contacts and friends
- Chance to learn a new language (or make it fluent)
- Possibility to live and work with interesting international people

- Possibility to travel
- Accommodation and food
- Pocket money (125 euros/month)

NB!!!

Volunteer service is NOT a holiday, a job, a stage, an opportunity to learn a language that is simply paid for you on the part of European Commission!!!

This means that you will not have a many-star hotel to live in, or any other benefits like this.

Certainly, you will be provided with basic things needed - you will have a simple room to live, some of you will share the room space with each other. As far as food is concerned, some of you will eat at the working place (ADEPPA) some of you will get money to buy food by yourselves, etc.

The most important that you should come with the volunteer spirit. It means **the wish first of all to give, and not to take.**

Please, make sure that you realise it before you come on the place. It will help you to avoid possible disappointment. If you have doubts there is still time to tell it to us!

But at the same time don't be afraid... ☺ We will take very good care of you, and having the volunteer spirit ourselves in our organisation, we will offer you friendly atmosphere, and help to deal in case of difficulties.

We will meet very often, and we will overcome difficulties (if they appear) **TOGETHER!**

EXAMPLE OF AN ACTIVITY:

A mobile activity in a village. A tent, a minibus, games, information... and totally unexpectedly - the whole Europe through people, coming from different countries, through explanations and through the spirit.



THE COORDINATION: What is it?...How it works?!!

Dear Ambassadors,
Very-very soon, your life may change...

And it's just because some time ago you took your personal decision to become a volunteer in France. Remember, not so long ago you were writing motivation letters, filling in various application forms, and - what a great news - you were chosen!!! Then, you felt impatient because you were waiting for the decision of the National Agency, and again a fantastic news follows - your project is approved, and very soon you have to leave for another country and start a new life experience...

I can bet that now when everything is certain and the organisation, where you wanted to help, is waiting for you, thousands and thousands of questions and doubts start to appear in your head.

This "philosophy" was created especially for you in order to give some answers to your questions and make the situation clearer. Of course, not everything is mentioned, but it is an important guideline for your project within the coordination of "TOGETHER":

Language training:

As far as the language training is concerned, you will get a possibility to improve your skills on the place, no matter what language level you have at the moment. However, if you are a "complete zero" in French, please, make an effort to find some conversation book, or language course right now, so that you're able to know at least a bit by the moment of your arrival.

The language training will depend mostly on your individual motivation to study. From our side, we will provide you with necessary methodology - DVD with a language course, various dictionaries and French books, etc. We will also encourage you to make a duo with a local youngster (whom you can motivate to listen and probably also to learn a little bit your mother tongue).

And certainly, what is probably the most important for language learning, you will be surrounded by real French everywhere - on your working place, in town, in shops, etc. So, just use the opportunities that you'll have!

We will also provide you with a language course in average once a week.

Other practical things:

You are going to receive pocket money (125 euros) on your French bank account that you will open when you're already on the place. (in Banque populaire www.bplc.fr near train station in Metz).

It's up to you how to spend it: you can buy food if you don't like the one you'll have at the place where you will live, or you will consider that there is not enough food, you can buy your telephone cards, buy something that you think is missing in your room (some freaky lamp, for example), etc.

I would like just to remind again that it will not be a hotel, where you are going to stay, but at the same time you will be provided with all necessary things. However, if you would feel like changing something - you will be able to do it with your own monthly allowance.

Common activities

In order to make the coordination live, there will be meeting between all of you, sometimes with us, sometimes in small groups.

We mixed as much as possible the accommodation places so that to provoke the maximum of mix between yourself.

We will use our nice "Together" minibus in order to make some group activities in the surroundings (Luxembourg-Nancy-maybe Paris). It has to be decided between us and according to the financial



"I took this photo during one of the activities that I was leading in the organisation. A great day, a nice moment and the overview of the time I spent as a volunteer in France"

Mitre, a volunteer from Macedonia

possibility of the project.

We will make meetings several times per month, sometimes more often so that to brainstorm about the leisure time activities and about some activities that make EVS visible at local level.

You will together meet local organisations and be European ambassadors! Part of these meetings we will organize, but part of them you will be able to organise soon yourselves.

Use of photos and videos

"Together" organization has a right to use photos and videos taken by and/or with the participation of the volunteers in promotional and communicational aims, such as for the web pages, leaflets, newsletters, posters and so on.

Holidays and volunteering time

You will be volunteering around and maximum 35 hours per week (language lessons are the part of it as well as the on-arrival and mid-term trainings, the last are considered as 8 hours per day). Arrival and departure days do not make the part of volunteering time. Every project will function differently on the interest of the volunteer and also on the interest of the project itself.

