

EVS IN ITALY? Are you ready?

Dear all,

here there are 3 Italian receiving organizations that are going to host volunteers.

The starting date will be September 5, 2016 with 12 months of activity.

Description of the local context and practical arrangements (common to the 3 projects)

The whole area of province of Biella is a district of around 182.000 habitants. The only municipality of Biella it is established by around 45.000 people. It's situated in the North of Italy and it's held in the area called "Prealpi biellesi", a mountainous area similar to the Alps; the minimum elevation is 180meters above sea level and the maximum is 2.600m. Biella climate is continental; it presents cold, damp winters with snowfall and fog presence in lowland areas; spring and autumn are rainy seasons and in summer is hot and often humid with good weather. Every seasons give to the population the possibility to spend time in the nature, that's is very rich and full of resources. In this area it's habitual to practice many kind of sports like: running, walking in the mountains , Nordic walking , hiking , skiing, climbing , mountain biking , paragliding, swimming (indoor and outdoor), football, dance and other team sports thanks to the many sports clubs.

Italians are famous to be sociable and friendly people and this it's true also for Biella' habitants, especially for the workers of our organization, who have got expertise in relationship, as predisposition and qualification at work.

Home: EVS' home is situated in Tollegno, that is a Municipality closed to Biella. It's got about 2.600 habitants. There are 3 kilometers from the house and Biella, so it's possible to reach by feet in around 30 minutes or by bicycle in 10 minutes. During this trip it's possible to enjoy the landscape and the history of the area, that was in the past full of active spinning mills. The house is constituted by an hall, a kitchen, a living room, a bathroom and 3 double rooms; the kitchen, the living room and 2 bedrooms have got a balcony. The flat is located at a first floor, in the middle of other 2 flats: at the ground floor there is a little typical Italian caffè with a field where people play the game called "bocce"; at the second floor there is another flat for residential used, that is actually occupied by a family.

In the house there is free unlimited wifi. For what concern telephony, the costs of the Italian SIM card and the costs for telephone communications is at the expense of the volunteer.

Transportation: the volunteer at the arrival in Biella will receive some ticket bus and in a few days, with the help of the mentor, he/she will receive a monthly card for the bus, that connect Tollegno with Biella many times during the day. If the workplace of the volunteer it will be different by Biella (i.e. Sagliano Micca, Ronco Biellese, Cossato, etc.) the volunteer will receive a special monthly card for reach that place. At the volunteer will also give the possibility to receive a bicycle for all the period of the project.

Italian class: at the volunteer will give the opportunity to participate to an Italian class, two times a week, among an Association of teacher, which our Organization collaborate with, from many time. This school is situated in the center of Biella and it's very easy to reach it. Furthermore, in free time, the volunteer should subscribe by him/herself in another private Italian class because in Biella there are other school, one of which it's a certificated school for CELI Document.

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Organization name: COOPERATIVA SOCIALE TANTINTENTI

Website: www.tantintenti.org

Tantintenti is a social cooperative company born in 2003. Is composed by 55 members and 10 volunteers and works in the districts of Biella and Vercelli. Is mainly specialized in disability, but has developed skills in house assistance for older people, child care, youth policies and refugees.

Tantintenti is searching 3 volunteers for 3 different services.

CASA LIONS BIELLA HOST (1 volunteer)

Casa Lions Biella Host it's a Home-Centre that host people with medium-light disabilities.

The building is developed on two floors, that should host up to 12 people; there is also an attic with 2 places more, which are used for the project denominated "temporary housing".

There is a private courtyard inside and a garden behind the building, used like a fruit and vegetable garden.

At present there are 11 people living in the 2 floors, on the basis of the type on disability.

At the first floor are living 4 young people with motoric disability, but they have a good level of autonomy in their personal choices and good social and relational abilities; instead, at the first floor, are living 7 people with different kind of difficulties in the land of relationships and about their own decisions, but they are full autonomy in which concern mobility and self-care.

