

**ERASMUS+**  
**EVS - EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE**



**Call for volunteers**

(Programme Countries Only)

**01/10/2015 - 01/10/2016**

**ECOS – Cooperative of Education Cooperation and Development, CRL**

**Faro, Portugal**



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## INTRODUCTION

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**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 a 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.

We are cooperating with 8 different EVS projects, but at the moment, we are only looking for volunteers for 5 of them.

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.**



## WHO ARE WE?

### ECOS – Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento

<b>Org. Info:</b>	ECOS – Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento
<b>Adress:</b>	Universidade do Algarve Campus de Gambelas, Pavilhão A5 Faro 8005-139, Portugal
<b>EIRef:</b>	2012-PT-31
<b>Web:</b>	<a href="http://www.ecos.pt">www.ecos.pt</a> (under construction) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/activatingyouthfaro">www.facebook.com/activatingyouthfaro</a>
<b>EVS themes:</b>	EU Citizenship, EU awareness Media and communications/Youth information
<b>Activity dates:</b>	Start: Start: 01/10/2015 End: 01/10/2016

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.



- Development of the development of the organisations to do a more efficient management of their resources and projects through training and new technologies of information and communication.
- 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 entrepreneurship competences development.

## WHAT IS THIS EVS PROJECT

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An idea was born around 3 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 coordinates a total of 8 EVS projects 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 projects we are looking for volunteers at the moment are:

- **Youth Mobility and Initiatives Centre**
- **Media, Image & Youth Participation**
- **Local Handicraft, Design & Multimedia**
- **Urban Art & Associativism**
- **Campaigns & Events for Sexual Rights**

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.

The plan is also to develop a common project, where the volunteers will share around 10% of their time (working hours are between 30-38 per week). We foresee that the volunteers can create a series of activities, events or happenings in the city of Faro and possibly Algarve, where they will be promoting and diffusing information about international learning, mobility and work opportunities and, also supporting the capacity building and networking of the partner local organisations with whom the volunteers will be working closely.

We believe that taking into consideration that Faro has a very high unemployment rate, especially within young people and also the fact that this information is not available in the region, this activity will have a wider meaning that can reach a considerably big population.

This is where we are now, seeking for development of partnerships that can contribute to the success of our project.



## **Volunteers' role, tasks and learning-service outcomes**

The volunteer will be involved in the general management of the 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.

The volunteer will be involved in local projects helping in the daily tasks like preparing the agenda, who to contact, where to get information, where to go for support, how to prepare a project and how to develop communication and networking within the organisation and the partner organisations on the youth field.

The volunteer can take part in any project developed by the organisation not only as a volunteer but also as a participant depending on the volunteer interests.

Volunteers will be get in touch with different cultural and artistic local associations. Within these activities the volunteer will be involved in supporting the cultural awareness of youngsters and making a link between cultural and artistic opportunities and social responsibility and active citizenship of these cultural events. Also we expect to promote the visibility of young entrepreneurs working in handicraft, culture and art, and in this way, supporting also the opportunities of employability for this young artists.

The volunteers will be also involved in activities with young people with fewer economic and social backgrounds. The volunteers would work together with partner organisations in order to support their activities with this target-group and also to develop their personal project to approach this group of youngsters, often set aside from so many opportunities.

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.



## **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 organisation 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!

As expressed before we are open and willing to receive volunteers with fewer opportunities. Regarding our experience dealing with young people with fewer opportunities, both our staff workers have previous experience working in social centers with youngsters from social disadvantage backgrounds.

## **THE EVS PROJECTS**

### **YOUTH MOBILITY AND INITIATIVES CENTRE**

This is a project 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.

There is a weekly info day where we available for individual attendance in IPDJ, and monthly info days organised in social spaces, schools, the University, other associations, events. The info-days have the form of a 3-4 hours interactive workshop. Volunteers have the role of managing and running the workshops together with the coordinator of the activity once they are trained themselves.

This way we aim to use different approaches to present the possibilities open for young people to develop themselves by getting involved in International projects and by meeting other youngsters and cultures from other countries.



## **MEDIA, IMAGE & YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

Our volunteers will be supporting ECOS team on the image, communication and managing the social media and websites of the different projects.