You will have an official French "rate" of holidays © 28 days per year.

In practice, every hosting organisation deals with the holidays as they wish (Adeppa, Cers, Maison de Robert Schuman, Together, etc). For Together and Adeppa organisations, when you are a volunteer in a youth exchange it is considered as 8 hours per day, and when you volunteer during the week-end you can take back these days somewhere during the week - some arrangements are possible and have to be discussed with your coordinator.

We will make some "calendar", where we will note the important activities planned, so that to organise our time in the best way.

The project has to agreed with the period of holidays (no way to be on holidays during a big international activity planned)

Youthpass

European Volunteer Service is based on the principals of non-formal education - that is everything, going out of the frame a formal one. This gives learning opportunities outside schools, universities, and other similar institutions.

Without doubts, you will learn a lot during your project, and sometimes about the things you couldn't expect from the beginning. In order to make your learning as efficient as possible, you have to take yourselves responsibility for it, and to put clear aims, about what you wish to learn. Before coming for the project, take a pen and paper and reflect about such items like:

"What exactly I wish to learn during my project?" (be as precise as possible).

"In what period of time I want to learn it?".

"Who can help me in that?" and so on.

You will have opportunities to come back to these notes again and again, bringing new ideas and changes.

All that you will need afterwards by the end of your EVS project, when you will be analyzing the and evaluating the whole period of time, spent in another country with so many different people and tasks.

And the great news - you can get an officially recognised certificate, called YOUTHPASS (www.youthpass.eu), where you can write your personal self-assessment of the things that you learnt. One of the priorities of the supporters of the Programme is to make this certificate recognisable at various levels, and it can be a great added value for you after your EVS, when you will wish to continue your studies, look for a job, etc.

We will come back to this topic when you are on place, but it will be good that you start to find out what "Youthpass", "non-formal education" and "Key Competences" is (hmm... what could these strange words mean?) already before coming to France.

A REAL EXPERIENCE EVS IN TOGETHER

BY FANNI MEZEI

My name is Fanni, 20 years old, and I was born in Budapest. Since 8 years old, I have been living with my family in Germany. In June 2007 I graduated from high school in Berlin.

Before going to university I wanted to go abroad to try living independently.

When I heard about EVS, I thought that it was the best possibility for me to challenge myself and to have fun on one hand and to engage myself in social work on the other.

Already after having lived only two months in France I can say, that this was the best decision for me in order to become independent and more self-confident. I am sharing my everyday life with

people from other cultures, widening my horizons and learning to see Europe as a whole.

My main task in the organisation is to help realizing youth exchanges and trainings. I help with the preparation on place and at the end with many administrative tasks. Me and other volunteers are responsible for the newsletter, in which we report on our actual and future projects. Our task is, of course, also to inform and to involve more and more youngsters into our activities.

In the nearest future another exciting project is being planned: opening a cafeteria at the university of Metz. We will create a place for students, where they can meet, exchange ideas and get information how to participate in the projects supported by the EU. All in all, I can say that it will be a very colourful year, full of interesting tasks and, of course, big challenges.



Fanni Mezei

A volunteer in TOGETHER project
"Mobile community center"

All available projects:

By Anna Roganova

LONG-TERM PROJECTS

"VOLUNTEERING TOGETHER"

("Together" project), 2007-FR-223
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000712224)

Location: Metz (France)

Themes: Art, culture and social exclusion

Working fields: Youth, children and the local community

Short description: Volunteers will work as assistance with local youth workers, and local and international volunteers. The main part of the volunteers' tasks involves to help with everyday life of the organisation, to help to organise the international projects, be responsible for informational point, work on promotion and communication and many other activities.

All that is based on international dimension and peer education, ensured by participation of European volunteers from different countries, their skills and knowledge and willingness to learn more about practical skills like development of personal activities, and also technical skills like project management, work in a team, coordination of group of people, work with the different generations on local level, contacts with local authorities.

"ADEPPA AGORA ECO CITOYEN"

(ADEPPA), 2006-FR-81
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000522501)

Location: Vigy (France)

Themes: Rural development and European awareness

Working fields: Youth, children, local community

Short description: Adeppa wants to develop a project based on the citizenship and active participation of youngsters and also to develop the eco-citizenship through welcoming of some small musical or theatre groups, or others to the centre. Local youngsters will be able to come to the concerts and to all kinds of events that we will realise in Adeppa.