Furthermore Tantintenti offers a service, inside Casa Lions, that is called "Residenzialità temporanea", that means "temporary housing" and gives people with medium and light disability the possibility to live in Casa Lions for a few days or a limited period: this happens in case of familiar emergency, or to offer the occasion to improve co-housing in Community and anticipate the period in which the person will be alone without parents, or to give parents the possibility of a comfort in the daily routine. Person who is hosted in the attic for this kind of project, during the day lives in the common areas in the other 2 floors downstairs.

In the Centre are now working 3 Educators and 4 OSS (Social Assistance Operators), plus some volunteers, which are supporting Hosts from some years, helping them in their daily activities in and outside the House.

Each Host has got an Educator and a OSS of reference, who have together the responsibility of the educational project and care of the Host; they write "four hands" the project, flanked by Educational Director, and they share this project with the whole staff who works with all the Hosts. This project is also shared with the family of origin of the person and with Social Services of the District, which have got the assignment of the person.

In addition to the Educational Director, Casa Lions has also got a Representative of the House, a person Responsible of "area of disability" and a Psychologist who has the role of supervise Hosts and management of individual meetings and conversation in case of needing.

Casa Lions is structured exactly like as an House and its management reflects the time of a residence, where there are daily routines and rule, divided by people who are living there. Hosts, each one as own abilities, occupy of management of the house: they put in order, they clean, do daily domestic works, prepare meals, etc. The operator who is working in shift supervise and helps the hosts if they have got difficulties, but he never substitutes them, rather he gives them support. After daily routines Hosts should choose by their own what to do, in their free time, given that they are in their own home, so they should stay together in the common areas or stay alone in their bedroom, spending time with their hobbies. Each one is also occupied with outdoor activities: some of them have got a job, someone do volunteering activities and someone do sports. Moreover, they are involved in activities in free time from Associations of Biella or from their own friends.

Sketch of the Volunteer and his role in Casa Lions

The aim of this project is integrate the Volunteer with people who are living in Casa Lions, so it's desirable to work with a volunteer able in relationships with many different kind of difficulties, able to understand the needs of people and, at the same time, able to endorse ability of the Hosts, even if they look minimal.

The volunteer should be able in creation of relationships based on trust, standing side by side to the Host but at the same time, giving them the opportunity to do mistakes and learn; this means help people in their development.

He/she represent for Casa Lions a resource if he/she becomes active inside the Service: this means that he's active and resourceful in proposing new activities and he enjoys in spending time with Hosts in every kind of activity or in their free time. Finally, the volunteer becomes an important resource for the moments outside the house because it supports operators in turn to the organization of outputs and community recreational activities.

The practice of every day's activities of Volunteer consist of: support Hosts and staff in household activities, like cooking, arrangement of spaces, shopping, tidying up, etc. everything concern daily routine.

Once the domestic activities are finished, Hosts are free inside the house to spend the time as they wish, especially who lives on the first floor; however, everybody often needs to be stimulated and helped in the management of their time and it is in this case that the creativity and the pleasure of being together the volunteer becomes a resource for the entire structure. The operator helps the group to manage relationships and coexistence and to enforce the rules of the community, the same thing is required to volunteer.

Another activity of Volunteer it's called "domestic autonomy for independent life": it consists in supporting and stimulation the autonomy of people with disability, who is hosted in casa lions for a few days.

In addition to the Tutor, who's not always present in the structure, the Volunteer should daily ask for advice with the operator-Head of the community and with the rest of the team that will be available to provide, especially in the first period, all relevant information about everything concern Casa Lions and educational projects of the Hosts.

BOTTEGA DEI MESTIERI (1 volunteer)

La Bottega dei Mestieri (BDM) is an experimental project, initiated by CooperativeTantintenti, in partnership with Cooperative Domus Laetitiae that wants to offer employment opportunities to people with disabilities who cannot fit within the labor market (also protected) or in existing services.

