



**SVI** asbl

SERVICE VOLONTAIRE INTERNATIONAL

<b>Project Title</b>	Project of integration with people having different learning disabilities
<b>Date</b>	6 September 2011 until September 2012 Minimum 6 months
<b>City Location</b>	1040 Bruxelles
<b>SVI contact</b>	Pierre De Hanscutter <a href="http://www.servicevolontaire.org">www.servicevolontaire.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@servicevolontaire.org">info@servicevolontaire.org</a> +32 2 888 67 13 +32 495 680 934 (mobile phone)
<b>Hosting organization</b>	Arche asbl, Director Jean-Pierre Aussems <a href="http://www.larche.be">www.larche.be</a> / <a href="mailto:arche.aussems@skynet.be">arche.aussems@skynet.be</a> +32 2 64 81 710
<b>Type</b>	Social work, Adult people having mental disabilities
<b>Max volunteers</b>	Between 8 and 20 volunteers



### About the hosting organization

Our hosting partner, "L'Arche", is a non-profit organization and it has a long tradition of welcoming volunteers of all countries, of different social and cultural backgrounds interested in participating and collaborating in its project of integration with persons having different learning disabilities.

The originality of the project lies in its family-like atmosphere as people having learning disabilities, professionals and volunteers of different social, cultural and philosophical backgrounds, ages and beliefs walk side by side and help one another in daily lives. Each one is invited to assume tasks and responsibilities adapted to his/ her capacities and to take part in the activities proposed by this type of structure.

The proposed activities are ordinary and "extra-ordinary": daily responsibilities (maintenance, attendance, cooking etc), supporting people having learning disabilities (accompaniments, transports, support in different learning and working projects), inside and outside of the different houses, numbers of meetings, leisure activities, celebrations, holidays, etc.

In addition to the life in the houses which is really the key point, l'Arche Bruxelles has also a day center where activities like craft-work, occupational therapies or services to the larger society are proposed.

The residents in both, life and working structures, between 18 and 70 years, may present various forms of learning disabilities (but having a Down syndrome in general) exceptionally linked with a physical handicap. They are accompanied by teams of professionals (teachers, welfare officers, etc) supported by volunteers. The aim is to ensure an adequate approach and relationship by each volunteer with the welcomed people having learning disabilities.

Please visit Arche 's website: <http://www.larche.be/>

Video presentation : [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=CcfZkDqqUp8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=CcfZkDqqUp8)

### Volunteer profile

The volunteer, between 18 and 30 years, first needs to put himself in motion towards the meeting of differences, with a "spirit" of adventure and of solidarity. He should be ready to "dedicate" himself to the less privileged people in our society and he also ought to be willing to leave for a minimum period of 6 months. Moreover, it is appropriate that he acts, within the family-like project of l'Arche Brussels, for and with people with learning disabilities together with professionals, which implies a capacity of taking responsibilities and initiatives. At the same time this also requires the desire to cooperate within a team and requires as well as a certain personal balance.

The place that we want to give to the volunteer is not to take a vacant job to be supplemented within a team. Each volunteer takes part in shared life by his presence and by concrete and specific tasks as mentioned above. Not only the volunteer but each person should stimulate exchanges between all parts concerned by this project. We wish to give to the volunteers that we welcome a crucial place: not necessarily a function and tasks modeled on the role of the professionals of our association, but a possibility to face situations which allow them to give and to receive, to question, to be challenged, to offer situations which allow them to be themselves in existing and new projects. Sometimes a volunteer can't avoid the feeling and heaviness of repetitive activities but only this routine can lead to creativity.

To speak French is desirable but not required. In order to facilitate communication, the volunteer will have the possibility of attending french lessons.

### Work description

The mission of the volunteer consists in assuming accompaniment, education tasks and the various forms of support that taking care of people with learning disabilities involves.

Among the activities proposed to the volunteers in l'Arche Brussels we distinguish:

- The accompaniment in the domestic activities and routine tasks:
  - Maintenance: cleaning and arrangement of common space with people having learning disabilities,
  - Logistic: looking for good equipments, buying food for preparing meals, washing up, .
  - Daily services: cooking, waking up persons with learning disabilities, talks and improvements of life and activity spaces, etc.
  