"APPRENDRE L'EUROPE PAR LE JEU"

(European Centre of Robert Schuman), 2008-FR-14
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000739415)

Location: Scy-Chazelles (France)

Themes: Youth information and Europe awareness

Working fields: Youth, children and local community

Short description: The main task of the volunteer will be to help to organise pedagogical workshops about Europe for French and German speaking public of any age - children, youngsters and adults: like European puzzle, European rally, European bingo, European memory, etc.

"LE CENTRE JACQUES PREVERT ET L'EUROPE" (Centre

Jacque Prevert) 2007-FR-222
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000712201)

Location: Thionville (France)

Themes: Fight against discrimination, urban/rural development

Working fields: Youth, children, adults and local community

Short description: The volunteer is going to deal with the animation activities for children in the lunch centre, help primary students in doing their homework, and participate in different events in leisure time centres. The basic knowledge of French is very much welcome.

"LA MAISON DE ROBERT SCHUMAN - LE PARC DE BLIESBRUCK: LE DEPARTEMENT DE LA MOSELLE ET SON HISTOIRE"

("Conseil général" project), 2008-FR-106
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000793637)

Location: Scy Chazelles - Bliesbruck

Themes: culture

Working fields: Youth, children and the local community

Short description: volunteers will be active on one of the two patrimonial places from the departement of Moselle: the House of Robert Schuman and European archeological park Bliesbrück-Reinheim.

These places are open to public and more than 20000 people visit these places every year.

The volunteer will be the part of the team and participate in the daily activities of the projects and also participate in the bigger projects of different places.

Basic knowledge of French or/and German languages, as well as the interest in the history and inheritance protection from the volunteer's part would be an important added value for the project.

"MJC BORNLY"

("Maison des jeunes et de la culture Bornly" project), 2007-FR-221
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000712101)

Location: Metz suburbs (France)

Themes: social integration

Working fields: Youth, children, local community

Short description: The suburbs is a difficult area, where there is always a lack of infrastructures and cultural background.

The volunteer will give the possibility to open the world and to show that life is not limited on one particular district.

The volunteer will be integrated in the team of social workers and youngsters, and will have the possibility to participate to photo exhibitions, video reportages, concerts, promotion of local artists, forums, etc.

Feeling for and experience in social integration in general and urban activities would be an advantage for the volunteer.

"AJB"

("AJB" project), 2007-FR-241
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000717985)

Location: Metz suburbs (France)

Themes: social integration

Working fields: Youth, children, local community

Short description: The organisation was founded by young people from the district. All the activities are centered around kids, young people or their parents.

The volunteers will participate in the projects with the public (video-hiphop, etc. thematics) and it will be a great added value for the volunteer who have previous knowledge in urban activities and in the animation of the groups.

There will be daily contact with public.

A SHORT-TERM PROJECT

"VOLUNTEERING TOGETHER"

("Together" project), 2007-FR-223
(http://ec.europa.eu/youth/evs/aod/hei_form_en.cfm?EID=14000712224)

Location: METZ (France)

Themes: Art, culture and social exclusion

Working fields: Youth, children, local community

Short description: This is the project for less-privileged, disadvantaged, and/or young people with disabilities.

The volunteers will be active closely together with local youth workers and long-term volunteers.

If needed, an additional person will be provided, who will exclusively be responsible for the volunteers - so-called reinforced mentorship.

The volunteers will help with the everyday life of the organisation, at the same time a personal approach of the project is possible, regarding the volunteer's needs.



WE ARE ALSO SENDING THE VOLUNTEERS!!!

by Anna Roganova

A lot of young people from every background look for a voluntary service through the network of partners and organisations. They are integrated into our international activities and are prepared for a long intercultural experience process.

In order to give a better guarantee that EVS will be a great experience both for young people and the hosting organisation, we give a contribution for a visit of the project before its beginning (what is not financed by YIA for long-term volunteers).



How to reach us? What to do to become a volunteer?

By Anna Roganova

In order to become a volunteer, first of all you have to think if it is something you would really like to do.

Then, eventually, you should contact a sending organisation to get to know a bit more about what EVS is.

You can obviously contact us and send us the TOGETHER curriculum vitae carefully filled in. It can be downloaded from our webpage WWW.NETWORK-TOGETHER.EU.

We wish to see the volunteers before the beginning of the project, as we think it is a serious step to spend a year abroad, as it is a serious thing to host young person for one year and we encourage the previous visit of the place.

for the visit we can offer to meet you at the airport, to host and accommodate you for 1 or 2 days in the volunteers' space, so that you could see the project. You can take the low fare plane (e.g. "ryanair" that lands in Frankfurt Hahn) and it is worth planning the year you will spend abroad.

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