BDM is structured on four distinctive features focused on the concept of the ancient craft shops in which a master artist conveyed to young people competence. These are:

- identifying a place where they can realize many small activities related to food production and micro-craftsmanship;
- production of welfare services for corporate members, as reuse and recovery:

- configuration of an employment context where they are valued and recognized certified skills and competencies of people with mental retardation, considered not suitable for work placement paths
- research of economic activities, that are able to support an economical planning

***Extra opportunities for the Volunteer who'll work in Bottega: Unidee**

This volunteer will also have the opportunity to participate in some cultural activities of Unidee. UNIDEE it's University of Ideas, it is the formative programme developed by the Educational Office at Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto Onlus, an artistic project conceived by Michelangelo Pistoletto in 1998 and located in Biella.

As it's possible to read on the website "Cittadellarte is a laboratory, a generator of creative energy that fosters processes of development across a diversity of fields: culture, production, economics and politics. Through its activities, Cittadellarte pursues a basic objective: to take artistic interventions into every sector of civil society, to contribute responsibly and profitably while addressing the profound changes of the present time." <http://www.cittadellarte.it/unidee/info.html?hl=en>

The Volunteer who'll choose the project in Bottega dei Mestieri, will participate in some project in Unidee, with the goal of enrich his/her experience and find the links and connect the ideas of the two projects. These kind of activities are weekly residential modules taking place at Cittadellarte, open to professionals as well as the general public, held by mentors who are experts on the three broad thematic areas (temporality, responsibility, participation).

Competences of the Volunteer

The Volunteer is required to be involved in this kind of process, helping the customers of BdM (who are people with intellectual or motoric disabilities) in the way of learning work-related competences. The Volunteer will have an important and responsive role in helping these people within the predisposition of the conditions in which they will reach their autonomies, as a coworker of people who are learning an expertise.

It's important that the Volunteer will develop understanding of the world of disability, recognizing value, respect and trust in the social role of this kind of people. It's necessary to create an atmosphere of trust where people should feel "safeguarded" and at the same time "integrated" in a professional and productive workplace.

It is required to be flexible with the schedule, open mind about cultural experience and the possibility of conduct many different activities in many locations. The Volunteer will also have good predisposition for intercultural staff of works, creative way of thinking and artistic works.

Tasks of the Volunteer

- promotion and support of actual activities, in second time conception and promotion of new activities, trying to be a Master Craftsman, developing new workshops;
- coaching and mentoring for people with disabilities;
- help people in the context of BdM or in other locations, where actuate activities and workshop;
- creating events;
- supporting operators, who are Educators, in their usual work in BdM;
- supporting work staff in Cittadellarte for what concern the work of Unidee, as programmed with the Tutor of BdM' project

CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION AREA (1 volunteer)

The cooperative Tantintenti has developed in the latest 10 year different types of services, pointed to childhood, adolescence and families, for what concern animation, education, integration of the school with other services which support families, parenthood activities.

In general the volunteer fits gradually in the project for children, first as observer and in a second time as an active support. He/she participates and supports the activities, that usually follow the time-table of the Italian school, that's decided by the Ministry of Instruction.

These are the different type of the activities, divided by age of children:

- Range 0-3: daily activities from September to July. The volunteer may participate to the life of the service through the educational design, the realizing of the project itself, the checkup of the aims in the ending of the project. The volunteer collaborates with Educators also in the management of the time-table of every day.

It is also asked to Volunteer willing cooperation during the routine (reception, meals, sleep..), who have a deep significance in the development, growth of children and are a way to establish relationships.

