

EVS calling for volunteers

Project Do the right thing for the right purpose

20.9.2017.-19.09.2018

The project is designed to encourage voluntary experience for young people providing support for vulnerable groups: for people who suffer from malignant diseases, elder and disabled people, socially vulnerable, as well as the introduction in the work of humanitarian associations.

The aim of the activities is to improve skills and competencies of volunteers, through practical engagement and non-formal learning methods. Through activities we will encourage the volunteers to participate in community, to be active, to develop empathy for the socially vulnerable groups and to promote social inclusion and solidarity.

Through this project we will ensure a permanent transfer of knowledge, which will be confirmed by Youthpass and with experience of volunteers. This will improve the possibility for the volunteer's employment in their countries and in Europe. The intention is to involve young people who live in difficult social conditions, geographically distant from major cities and / or who left school or have a low education level/ are still in educational process. Through the project we want to provide an opportunity for learning, innovation and discovering their own potential, which volunteers will use after the project's ending. We will seek to influence and to acquire skills that will help volunteers in employment.

We will create a connection between the younger and elder generations, and thus enable intergenerational solidarity and raise the awareness of multiculturalism.

Project activities will be held in the City of Zagreb and its surrounding, where the volunteers will have continuous support in their engagement, organized by Center Circles. All activities have an informal character, which will be used in the practical and theoretical engagement. The methods used through the support for volunteers are education, counseling, group support, and oral / written feedback.

You will help target groups:

People under risk: people who suffer from malignant diseases, elder and disabled people. You will help them to bring groceries from supermarket, medicines, walk with them in wheelchairs, talk with them.

Sometimes you will walk with them to the hospital, or visit them when they are resting in hospital. You will also get opportunity to work with children during workshops or with children who are alone and bored in hospital without company. All people mostly live alone in bad social conditions, but are very grateful to receive help and see young happy faces. It isn't matter if you don't speak Croatian well because you can also paint with them, make ornaments, play games, just walk till you learn some words. Our previous volunteers from France and Romania were very successful with them:



Here you can check out the video from our volunteers:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKCKZyCtx04>

All aims will be achieved through:

1. Charitable work: voluntary work in gathering donations on the stand in shopping malls in Zagreb. Volunteers will collect donations from citizens in order to help children, youth and families with malignant diseases and socially disadvantaged. This activity will be held from Wednesday to Saturday, for 6 hours, volunteers could participate optionally how many days they wanted.
2. Support for socially excluded groups: users with malignant diseases, socially excluded users, elder and disabled users. Volunteers will visit users in their home and help in easy house work (vacuuming, cleaning dust, washing dishes). They will bring them medicine and groceries from market. Volunteers will be also involved in organizing workshops, hospital visits for children with malignant diseases and supervisions for those involved in working with malignant patients. This activity will be held from Monday to Friday. Every visit lasts for 1- 2 hour. Volunteers could participate optionally how many days they wanted.
3. Work with children in primary school. Volunteers will be included in workshops "Sensitization for malignant diseases" as a technical support (for short film, taking photographs, giving the material to children, explains some easy task when they learn Croatian). They will also collect toys and bottle corks which goes for donation and help children with malignant diseases. Volunteers will help to store and distribute toys. This activity will be held three times per month. Volunteers could participate optionally how they wanted.
4. Creative work. Volunteers will participate in making ornaments, workshop called "Gold hands". They could participate in making soaps on natural base, pillows of lavender, greeting cards, brooches, rings, pendants, decorative boxes with decoupage. They could also sew handbags, slippers and shirts with colorful and interesting look. All products will be offered on stands in order to collect donations for help users with malignant diseases.
5. Updating Circles website and Facebook site. Volunteers will have opportunity in establishment of international cooperation: contacting foreign organizations in creating financial sustainability for our program. This activity will be held constantly. Volunteers could participate optionally how they wanted.
6. Encouraging learning process for Croatian language in practical and theoretical way: we will organize non- formal learning methods for learn phrases, basic communication in order to easily adopt to new culture, and to easily communicate with users and with Croatian youth which they will get to know during leisure.
7. Supervision and coordination will enable empowerment to operate, maintain motivation and encourage the creativity of volunteers.
8. Individual project for each volunteer- last year this was massage for elder and disabled, workshops with children, writing diary about feelings during EVS, making promotion materials, making new jewelry and ornaments by You tube ideas...

