ERASMUS+
EVS - EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Call for volunteers

01/10/2016 - 30/09/2017

ECOS – Cooperative of Education Cooperation and Development, CRL

Faro, Portugal
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Introduction**  
  
- **Who are we? ECOS**  
  
- **What is this EVS project**  
  - Volunteers’ role, tasks and learning-service outcomes  
  - Profile of volunteers  
  
- **The EVS Activities**  
  - Youth Mobility and Initiatives Centre (ECOS)  
  - Networking for Youth Participation at Local Level (ECOS)  
  - Inclusive Science Programme (CCVAlg)  
  
- **Practical Information**  
  - Housing, food allowance and pocket money, transportation,  
  - Linguistic support, coordination, supervision, mentoring,  
  - Learning Cycle, Health & Safety, Holidays, Youth Pass, AXA  
  
- **Information about Faro**  
  
- **Application & Contacts**
Dear future EVS volunteer,

We would like to inform you about our European Voluntary Service Projects that we have developed as a coordinating organisation in partnership with local non-governmental organisations in Faro - Portugal and explore the possibility of you becoming an EVS volunteer.

The overall EVS project – Activating Youth – it’s an idea of involving organisations with different backgrounds and themes, within the area of Faro, where the volunteers will be offering their voluntary service but at the same time, having joint activities throughout their voluntary service in order to promote the capacity building of organisations working with youth and informing and promoting mobility, learning, voluntary and training opportunities to the local youth.

At the moment, we are looking for volunteers for:

➢ 2 EVS activities hosted by ECOS – Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento

➢ 1 EVS activity hosted by Centro Ciência Viva do Algarve (CCVAlg) - an Interactive Science Museum located in Faro

Below you can find relevant information that can assist you in understanding our project(s) and decide whether you would be genuinely interested in participating in the activities proposed.

Please read thoroughly our suggestions, the respective roles and the commitments that form part of our potential cooperation 😊
ECOS – Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento

Address: Universidade do Algarve, Campus de Gambelas, Pavilhão A5 8005-139 Faro, Portugal

Accreditation Ref.: 2015-1-PT02-KA110-002662

Web: www.ecos.pt (under construction)
www.facebook.com/activatingyouthfaro (EVS page)
www.facebook.com/coopecos (ECOS page)

EVS themes: EU Citizenship, EU awareness
Media and communications/Youth information

Activity dates: Start: 01/10/2016 End: 30/09/2017

ECOS – Cooperative of Education, Cooperation and Development, CRL has its main goal of action on the promotion of non-formal education for social inclusion. Through our activities, we try to contribute to the development of a more human, sustainable, fair, inclusive, participative, democratic, equitable, solidary, cooperative, dialogical, diverse and integrated society.

Our main areas of Intervention are:

- Creation of spaces for structured dialogue, cooperation and collective construction among different actors, such as, social, business and institutional actors.

- Promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of playful, educational, social, cultural and sustainable development projects, in formal and non-formal spaces, through non-formal education, always in a way that it complements formal education and contributes to life-long learning.

- Monitoring, support, assessment and consultancy to individuals, organisations, institutions and respective educational programmes and social intervention projects.

- Promotion, recognition and validation of non-formal education and other alternative pedagogical methodologies that contribute to social transformation.
ECOS was officially established at the beginning of 2010 by a group of experienced educators and youth workers in the national and European education arenas. A significant number of members of the organisation have been or still are actively involved in structures such as the European Youth Forum, International youth NGOs active on the European youth policy making and on the Portuguese National Youth Council. This group of young people is decided to bring their experience to their local and regional levels. ECOS together in cooperation with other partners around Europe and Portugal tries to bring different European dimensions of work to our local and regional communities.

ECOS main motivation for this project is to be able to develop a new culture of youth participation at local level in the region of Algarve. Mainly through the capacity building of organisations working with youth and through assuring that local young people have access to the existing learning & mobility opportunities.

We believe that the diverse range of experiences among the members of ECOS will be an added value for the overall success of this long-term cooperation project. In our organisation staff team we have a team of 7 persons with relevant experience in project management, in youth training and also on coaching. Our members are active in different pool of trainers such as the pool of trainers of the National Agency for the management of the Youth in Action Programme (Portugal), the pool of trainers of DYS of Council of Europe, the pool of trainers of European Youth Forum. We can say that we have recognized experience in supporting the learning process of young people within organisations and other learning environments.

