

Supporting Learning Communities

EVS project description

10th January – 10th December 2019 (11 months)

Valencia (Spain)

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1. What is EVS?

EVS (European Voluntary Service) is an **international volunteer experience** part of the program Erasmus+ funded by the European Commission.

It allows young people (**17 to 30 years old**) resident in Europe to have a **full-time** international and intercultural volunteer experience in an organisation abroad for a period of time **between 2 and 12 months**. It provides the travel expenses, full board (food and accommodation) and an amount of pocket money per month (it varies depending on the country).

It is based on non-formal education so this is a unique opportunity to meet people from other cultures and nationalities while acquiring new skills and abilities for personal and professional growth. Therefore it aims to:

- increase skills through the practical experience of volunteering abroad;
- encourage the learning of another language;
- interact with persons from different nationalities and culture;
- develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among Europe;
- promote active citizenship;
- support the development of local communities.

European Voluntary Service is NOT:

- Occasional or part-time volunteering;
- an internship in an enterprise or a humanitarian organisation;
- a recreational or tourist activity;
- a language course abroad;
- a paid job.

More info: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/mobility/european-voluntary-service_en.htm

2. Coordinating/Hosting organisations

Coordinating organisation XERACION VALENCIA is a non-profit youth cultural association created in Gandia (Valencia, Spain) in 2014 by an enthusiastic group of people who decided to quit their regular jobs in order to follow their dreams enjoying and loving every minute of their lives. We are an active member of the Council of Youth of Gandia and our objectives are:



- a) To promote and facilitate the international mobility of youth and youth workers (especially for groups with fewer opportunities).
- b) To expand social cooperation projects and volunteering (local and international).
- c) To empower youth in order for them to have their own critical thinking and analysis, an active citizenship and participatory democracy.
- d) To enhance values of tolerance, human dignity, interculturalism, solidarity and cooperation, social justice and integration.
- e) To promote healthy lifestyles and the protection of the environment through a sustainable development.

In order to achieve these objectives Xeración Valencia develops and implements projects for local and international volunteers and youth workers. It encourages volunteering amongst the population of the region of Valencia, especially amongst youth. It organises meetings between associations for the exchange of good practices in order to improve the quality of the projects.



As coordinator Xeración Valencia is in charge of all logistic and financial aspects of the project as well as welcoming volunteers and taking care of their accommodation, food, local transport and pocket money. Xeración Valencia will be also providing a mentor for each volunteer and ensuring the safety and quality of the project during the whole time.

Hosting organisation is the school “**Santiago Apóstol**” together with the **association “Brúfol”** from Valencia in the neighbourhood of “el Cabañal”.

The right to education and the freedom of teaching which are recognized in Article 27 of the Spanish Constitution are reflected in our Center.

Our Center is at the service of the local community trying, to the best of our ability, to respond to the educational demand of the parents ensuring that it is free of charge and avoiding any kind of discrimination based on economic, social or cultural factors; trying at all times to prepare the students to participate actively in the transformation and the improvement of the society.

The school is located in the maritime zone of Valencia. It's is small and has limited economic resources and limited space. We have 176 students in total. At the present time we are developing a project of CAES (Center for Singular Education Action) in view of the fact that most of the students are in situation of social disadvantage and most of them belong to a minority culture within the society as it is the Gipsy culture.

Our student body is concentrated in two neighborhoods where the marginalization and the segregation of the Roma community are extreme (Malvarrosa y Cabanyal). For this reason, 98% of the students in our Center comes from the Roma community.

Since the school year 2008-2009 it has been launched a process of transformation towards inclusive and intercultural approaches with the participation of the whole community.

Today, we move forward in the analysis and the reflection on the most important organizational, cultural and curricular aspects for building a quality school for everyone with respect for the diversity. By using these reflection tools, we also want to achieve, step by step, our dreams.

We are currently engaged in a process of transformation into a Learning Community. At the school, we are implementing all the successful practices of the learning communities, based on the INCLUDE-ED project, presented in December 2011 at the European Parliament.

Since October 2012, we are part of the network of the learning communities and day after day we continue working to make this transformation process a prelude to the labor market for our students.

You can read more about our projects in our website: <http://www.santiagoapostolcabanyal.es/>

3. Location of the project

The project will be developed in **Valencia** which is the capital of the entire region of Valencian autonomous Community and the third largest city in Spain after Madrid and Barcelona, with around 800,000 inhabitants in the administrative centre. Its urban area extends beyond the administrative city limits with a population of around 1.5–1.6 million people. The Port of Valencia is the 5th busiest container port in Europe and the busiest container port on the Mediterranean Sea.



Valencia was the capital of Spain between 1936 and 1937 during the Second Spanish Republic.

The city is situated on the banks of the Turia, on the east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, fronting the Gulf of Valencia on the Mediterranean Sea. Its historic centre is one of the largest in Spain, this heritage of ancient monuments, views and cultural attractions makes Valencia one of the country's most popular tourist destinations.

Valencia is integrated into an industrial area on the “*Costa del Azahar*”(Orange Blossom Coast). Valencia's main festival is the “*Fallas*”taking place during the month of March. The most traditional dish original from Valencia is *paella*.