- Support for people with learning disabilities
  - Accompaniment with a member of the educational team to medical consultations, at the chemistry, to do shopping, i.e...
  - Help for apprenticeship: cooking, clothing, shopping, walks, etc.
  - Accompaniment on the way towards the work place or leisure occupation(soccer activities i.e)
  
- The internal meetings of the houses and the day center :
  - Weekly meetings: speaking and exchange-times for and with all the residents in order in order to prepare activities.
  - Team meetings: sharing of each one's life, evaluation of the individual projects, suggestions...
  - Celebration times: anniversaries, friends' visits, welcoming of new residents, etc.

- The external meetings of the homes and the day center
  - Monthly or festive meetings with the other residents of l'Arche Brussels
  - Meetings and festivals with the other associations of l'Arche in Belgium (generally French speaking part)
  - Meetings with other organizations (see above)
  
- The accompaniment in leisure activities, during evenings or weekends
  - Individual activities: entertaining workshops, outings, visits, sport and leisure clubs...
  - Common activities in the evenings: shows, outings, walk, etc.
  - Formal meetings: see above
  
- The internal training in l'Arche
  - Questions related to the mental disabilities, communication, team work etc...
  - Animation by a specialist invited by l'Arche depending of the subjects sexuality, authority, violence etc...
  - Learning French: conversations groups supervised by qualified volunteers
  
- Training and out-of-arch activities
  - With external socio-cultural associations that collaborate with l'Arche Brussels
  - French language course in public schools

With the professionals' support, the role of the volunteer will be above all to acquire experiences, to learn by doing, to express his competences by his implication in the project. Each volunteer is thus invited, according to his personal rhythm, to let his personality grow, to bring his creativity and his dynamism in daily life. Each one is invited to become a totally integrated actor in this project.

#### Tutoring

Each volunteer will have an Arche Tutor to facilitate his integration. Each volunteer will have regular follow-up done by a staff of SVI.

#### Pleasure and exchange activities

The volunteer has 3 hours max of daily rest, with evening and weekend off, of one, even two weekends of vacation a month, of annual 24 days off (that is two days off a month for those who stay between 6 and 12 months). Flexibility is tolerated in consideration of the individual balances of life.

In the city: Brussels – Capital of Europe – A multicultural city with a thousand faces: a majestic historic centre, a unique ambiance, a huge array of activities for both younger and older people. Visit the Manneken-Pis, the Atomium, the Art Nouveau Houses (Horta) and the Belgian Strip Cartoon Centre. And last but not least, taste our famous chocolate!

Please visit the Belgian Official Tourist Site: <http://www.belgique-tourisme.net/>

You can also find guide books about Belgium on our web site (in English and French):

[http://www.servicevolontaire.org/workcamp\\_in\\_belgium.php?menu\\_selected=48&sub\\_menu\\_selected=271&language=FR](http://www.servicevolontaire.org/workcamp_in_belgium.php?menu_selected=48&sub_menu_selected=271&language=FR)

### Meeting point

- Association address :

L'ARCHE - COMMUNAUTE de BRUXELLES, a.s.b.l.

Rue de Chambéry, 23 - 1040 Bruxelles

Tél : +32 2 733 76 68 - Fax : +32 2 648 17 09

E-mail : [arche.bruxelles@skynet.be](mailto:arche.bruxelles@skynet.be)



Source: Google Maps (<http://maps.google.be/maps?hl=fr&tab=ll>)

The nearest public transport station to L'Arche is called "La Chasse" and is about 5 – minutes footpath away.

#### How to go there?

- Take the 34 Bus to Saint – Anne and get off at "La Chasse"
- Take the 81 (direction Marius Renard) or 83 (direction Berchem Station) tram and get off at "La Chasse"

The estimated journey duration from the Brussels South Station is 25 minutes.

▪ Day center address :

- "Le Grain" (1978), rue de Chambéry 23 à B-1040 Bruxelles ; Tél : +32 2 648 19 82

▪ Volunteer accommodation (four houses in Bruxelles):

- "Le Toit" (1971), avenue de Tervueren 83 à B-1040 Bruxelles

- "La Branche" (1974), rue des Taxandres 13 à B-1040 Bruxelles

- "La Ruche" (1974), avenue de l'Armée 115 à B-1040 Bruxelles

- "Cana" (1976), avenue Edmond Mesens 31 à B-1040 Bruxelles

The definitive accommodation address is a matter of hosting capacities and vacancies. Please note that it will be communicated to the volunteer once he'll have arrived.

How to get there ?

The easiest and cheapest way to come from the airport or from Bruxelles is the train. There is a train station in the Zaventem airport.

