

HOST ORGANIZATION	NO of volunteers needed	Description of HO	Description of the volunteers' work
<p>Polish Robert Schuman Foundation</p> <p><b>2013-PL-191</b></p> <p>(validity date: <b>26/09/2016</b>)</p>	2	<p>Polish Robert Schuman foundation is an non-profit organization which focuses on strengthening the civil society, supporting social initiatives and active citizenship, and promoting the European integration process. The projects of the foundation aim to engage young people in action and to inform people about their rights and responsibilities as Polish and European citizens, fulfilling thus an educational role. The foundation also organizes seminars, debates, conferences and other events on different themes related to the European Union or important social and political issues, and it collaborates with EU institutions, many NGO's from the same field and with over 400 European School Clubs from Poland and other countries.</p>	<p>The volunteers' main task is to do school visits in the European School Clubs across Poland and give presentations and workshops about their own countries (traditions, values, young people lifestyle) or other topics, such as European Union, volunteering, ecology etc. They are expected to create an interactive and engaging presentation, using non-formal methods of education. The volunteers help prepare for the biggest event of the foundation, the Schuman Parade, which is in May, and which requires a lot of work and preparation. The volunteers write articles about their EVS experience, sharing what they learnt in their work, what interactions they have with other volunteers and what cultural differences/similarities they observed as foreigners in Poland. They also help in managing the foundation's website and social media accounts and publish the articles sent by the other volunteers coordinated by Schuman Foundation. Another task is to hold an EVS info point at the foundation's office and inform anyone who is interested about international volunteering and other youth mobility opportunities offered by the EU.</p>
<p>European Integration Club at the School Complex in Wojkowice</p> <p><b>2011-PL-260</b></p> <p>(validity date: <b>28/11/2014</b>)</p>	2	<p>European Club is an informal union of students and teachers interested in the EU, other cultures and with the goal to learn and make a change for their own future and in their local communities.</p> <p>European Integration Club at the School Complex in Wojkowice is a European Club in a high school in Silesia. This post-industrial area has not fully recovered from closure of many factories and mines. Unemployment is high and in Wojkowice, the impact is very visible. Small town community needs more activities for young people and volunteers with their fresh energy can provide just that (at least within school activities).</p>	<p>Volunteers primarily work with the European School Club members and get involved in school exchanges. The volunteers prepare presentations, workshops and other activities with the goal of making students in the whole school aware of issues related to Europe (culture, customs, traditions, political and economic situation, attitude towards European integration, an average citizen life conditions and the reality of everyday life etc.). They are also expected to help the students to improve and widen their language skills by organizing language tandem meetings with students. Volunteers can also cooperate with local youth club, primary school and kindergarten. From time to time they get invited to make a presentation of their country in other schools in the area.</p> <p>Volunteers have a chance to learn how to change their own ideas for non-formal learning into practice. Participating in lessons they can improve their teaching skills, group leading and public presentation skills. Involvement in the activities in the youth club also gives opportunities to organize various creative activities, e.g. origami, clay workshops, dancing classes as well.</p>

<p>Special Kindergarten No 213 in Warsaw</p> <p><b>2011-PL-112</b></p> <p>(validity date: <b>03/06/2014</b>)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Special Kindergarten No 213 in Warsaw is an educational establishment for <u>mentally handicapped</u> children and youth. There are 45 children and adolescents (6-25 years-old) divided into 8 groups in the kindergarten. Most pupils have disabilities accompanied by other developmental disorders, e.g. autism, ADHD, behavioral disorders and physical disabilities. Most of them do not speak.</p>	<p>Volunteers help in the <u>group of autistic children between 6-10 years old</u> and the <u>mentally and physically disabled youngsters aged 15-25</u> in their everyday activities. In the older group they focus more on helping the pupils to function – volunteers need to help changing their clothes, eat meals, go to the toilet, change their diapers and wash them. Besides that they help the educators to organize and coordinate therapeutic activities, different thematic workshops, excursions, theatre. In children’s group the personal hygiene activities are easier (since children are smaller and usually more self-sufficient) but there is more group activities, games and individual therapy. Volunteers learn a lot about different kinds of disabilities and the way to work with such children and youth. Such environment offers an opportunity to overcome your own boundaries, break stereotypes and to seek for ways of spreading awareness about mentally disabled outside the kindergarten.</p>
<p>Special Kindergarten No 393 in Warsaw</p> <p><b>2011-PL-118</b></p> <p>(validity date: <b>02/06/2014</b>)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Special Kindergarten No 393 is an educational establishment for <u>physically disabled children</u> (cerebral spastically, genetics definitive etc.). There are 35 children aged 3-10 divided into 4 groups. Some children are able to walk and some are able to communicate verbally but some need help with all basic movements and operations. The pedagogical team is supported by specialists that lead different therapeutic activities (such as speech therapy, dog therapy and others)</p>	<p>Volunteers participate in the classes and help the staff. They help changing children’s clothes, feeding the children or help them eat their meals, go to the toilet. There is a special kindergarten plan which educators must follow but there is also some space for their own creativity (proposing theatre instead of reading to children for example or exercising their artistic talent preparing materials and scenery for kindergarten plays and seasonal ornaments etc.) Volunteers can also suggest educational group activities and/or individual work process for one child, all under supervision of an educator. Volunteers are also involved in preparations of festivities for the occasion of traditional Polish holidays. Volunteers can learn a lot about different methods of working with children with various disabilities. They have a chance to see therapeutic meetings, learn about adapted computer programs and didactic tools.</p>