- Range 6-12: from September to June. Activity of animation, as integration to the usual scholar schedule: this kind of activity is developed in the early afternoon, when time school finish. The Volunteer support Educators and Animators in hands-on workshops, English classes, support for animation tasks.
- Range 6-12: summer period, June and July. Summer camp with daily activities of animation, excursions, games, sports, swimming-pool, theatre, dance, singing.
- Range 6-16: all year in the afternoon Volunteer may support Educators in activities of study and support for children and teenagers with specific learning disabilities (DSA) and special educational needs (EES)
- Parenthood: the cooperative Tantintenti organizes during the year meetings for discussion on issues of parenting in order to create culture and discussion on issues that young couples meeting for the first time (weaning, conflicts between siblings, the stages of development, etc.). The Volunteer will be involved in this space, according to his/her competence for the organization and support in event management.

General tasks of the Volunteer

Generally the volunteer is requires a willingness to create a good relationship with children by listening to their needs and their demands. In his/her educational role, the Volunteer observes and follows the lines of the pedagogical and educational service in which it is inserted, keeping active listening and dialogue with their team and the tutor. It is also a promoter of alternative educational methods and tools.

Regarding activities we expect that the Volunteer shows interest and initiative, observing and plugs into all proposals already planned by educational or entertainment by participating he/ she himself/herself to the construction activities of interest for the group of children for whom it is addressed, always in agreement with the team of operators.

We expect that the Volunteer wants to try to create positive and constructive relationships in the work staff, showing willingness, participation, collaboration, inside the group and the project.

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Organization name: COOPERATIVA SOCIALE MARIA CECILIA (2 volunteers)

Website: www.mariacecilia.it

Maria Cecilia Social Cooperative works to be an active and important presence in the Biella area, with the intention of being able to analyze the emerging needs, develop hypotheses to respond to new social emergencies and provide interventions for the promotion of local resources in collaboration with families and public services. The mission of Maria Cecilia Social Cooperative is to be active partner in the construction of local networks with both private and public institutions, because we believe that the co-responsibility in social work becomes condition for the development of a philosophy of solidarity and care. In twenty years, Maria Cecilia Cooperative has gained experience in the management of care services, rehabilitation and animation for the elderly and disable people, working with several local institutions (nursing homes, day care centers, schools, social services, etc..). The local presence has enabled the cooperative to participate actively in the planning of policies and services in the social sector, participating in the development of "area plans" and sharing strategies and objectives for overcoming social problems.

Maria Cecilia is searching 2 volunteers for social work with people with reduced autonomy: young people with moderate physical and mental disabilities and partially self-sufficient elderly.

Volunteers will collaborate with a nursing home, a daily center for elderly and other local activities and projects for people with disabilities (elderly and young adults).

Please check our website www.mariacecilia.it and the description of our services!

The volunteers will be welcomed in formal and consolidated services, that is in reliable areas with adequate presence of staff and with all the security requirements of Italian law. It should be noted that, as mentioned before, the volunteer will not operate in isolation but always with an educational and social operator.

The volunteers will be able to experiment roles such social and educational learning tools and methodologies working with vulnerable people.

The tasks will be carried out exclusively with a specialist (educator or facilitator) in recreational, educational and rehabilitation activities. Therefore, the role of the volunteers will be to assist the operator, working with him in all phases, from design, delivery, and final assessment.

Activities in which the volunteers could be involved:

- evening animation: happy hours in the city, going out to the bowling, cinema, theater, pizzeria, ecc..
- short journeys for autonomy: visits to museums, walks in natural parks and areas of cultural interest, ecc..
- free-time activities: shopping center, sports activities, bar and ice cream shops, and a half-day trips (museums in large cities, safari zoo, aquarium).
- recreational activities: games, crafts workshops, etc..
- cognitive-rehabilitation activities: reading the newspaper, memory, bingo, crossword puzzles, etc..
- psychomotor activities: group exercise; theatrical activities of corporal expression, etc..
- transportation: as facilitator and company during the transfer home-activities-home. As a basic method, it is guaranteed the integration of ideas, creativity and experience of EVS volunteers and the opportunity to carry out activities proposed and designed by the volunteers themselves in agreement with the participants.

In this context, the opportunities for learning that offers "social work" is very broad: it is a personal enrichment in a context of cultural exchange (in another country), social and generational exchange that leads to the acquisition of relational, communicational and organizational skills, abilities and competences.