ECOS projects are mainly focus on citizen's participation at local and regional level, involving different partners both in the local, regional, national and international frames. The media and image needs involve the promotion of the different project activities, the communication and image for the organization of events, editing promotional videos, managing websites and social media tools, etc.

The volunteer will have the opportunity of working closely with an experienced team on coordination of participative projects and promotion of social responsible events through methodologies of non-formal education.

## **LOCAL HANDICRAFT, DESIGN & MULTIMEDIA**

This is a partnership project with a cultural and artistic association in the city of Faro – ADS South Designers Association. The aim is to explore and promote the local handicraft and other traditional art through a social responsible scope that can be attractive, motivational and educational to local young people. The main activities of this partnership include development of multimedia and design contents, promotion of workshops, and organization of 2 regional events. The volunteer will also support the cooperation between different local artisans, organisations and youth while promoting the participation of youth in cultural and artistic activities.

## **URBAN ART & ASSOCIATIVISM**

Recently Faro have gained a new recognition in the area of Urban Art through the establishment of a new artistic organisation where young urban artists have been joining and creating new collaborative projects that combine graffiti, photography, sculpture, music and others. The aim of this project is to promote street art as a recognized and respected form of artistic expression, while giving visibility and supporting the work of these new local urban artists. The project also involves the support of daily management of an organisation, the promotion and coordination of workshops and events, and mostly, the support of the capacity of the organisation in networking both at regional and international levels and engaging with the existing financial opportunities for development of new projects and activities (ERASMUS+).



## **CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS FOR SEXUAL RIGHTS**

This is a follow up of a project ECOS was promoting in the field of Sexual Health and Rights in partnership with APF Algarve - Planned Parenthood Association. In this scope the volunteer will be working closely with issues such as Gender Equality, Sexuality Education, Sexual Orientation and Identity, Planned Parenthood and contraceptives, Positive Parenthood, Sexual Rights, Prostitution and Traffic of Human Beings, and many others. The task of the volunteer involves supporting the coordination of the campaigns and events, building a strategy for promotion of the projects, services and activities and supporting the raise of a group of young volunteers for Sexual Health and Rights.

### **Other Activities & Workshops**

Throughout the year, within ECOS and the network of local, regional and national partners, the EVS foresees the integration and development of activities that fall under our philosophy, aims and objectives. Our volunteers will be supporting the administration of these projects, of course, the supervision of professional staff.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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### **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 a dictionary and the Portuguese language Grammar + Exercise books (supported through part of the sending costs) following a 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 youth worker with a background in non-formal education, volunteering management and mobility projects. The Coordinator has developed different projects and activities in the scope of Youth Participation, managing groups of local and international volunteers, among which EVS – as Sending, Hosting and Coordinating. She has cooperated with different Portuguese and international organisations, contributing for fruitful partnerships and to the promotion of quality youth support.

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 the local partners, 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 techniques. 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 punctual 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.

## **AXA**

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

## **Other considerations**

The volunteers will have access to internet through ECOS office and the co-working space of the Youth Mobility and Initiatives Centre but also in their house.

Also, the volunteer will be given a mobile card through which they will be able to make calls between them, the mentor and the coordinator for a low price. Again, charging the card will be the volunteers' responsibility.

## INFORMATION ABOUT FARO

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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 really good weather conditions all over the year; our light and soft Winter it's going between 15 C° and 7 C° and the sunny and dry Summer can go from 28 C° to 43 C°.

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.

ECOS is situated in the Campus of the University of Algarve in the surroundings of Faro and the hosting organisations within the city of Faro limits with distances being considerably short. Still, the volunteers if not fond of walking, they can use the local buses and the organisation's bicycles.



## APPLICATION & FURTHER COMMUNICATION

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**Volunteer applicants** should fill the application form [HERE](#) and send the CV [evs@ecos.pt](mailto:evs@ecos.pt) with the subject “EVS Activating Youth VI [your name]”

Deadline for applications: **14<sup>th</sup> of April**

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.

We are looking forward to your applications, expression of interest and queries.

Ineligible organisations and incomplete expressions of interest most likely will not be addressed or replied to.

**All your communication should be directed to:**

**ECOS - Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento, CRL**

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**EVS Webpace of ACTIVATING YOUTH**

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