<p>Special Kindergarten No 245 for Visually Impaired Children Warsaw</p> <p><b>2012-PL-51</b></p> <p>(validity date: <b>06/06/2015</b>)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The special kindergarten no. 245 takes care of visually impaired children from 3 to 6 years of age. At present there are 54 children with various visual defects in the kindergarten and sometimes there is one or two blind children in the group. They are divided into 4 age groups: 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, 5-year-olds and 6-year-olds.</p> <p>Apart from the didactic and educational functions our kindergarten also fulfils prophylactic and therapeutic functions. We perform oculist diagnoses and provide visual treatment for our children. We provide oculist treatment for children who have been diagnosed with different visual defects, squint eye or lazy eye. We have a well-equipped room in which children under professional supervision perform their orthoptic exercise using specialist equipment. We also provide professional psychological, logopedic and educational therapy. Apart from regular activities we also organize extra activities, e.g. musical lessons, gymnastic, art, dancing, English and dog therapy classes.</p>	<p>Volunteers work in group and, should the need arise, also directly with a blind child and assist the child during its stay in the kindergarten. They teach the children to use the equipment available on the premises, assist during the teacher-managed group classes, additional activities, help with typical self-care activities, such as personal hygiene, help at eating and dressing. Volunteers are welcome to propose their own activities and can count on teachers to support them.</p> <p>Considering the described activities in which the volunteers would be executing or participating in we believe that they would have the possibility to develop their pedagogical skills in the area of working with children with special needs, as well as participating in various workshops and trainings organised by and/or in the kindergarten. We are also aware of the fact that working with visually impaired or blind children is very demanding and that volunteers would need specific guidelines and training to prepare them and help them with their work. Verbal communication between the volunteers and the children is very important, especially that our children due to their visual impairment cannot rely on non-verbal communication so much. It is for this reason as well that <u>we would put special attention on the knowledge of Polish language of the volunteers</u>. Polish language course would be provided with the mentioned goal as well as the aim to make the interaction and communication between the volunteers and the kindergarten staff easier.</p>
<p>The Society for Care over the Blind in Laski</p> <p><b>2013-PL-196</b></p> <p>(validity date: <b>17/10/2016</b>)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The Society for Care over the Blind in Laski (near Warsaw) is a <u>catholic institution for blind and visually impaired children and youth</u>. It consists of kindergarten and boarding school. The school pupils live there and attend school there as well. Some of the activities during and after school are movement rehabilitation, the rehabilitation of sight, improvement of touch, spatial orientation learning, hypo therapy and therapeutic horse-riding, and music-therapy.</p>	<p>Apart from helping out with language opportunities and homeworks, the volunteers work in a flat-community and help the pupils with their daily activities, such as getting ready for school, encourage them to take part in extra-curricular activities (e.g. swimming, musical, artistic and sport activities). Volunteers in Laski get a close experience of every day life of blind youth. They have a chance to learn all about how to assist a blind person, using the cane, Braille alphabet, different methods and activities useful for tactile improvement, special orientation and so on. Providing language learning opportunities for the pupils, they also have a chance to gain a new perspective of their mother tongue.</p>