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Organization name: COOPERATIVA SOCIALE DOMUS LAETITIAE (2 volunteers)

Website: www.domuslaetitiaie.com

The Domus Laetitiaie, founded in 1984, is a Cooperative of Social Solidarity which occupies of people with disabilities. It's located in Sagliano Micca, a village 5 km from Biella, and operates in Biella through many services ranging from residences, day care centers, school integration, home care, project of education for the territory, employment, ambulatory rehabilitation/ habilitation, counselling and training. It currently employs about 125 employees and offers its services to about 250 families.

Domus Laetitiaie is searching 2 volunteers for the services described below and they should where to carry out his/her own work, between two different area: the residential one or the daily centre.

Residential service, called "Rifugio dei Sogni"

The " Rifugio dei Sogni " is a residential service in which live 23 people with heterogeneous age and problems. It provides answers to the needings of people with severe disabilities and behavioral problems, who have many difficulties to perform normal functions of everyday life. The daily routine is marked by moments of family life and structured activities: the first ones concern the care of the person, the management of lunch and dinner, the little housework, personal expenses, activities with the goal of maintaining their autonomy and leisure management through choosing a hobby; structured activities should be either expressive, occupational , recreational and sportive and are carried out both inside and outside of the structure, taking advantage of the numerous collaborations with associations and groups of the surrounding area.

The staff is composed by OSS (social welfare operator) and professional educators, who are coordinated by an Educator-Manager; they work in a bigger staff with nurses, physiotherapists, psychologist, Medical Director, Director of education. The whole staff share the same goal, that is the welfare of the person, reached through an educational and welfare project. This is individualized, and it's subscribed by all the members of the staff, shared and agreed upon the Host and his family, because the focus is always on the needing of people who live in Domus Laetitiaie.

Daily centre, called "Calla Calla"

The Daily Centre "Calla Calla" is a service that take care of people with disabilities, most of which are adults, who have a mental retardation mild, medium , severe or profound; they need educational, rehabilitative and/or custody activities during the day or a part of it. Activities include all the actions designed within the project that focuses on the person and these activities are carried out in well-equipped laboratories. During the year it are also planned activities for which it makes use of outside experts to the Centre as Rehabilitation Technician, Music Therapist, Pet therapist, Psychologist, Consultant Theatrical; they share the project of the person and they collaborate in planning and verifying actions.

As example we list the various activities that are developed: expressive, works on commission (occupational activities carried out by order of companies and commercial production in the area of Biella), autonomy (personal, social , domestic), crafts, education environmental, psychomotor game, relaxation, kitchen, tales sensory, music, sports (bowling, cycling and spinning, riding, swimming). Then there are other more specific activities, designed for people with severe disabilities: sensory stimulation, auditory stimulation , learning, body massage, use of psychotechnologies (to foster communication). Finally outside activities take place in collaboration with local associations of the area.

Activities and role of the volunteer

The inclusion of a volunteer within the services will support both the work of the operators in creating opportunities for people with disabilities and relational development and experimentation of new social and educational activities. The innovation of the presence of a volunteer is still in itself a source of interest and inspiration for people with disabilities.

Specific activities: support in the animation and educational intervention for people with mental retardation; presence with operators in the performance of specific activities of the project and/ or planned by the Laboratory.

Requirements to candidates: good interpersonal skills and communication, patience, attention and willingness to compare him/herself; ability to relate to people with disabilities; ability to actively participation in educational activities.

The integration of the volunteer will provide for an initial period of knowledge of the group, the team, working methods and pedagogical organization with a working week from 8.45 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 17.00, from Monday to Friday.

We think that this experience will give volunteers many opportunities for personal growth and acquisitions. Some, but not all, may be:

- Implementing their educational, welfare and professional skills
- Deepening of social and pedagogical themes
- Teamwork
- Career guidance
- Active citizenship
- Approach to cultural diversity