Our activities reach a quite diverse range of actions according to the intervention axes of the cooperative. However, we have recently focused our main field of work on youth participation in decision-making process where throughout the cooperation with several local authorities in the region we have been supporting the implementation of youth councils and other spaces and instruments for the development of local and regional youth policies. We have been providing training for both youth leaders and people with responsibility over youth. We have also researched projects on the field of youth rights and finally, we provide training and consultation to several institutions and organisations on the field of competences development.
WHAT IS THIS EVS PROJECT

An idea was born around 4 years ago that was the birth point of this proposal. A proposal that has taken into consideration a number of parameters, starting from the aims and objectives of ECOS, the people involved in the organisation as individuals but also as a team, and the current situation of education and employment in Europe and particularly in Faro. A proposal that has been thought thoroughly, has been discussed, analysed and more important than anything... has been dreamt of!

Accordingly, we have developed the project “Activating Youth” that goes to it 7th edition and that will host volunteers for 12 months period in the city of Faro. The idea is not an on-off project as every year we would like to improve the project according to its developments, potentials and needs of the stakeholders but also in terms of the funding resource that is the form that ERASMUS+ will take.

The EVS activities we are looking for volunteers at the moment are:

1) Hosted by ECOS
   - Youth Mobility and Initiatives Centre
   - Networking for Youth Participation at Local Level

2) Hosted by CCVAlg
   - Inclusive Science Programme

The volunteers will offer their voluntary service to the projects, having a defined schedule agreed between the volunteer and the supervisor, and taking part in non-profit activities that will be organized, structured and will have a learning outcome for the young volunteer.

All the projects will be supervised and coordinated by ECOS in order to have a final programme of activities that fits under the rules of the programme but also has a meaningful potential benefit for everyone involved.

Volunteers’ role, tasks and learning-service outcomes

The volunteer will be involved in the daily tasks and general management of the hosting organisation where she/he will be in close touch with important features, developing the communication skills, the competences of working in a close team and getting inside some administrative issues, that can be useful in his/her future professional or volunteer life inside any organisation.
Information sessions within schools, University, organisations and events will also be held on, as one of the main features of this project involves the promotion of the Centre of Mobility and Youth Initiatives that expects to inform, motivate and support local youth in engaging the available opportunities of learning through mobility, volunteering and development their youth initiatives.

Other Activities & Workshops - Throughout the year, within ECOS and the network of local, regional and national partners, this EVS project foresees the integration and development of activities that fall under our philosophy, aims and objectives (e.g. Video-Forum of Faro) and that are a good way to join all the EVS volunteers together and to print their mark near the inhabitants.

**Profile of Volunteers**

The volunteer should be dynamic, motivated, love to work in a multicultural and international team, responsible and sympathetic. We will give priority to volunteers with social and economic difficult backgrounds, or in situations of long term unemployment. The gender and age it’s not important (will be balanced) but it will be of great help that the volunteer speaks basic English.

We can offer different level tasks on the project depending on the volunteers skills and learning expectations, never the less it will be of great importance that the sending organization (SO) inform us about the volunteers, about their difficulties, particular issues, diet, etc.. Our goal after the project is that the volunteers should feel motivated to go on multiplying other projects in their own country. All together, we can make the difference!
THE EVS ACTIVITIES

1) Hosting Organisation (HO) - ECOS

- YOUTH MOBILITY AND INITIATIVES CENTRE

This is an activity created by ECOS in partnership with the Governmental Youth Institute (IPDJ) in order to promote European Voluntary Service and other educational and mobility opportunities existing within the Erasmus+ Programme possibilities. The sessions offer a structured learning and constructive experience, through a dynamic which will lead the group to reflect on their community issues, think creatively towards challenges and have a close contact with several opportunities and services available for young people, including the ones offered by ERASMUS+, IPDJ and others. The Centre aims at being a reference for organisations that work with youth, developing and empowering their strategy towards a meaningful youth work. The volunteers will engage different stages of training and consulting, supporting with more logistical aspects, but as they gain competences, they can integrate more substantial layers of intervention.

- NETWORKING FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

ECOS, CRL has been a pioneer in the matters of Youth Participation and Structured Dialogue in the region of Algarve, and for many aspects as well at a national level. For that, the cooperative dedicates widely to networking. In this frame, there are two main networking projects that can represent an enriching learning experience for the volunteer: “DYPALL network” and “Network of Democratic Citizenship Schools”.

DYPALL network (2015-17) involves 22 European partners from 17 different countries and intends to provide a unique opportunity to mainstream youth policy development at local level.

Network of Democratic Citizenship Schools (2015-17), involves 4 School Communities of 4 member countries of the European Union, intending to promote youth participation in decision-making through schools.

The volunteer will be working directly with the project coordinators, in ECOS office, to support the mentioned projects.
2) Hosting Organisation (HO) - CCVAlg

- **INCLUSIVE SCIENCE PROGRAMME**

This is an activity being held in cooperation with the ASMAL - Associação de Saúde Mental do Algarve and Centro Comunitário da Horta da Areia (an EVS accredited organization that have been hosting volunteers in Activating Youth project since 2013 and that work with Roma youth).

