

Mission of volunteers:

(can slightly vary according to management of each community centers, but basically involves)

- the main task of the volunteer would be to actively participate in, and possibly plan, the activities realized by the centre
- activities of the community centres are indoor or outdoor activities (preliminary club, tutoring, music/art/sport...)
- the volunteer would always work with a professional from the community centre, or a social worker of the centre.
- additional activities are considered to be an inseparable part of the Centre's program. They include mainly trips, talks, meetings with guests, etc.
- educational activities include tutoring, depending on the needs of individuals, with assistance of a professional. The volunteer's task would be help with homework (writing, reading), work with methodic educational equipment (cards with syllables, word creation). Concerning older children, it would be direct help with tasks that are discussed at school, whether it's math or foreign language. Education in the use of the PC – Internet, e-mail, Word, etc are mainly for older children
- the volunteer's task would be independent leading of those activities, creative planning of the program and tasks for the participants.
- after-school activities involve active courses – sports, dance, singing, musical Instruments, educational courses – PC, foreign language, practical skills, creative workshops on various topics...

Number of volunteers in community centre:

varies (one or two - high probability that the services of two volunteers will overcome)

Food, Accomodation, Travel costs to community center - provided

Pocket money: approx. 120 eur/month

Slovak language course: provided by OLS Erasmus+ tool

Benefits (what is covered, accommodation, travel costs, pocket money, etc.)

We will provide money for accommodation, food and essential travels. Also a small amount of pocket money (around 120e/month). Volunteers should not expect to earn money – savings, - they probably won't leave Slovakia richer than when they came, but basic needs will be covered, of course.

How and where to apply and the application deadline.

Candidates should apply via sending organisation with their CV and motivational / application letter. Selected candidates will be contacted for a short skype interview, during which we will talk about their tasks in EVS program, their motivation and they will get to ask any question regarding the stay.

Videos European Volunteering Service in People in Need, Slovakia:

<https://uloz.to/live/!RG4tW663Bmk2/sverzov-aj-wmv>

<https://uloz.to/live/!WaNEgfnz5ciw/evs-video-paulo-a-gabriele-mp4>

A nice short video about Slovakia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbkEmW6PIXs>

Specific context of social work in the community centers working with Roma minority

Need to be explained and emphasised to the volunteers

Community centers – location

They are mostly located in the rural areas, therefore there are limited numbers of services provided around (you can find a shop, post office, doctor...). However, there are not that many means of entertainment or leisure activities. Volunteers need to be ready to spend their free time during the week in the village (with the possibility to travel to the closest city from time to time). Sometimes they may feel isolated or bored - it is important to plan their free time wisely, so they have space for interaction with other people or activities that will cheer them up.

Work with Roma community:

The work with Roma community is specific, because of persisting segregation, stereotypes, prejudice but also different lifestyle - volunteers need to understand the manners and behaviour patterns linked to cultural and socio-economic background of Rom from segregated communities. Sometimes is not easy, because it is long-term

mission and the results of the actions are not visible immediately. Volunteers need to be patient, with a strong personality and empathy in order not to get frustrated or discouraged soon.

Initiative:

Volunteer is supporting the activities conducted in the community center. First weeks (months) are specifically dedicated to observation, getting to know the environment/people, being part of the team, participation in the activities. It is a time for the questions. It may seem to volunteers that some things could be done differently, better, but it is important to realise that they- as newcomers, don't know the context and the history that much and they don't understand the big-scale framework of the social work (processes and systems in a community center are set in a certain way because of the reason). It is good to talk about those things with their colleagues, not to judge according to their immediate perception of reality. After some time, it is appreciated when volunteers are active, they prepare some extra activities which can be interesting for the children. They are expected to walk around with "eyes wide open" and they are proactively searching for activities in which they could be useful.

Work with Roma community it is not easy, but it is rewarding. It will be priceless personal experience. Volunteers will learn a lot not just about the socially excluded communities, but also about themselves.