Where you will volunteer:

All activities will be held in the Zagreb, capital city of Croatia, where will also be the accommodation for volunteers. It is located in the northwest of the country, along the Sava river, at the southern slopes of the Medvednica mountain.

Zagreb is the headquarters of the economic, political and cultural life in Croatia. The city is broken into 17 urban districts.

Quality land, favorable transit location and total municipal infrastructure, qualified labor force, scientific, professional, educational, health, financial, banking and other institutions, tradition in performing various services, size and quality of economy present essential potentials in Zagreb.

University of Zagreb is the oldest in Croatia and one of the oldest in Europe. It was founded in 1669th.

City of Zagreb is responsible for 38 cultural institutions which include 10 city museums, the most important being the Zagreb City Museum, Museum of Arts and Crafts and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Within the city government operates 14 centers of culture and 7 city theaters.

It is also a town with great opportunity for spending time in nature (Sljeme mountains, lake and outdoor sports around lake Budek and Jarun, park Maksimir) and in vast opportunities for free time for volunteers.

Most activities will take place in urban district Utrina, which are 15 minutes from the centre of Zagreb by public transport. Field volunteering will be also near to the centre of Zagreb, in urban district Travno and Dugave.

Experience of previous volunteers: We successfully lead EVS for two girls from Romania and France.

You can check more about us on web page: <http://www.krugovi.hr/>, Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/udrugakrugovi/?fref=ts> and EVS page: <https://www.facebook.com/EVS-Krugovi-Be-a-Humanist-A-support-in-the-life-of-vulnerable-people-1060547757369990/?fref=ts>

Mentoring:

Volunteer work will be mentored through the introduction in work with the users, training and meetings. Volunteers will be given the space to develop their own communication skills and creative ways to work with users, which will be overseen by a mentor.

Also, on a weekly basis will be held meetings with volunteers in order to exchange experiences and improve their learning process. Through the regular communication and receiving feedback from volunteers we will try to influence their motivation for participation, innovation and learning process.

Mentor, supervisor and activity coordinator will monitor the work of volunteers and submit regular reports to the national agency. Volunteers will be required to record their daily work, which will bring their new skills, personal impression of the work and work satisfaction. We will monitor their daily work record and mentor's reports during meetings (once per month).

Additional support:

We will organize three levels of support for volunteers: personal, learning and task related support.

Personal support will be in order to help volunteers to adjust to a new town, to users, organizing leisure, working on possible conflicts and problems in tasks. It will be organized monthly and individually organized.

Learning support will be organized in order to learn skills to work with children, malignant and elder, disabled users, creative skills (like sewing). We will organize support in learning Croatian language (in practical use, and with theory and non-formal learning methods) and learning about Youth pass and learning process.

Task related support will be with organized with education for task, regular meetings and going on the field with responsible task coordinator (who will be support).

Our team consists of professional staff, external professional support and experienced volunteers. The president of Center is the integrative gestalt therapist and communication counselor, professor of pedagogy. Our team also has expertise staff associate to conduct charity work and cooperation with partners, coordinator of volunteers and two associates for the implementation of projects and programs.

External collaborators include trained supervisors, sociologists, social workers and therapists with years of experience in work with people with malignant diseases.

Our volunteers had passed a course of palliative care and are regularly attending supervision according to work with malignant diseased groups. They are students of social work, sociology, occupational therapists, psychologists and other helper profession.

According to our vast experience, the whole team will focus on the organizational raise in programs and activities related to Erasmus+. The main part of the organization, accommodation and coordination of activities and monitoring of volunteers will take a project coordinator for EVS who so far has been involved in the Erasmus+ and Youth in Action. She has experience in leading and organizing Youth Exchange and National Meetings With Youth and Policy Decision Makers. Project coordinator will collaborate with volunteers and president in coordinating activities, secure accommodation and living in Zagreb.

We can offer non formal education for youth in improving self awareness, communication skills, counselling, work with people under risk and socially excluded as well as give them experience in real situations connected to our activities. Also, our staff speak English fluently, thus we will organize practical and theoretical help for learning and using Croatian language.