The volunteers will be supporting the development of a new educational programme aiming to bring Science to young people with mental disabilities and to youth from the Roma community. New educational activities will be design and adapted to the target groups. Volunteers will be supported on content development but also on the implementation of the activities. Supporting also in the promotion of this new education programme within the local, regional and national network of Association but also within the European dimension, since we would like to also promote this project among the international guests that we receive and to have also this dimension included in our offer (becoming in a middle term perspective an inclusive science centre). The activity rises from an analysis of the target groups that the Centre is still not able to reach and engage in their activities. Thus, the following objectives have been defined:

- To create new and adapt existing educational activities promoting science to young people with disabilities;
- To organize activities focusing Roma youth and to allow them to visit the Centre and also to bring Science to the community where they are based;
- To raise awareness and interest among young people about science;
- To promote and inform about mobility, training and educational opportunities for the young people in the European scope.

Besides the Programme "Inclusive Science" the volunteers will be supporting the many activities taking place in CCVA, according to their preferences, such as:

* Provide assistance to the visitor's interactions with our science modules.
* Supporting outdoor and indoor science-based events (workshops, exhibitions, fieldworks, etc.), either for youth, children or for general public.
* Collaborate in the production of media (Written, graphic and/or web) material about CCVAlg and CCVAlg’s modules, activities and events.
* Contribute to improve the presence of CCVAlg on social networks.
* Adapt marketing and educational content to specific publics (young people with special needs, seniors, foreigners, etc.).
* Support the development and implementation of CCVAlg’s educational and social projects ("Ciência viva no Verão", partnerships with Schools, etc.).
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Housing
The volunteers will be hosted in a private house of 4 rooms, in the city of Faro. Each volunteer will have their own room and the house will be fully equipped (kitchen, fridge, washing machine, furniture, beddings and cutlery) ensuring their safe hygienic and pleasant experience.

Food allowance and pocket money
The volunteers will receive each month 100 Euros for pocket money according to the rules of the programme and 145 Euros as food allowance. The money will be transferred to bank accounts that we will open for them, in order to secure safety of money handling. Finally, the volunteers will need to acknowledge receipt of this money in order to go into line with the Portuguese financial system for Non profit Cooperative Organisations.

Transportation
For the international transportation costs the flights most follow the amount stated by the rules of the new program ERASMUS+.

For the local transportation we are willing to offer the volunteers the opportunity to choose their way of moving around the city. ECOS, being an organisation that assumes and promotes a healthy and environmentally friendly life-style recommends the use of bicycles within the city as the distances are small, streets are safe, and the land is considerably flat. Therefore, volunteers will be able to decide whether to use a bicycle or they would rather have a monthly pass for the local buses (in the case that transportation is needed to go to the project).

Linguistic Support
Volunteers will be offered Portuguese language course given by a professional Portuguese teacher. The language course will be tailored according to the possible current level of the volunteers and will occupy 6-4 hours per week, during an initial period that the volunteers believe to be important for their EVS project and taking into consideration the Language Group support given by the Erasmus+ Programme.

Coordination
The coordination of Activating Youth is ensured by an experienced team of youth workers with a background in non-formal education, volunteering management and mobility projects. The team has experience with EVS and has already been running our project successfully. Together with the EVS Coordinator there is the team of ECOS comprised of youth workers, social workers and project managers that will ensure the well flow of the whole project with their experience and competencies.
Supervision

Within each project, there will be a person appointed to support the volunteers with their tasks, the development of activities schedule and the training required for them to go through a learning experience. This person (tasks’ supervisor), will be a person that has professional experience in their field and he/she will be further trained on how to support the learning processes of the volunteers.

Mentoring

Volunteers will also be assigned a mentor that will be responsible for the well-being of the volunteers in regards to their social integration to their project, the local community and with whom they can discuss on their experience and feedback on how the whole experience could be improved. This person will be a local young person that will have a similar experience of living abroad and will also be trained on mentoring methodologies. Also, this person will be the link between the volunteers and the hosting and coordinating organisations.

Learning Cycle

ECOS will provide the volunteers with a programmed learning cycle that includes 1 Induction training in the first weeks upon the arrival; 2 Mid-term evaluation moments and a Final evaluation meeting during the last month of the project.

Also, different occasional workshops will take place during the project, according to the learning needs of the volunteers and the local partner organisations, for the benefit of the personal and professional development but also to the EVS experience.

The volunteer will have access to On-Arrival and Mid-Term EVS training, in case, provided by the National Agency according to the recommendations of the programme.