The climate of Valencia is Mediterranean-subtropical with very mild temperatures during winters (10-20°C) and very hot summers (25-35°C). The annual average temperature is between 19-20 °C. For the small quantity of rain that Valencia receives each year, the climate can be considered as semi-arid.

4. Description of the activities

There will be a very wide range of possible activities available for the volunteers. **Each volunteer will be able to create part of her/his program together with the responsible person from the school.** There will be some specific and necessary tasks but flexibility will be always present in the schedule.

All volunteers will spend most of their time working at Santiago Apostol, however they will also collaborate for a few hours (not more than 4 hours per week) with the association Brúfol (www.brufol.org) created by members of the same school (or another one chosen by them). Like this, volunteers will benefit not only from the educational project but also from the non-profit sector within the community. Therefore both the school and the association are very much linked. Some examples of possible tasks at Santiago Apostol will be:

- Accompaniment and following of abandoned elderly (60-70 years old)
- Support to the Program of showers and breakfasts for underage youth (6-12 years old)
- Accompaniment and following of underage youth with fewer opportunities (6-12 years old)
- Support to diets to underage youth with fewer oportunities (3-15 years old)
- Support to young mothers through new competences and abilities improving their self-stime (18-19 years old)
- Prevention against drug addiction (8-15 years old)
- Interactive groups (<http://www.santiagoapostolcabanyal.es/grupos-interactivos>)
- Families trainings (/formacion-de-familiares)
- Extra activities (/actividades-de-tarde)
- Library and computing lessons (/biblioteca-tutorizada)
- Activities for teenagers with highrisk of dropping school (/proyecto-de-la-eso)
- Musical activities (proyectosinga.wordpress.com)
- Debates and talks (/tertulias)
- Mixed comissions (/comisiones)
- Radio escalante 329 (/radio-escalante-329)
- Secondary school extra activities (/aula-promociona-de-secundaria)

- Lunch workshops (/talleres-mediodia)
- Work placement program (/insercion-laboral)
- Football team (/equipo-de-futbol)
- “Brave kitchen”, Social-work placement of women in risk of exclusion (/cocina-valiente)

Volunteers will be offered very diverse learning opportunities in order to develop competences such as digital, communication (both english and spanish and valencian), civic and social, intercultural, environmental, proactivism as well as a better comprehension and empathy towards communities in risk of exclusion and fewer opportunities.

5. Objectives of the project

The main objectives of this project are:

- 1) to offer the opportunity to work and support unprivileged sectors of society which will increase their empathy, tolerance and solidarity;
- 2) to improve their social, cultural and educational abilities through activities that will be developed in the school as well as in the association;
- 3) to learn how to mediate and solve conflicts between conflictive students, teachers and families;
- 4) to help finding new European, national or regional funding in order to implement new projects in the school and to improve their capabilities;
- 5) to cooperate with other local associations working to improve the quality of life of unprivileged people;
- 6) to visit other schools and educational centres in order to implement activities together with Roma students to reduce the existing current stigmas;
- 7) to create awareness events, activities, workshops and campaigns;
- 8) to learn how to create audiovisual material such as photography, video edition to promote the work done in the school as well as the Erasmus+ program;
- 9) to promote Erasmus+ program amongst Valencian youth (specially amongst Roma community) in order to encourage them to participate in some youth exchange;

6. Practical details (participants, food, accommodation...)

This project is designed for 3 volunteers from any of the program countries.

The accommodation will be in private rooms in a 3 bedroom shared apartment situated in the neighbourhood of “Cabanyal”, next to the seaside in Valencia.

Each volunteer will receive a Spanish SIM card for their telephone and a bicycle for local transportation.

In addition, as Valencian Community is a highly fertile and agriculturally active region from Spain, they will have the option of getting a fertile holding for themselves (or to collaborate with one) to grow their own vegetables, fruits and herbs. A member of Xeración Valencia will give them all the support needed to start, but they will have to compromise to take care of it.

The first week of each month each volunteer will receive his/her **pocket money (120€)** and their **food budget (150€)**. They will be able to buy their own food (with the support of a member of Xeración Valencia if needed) or Xeración Valencia could buy it for them (if requested by them). However, all volunteers will be encouraged to do a responsible consumption and a healthy lifestyle by:

- Creating a common budget for the whole group and buying the food together.
- Using as much food from their organic field as possible.
- Using always local products avoiding brands which produce not trading fairly products.
- Recycling and reusing as many materials and food as possible and reducing their waste trying to avoid disposable products and plastic bags.
- Having a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables and less meat protein.
- Producing compost to be used in their organic field.

7. Application/contact information

We are looking for 3 highly motivated volunteers from any of the [EU or non-EU programme countries](#) with a very positive attitude, being adaptable to change and able to work independently will be valued. The right candidates should have a big interest in working with children/youth from marginalised areas and non-formal education.

At least an intermediate level of Spanish language (B1/B2) is required.

If you want to be our next EVS volunteer please send us an e-mail with your CV and explaining why you want to take part in this project to ionlera@xeracionvalencia.org with the subject *EVS-APOSTOL-2019*.

Applications will be accepted until Monday 23rd of April 2018.

Muchas gracias!