Click to go on the website: [To & from the airport](#)

([http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passngr/to\\_from\\_brussels\\_airport/](http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passngr/to_from_brussels_airport/) )

It is also possible to ask to someone from the association to come to take you at Zaventem airport. Contact us to check if it is possible or not.

Check [www.sncb.be](http://www.sncb.be)

Map from the train station to the meeting place: [Here](#)

It's also possible to take a cab from Zaventem airport. Count about 30 euros for taxi fees to hit the city centre.



N.B.:

- In the week, there is no transport after midnight.

- « Bruxelles South » is NOT Bruxelles airport, it is a « commercial name » created by low-cost companies. It is around 40 minutes far from Bruxelles. The real name of Bruxelles airport is « Zaventem airport » (20 minutes far from Bruxelles). The real name of « Bruxelles south » airport is « Charleroi Airport ».

How to go from Charleroi Airport to the working location?

- **By the Brussels City Shuttle:** Every 30 minutes a shuttle coach leaves the airport to take you to the

main Brussels railway station (Brussels Midi); Return fare = 22 EUR

- **By rail – bus:** you can purchase a ticket "billet bulk" at the bus stop (door n° 2). To start the bus ride to Charleroi Sud railway station and the rail journey to any station in Belgium. The bulk ticket is on sale at the airport.

### Accommodation

Within each house (home), the volunteer has his "private space" (a small bedroom). However in order to guarantee each volunteer a well-balanced life, a place of relaxation and of recovering the "outside of the house" has also been arranged for his/ her free time.

- Basic accommodation in the house, with a shower , washing machine, and kitchen
- Each house is nearby a supermarket, cinema, bakery, train / subway station...

### Food

The volunteers will cook by themselves or with the residents. We count on the volunteers to make discover their national specialties. If you have any special diet, please inform us in advance.

### Clothes and Material

You need a good sleeping bag, clothes and shoes, walking shoes, raining clothes, swimming clothes

Take with you posters, video, food, objects to present your country / city to the other volunteers...

### Visa

For European citizens, a national identity card or a passport is sufficient.

Non-European citizen may need a visa. The visa must be requested at the embassy or Belgian consulate in the country where you live.

If there is no embassy or Belgian consulate in the country where you live, you should contact the Belgian Embassy, which is responsible for your country. This one is usually located in a neighboring country.

The procedure for visa application can sometimes take a long time. Therefore, enter your request at least four weeks before your departure.

You can have more information [Here](#)

([http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir\\_en\\_belgique/visa\\_pour\\_la\\_belgique/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir_en_belgique/visa_pour_la_belgique/) )

If you need invitation letter contact us at [info@servicevolontaire.org](mailto:info@servicevolontaire.org)

You can get extra info at <http://www.diplomatie.be/en/travel/visa/default.asp>

### Insurance/Health

We have a basic volunteer insurance, but all the volunteers have to subscribe to a travel insurance.

**You absolutely need to take out a travel or health assurance !!**

### Certificate

Each volunteer will receive a European Youth Card as well as a volunteer certificate.

### Working Language

English or French

### Fees and application

There are no participation fees . Food and accommodation are provided. The volunteer gets an allowance of 140€ / month for a period of 12 months.

The volunteer has to be member of a volunteer organization.

The sending organizations have to send their volunteer applications including a motivation letter to [inscription@servicevolontaire.org](mailto:inscription@servicevolontaire.org)

For each application, a phone interview will be set up by the SVI staff and Arche Director.

### Emergency Numbers

- International Voluntary Service (SVI): +32 2 888 67 13
- Federal Police: 101
- European Emergency Number in case of accident or aggression: 112
- Ambulance/ Fire-brigade: 100

### Web sites

- How to go to/from Zaventem airport by [car, bus, train and taxi](#) :  
([http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passngr/to\\_from\\_brussels\\_airport/](http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passngr/to_from_brussels_airport/))
- Belgium Train time table [SNCB](#)  
(<http://www.b-rail.be/main/F/>)
- [Metro and bus](#) in Brussels  
(<http://www.b-rail.be/main/F/>)
- [Tourism informations in Wallonia and Bruxelles](#)  
(<http://www.belgique-tourisme.net/>)
- [Official guide to Flanders & Bruxelles](#)  
(<http://www.visitflanders.com/> )
- [Visa](#) information  
([http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir\\_en\\_belgique/visa\\_pour\\_la\\_belgique/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir_en_belgique/visa_pour_la_belgique/))
- [Google maps](#) and [Mappy](#)  
(<http://maps.google.be/>)  
(<http://fr-be.mappy.com/> )