Health and safety

We would like to ensure the health and safety of all parties involved in our projects. Accordingly, we have prepared tools that can prevent challenges of this nature. These tools involve:

Regular meetings with supervisors, mentors and coordinator with open feedback processes from all parties to prevent and deal with possible conflicts. An emergency contact list will be given and explained to the volunteers to cover all possible issues that might rise during the project.

Within the projects but also the local community and the houses where the volunteers will be located, there will be conduct and behaviour standards that will also be in the Activity Agreement that will be produced.
**Holidays**

The volunteers will have two days per month off, meaning that in the total 12 month project they will have 24 days off. Also, they can enjoy the official bank holidays. Still, the holiday periods and length should be discussed with the supervisor of the activities in order to ensure that there is a clear articulation with the activities in the organisation.

**Youthpass**

We are following a procedure on developing and creating the Youthpass of volunteers in accordance to fundamentals of non-formal learning and self-assessment. Volunteers will be supported to create and follow learning plans and also self-assess their learning through a dialogue with other volunteers, the mentor and the supervisor. All volunteers will be given access to fill their Youthpass at the end of their project.

**Insurance**

Sending organisations will be responsible to register the volunteers with Signa insurance and brief volunteers on its use. We are fully aware and trained on Signa and how the volunteers can benefit from this insurance.

**Other considerations**

The volunteers will have access to internet through the hosting organisations placements and in their house.

Also, the volunteer will be given a mobile card through which they will be able to make calls between them and the coordinator for a low price. Charging the card will be the volunteers’ responsibility.
INFORMATION ABOUT FARO

The municipality of Faro has a population of around 57,000 habitants of which 15.6% is aged between 15 and 24 years old. It is the capital of the Algarve, the southern region of Portugal and known for its coastline. However, the ridge of small mountains behind the coast is also interesting. Faro is situated virtually in the heart of the Ria Formosa (a nature reserve) and in the middle of the coastline, which extends from the mythical Ponta de Sagres, at windward, to the Spanish border at the leeward side.

Considerable tourist development in the 1950’s transformed the coast of the Algarve. The Mediterranean landscape of fig, almond and carob trees littered with small traditional houses, gave way to a network hotels and holiday villages, some of excellent quality and design, others unfortunately with little of either. However, it maintains to be the most famous of all Portuguese tourist resorts.

In terms of cultural diversity, not only the secular Gipsy community is spread in Portugal, but also since long time that all around Algarve, visitors (English, French, German, etc.) decided to stay living in this pleasant region, as also many emigrants from countries like Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania, African Portuguese speaking countries (ex-colonies) and also Brazil, came here looking for better life conditions, most of all are integrating well in our community.

Fortunately, we have good weather conditions all over the year; our light and soft Winter it’s going between 15 Cº and 7 Cº and the sunny and dry Summer can go from 28 Cº to 43 Cº.

The economy is mainly based on tourism, agriculture and fishing. The city has a lot of schools and three university’s campus. Health care is provided by the main Hospital of the Algarve in Faro, the Health Centres and private Hospitals. The city is equipped with an international airport, a rail station and a central bus station. The access to the city is really easy by bus or train; inside the city we have good connection from all the places to the centre on foot.

Faro can be calm and quiet, as sometimes a really energetic and crowded city, caused by the amused university students arrival and departure and the youthfulness that describes our city.

It has a Governmental Youth Institute and a Youth Foundation office, also an Arts Academy, eight active art galleries, a theatre from the 18 century still working, a Professional theatre Company and three amateur groups, as some dance and music bands and happily a new theatre had been built.

Culturally and artistically, Faro is developing in terms of people’s acceptance and governmental support, so although there is still a lack of participation of the community in general, there are many new events and activities. Therefore there is a great potential to further develop and we pretend, as an organisation for education, cooperation and development, to contribute to making this evolution social responsible, participative and positive.
Volunteer applicants should apply to their respecting Sending Organisation (SO) project manager:

- **GREECE** - Konstantinos Spatiotis
  EUOPAIKO CHORIO - [www.european-village.org](http://www.european-village.org)

- **SPAIN** – Julie Kuseni
  Asociación ÁGORA CULTURAL - [www.agoracultural.com](http://www.agoracultural.com)

- **LITHUANIA** - Alina Bechterevė
  Viešoji įstaiga Creativitas - [www.creativitas.lt](http://www.creativitas.lt)

Deadline for applications: **01st June 2016**

ECOS is committed through its Equal Opportunities Policy to ensure that all volunteer applicants are considered on a fair, unbiased and lawful basis. Our final decision will be made upon an interview between the volunteers and the projects’ supervisors.