

# ZAVOD O - KIDS IN ACTION 5

infoletter

*Long-term EVS project  
in Škofja Loka, Slovenia  
(7.8.2018-7.7.2019)*



Slovenija

Škofja Loka



## Kids in Action 5

Would you like to live for **11 months** in one of the most picturesque Slovenian towns, experience Slovenian way of life, become part of the local community and get involved in the **work of 6 daycare centers for children and youth** as equal members of their teams? As such you will have an opportunity to show and **improve your own abilities, develop sense of initiative, gain new skills and get new knowledge through organizing and realizing different activities** (workshops, courses, individual support, sports, games, plays, presentations, lectures). At the same time, you will get familiar with the **theory of preventing work** with youngsters and with **social care system in Slovenia**. You will also have an opportunity to realize projects within other local partner organizations in order to strengthen your involvement in the local society.

By participating you will have an opportunity to **experience new aspects of life and of yourself**: You will live together with **5 other volunteers from different countries**, you will volunteer in one of 6 basic working places, but you will also have an **opportunity to help at work of many other local NGOs**.

In this information letter, you will find all the information you need in order to know what the project is about, and how to apply for it.

### Activities in the project

Longterm EVS project Zavod O – Kids in Action 5 will connect 6 daily care centers for children and youth from the wider area of Škofja Loka: MDC Blok (Youth Daily Care Center Blok), PUM-O (Project learning of Young Adults), Daily Care Center DCQ, Daily center Podlubnik (all in Škofja Loka), Daily Care Center Škrlovec and Residential treatment institution for kids in Kranj.



First two are run by the NGO, DC Škrlovec, DCΩ and DC Podlubnik work under the Center for Social Work in Kranj and Škofja Loka, which are governmental institutions, likewise the Residential treatment institution for kids. Despite slight organizational differences, they all have a common **target group**, which is **children and youth between the age of 6 and 20 (in PUM-O 25 ) years and their families**. The fundamental idea of all five Daily Care Centers is based on the **desire to offer a program of activities to the generation/ group of young people with different problems**, who spend their free time aimlessly and in a disorganized way, in idleness and boredom, who are deprived of normal family life experience.

They give children and youth a place, where they feel comfortable and safe, where they can **develop their social skills and get quality support considering their behavioral, emotional, learning and other difficulties**. The program aims to provide support to learners with specific learning needs and to those with adolescent problems. The support is meant to be provided both at the individual level – working with each individual, as well as in cooperation with parents and all family. The program includes group work and activities with adolescents, cooperation among different institutions, learning help, advisory work, holiday camps, daily excursions.

All these centers are extremely similar to each other, they have a similar practice of work and practically same target population. That is the reason why we came to the conclusion, that the cooperation between those centers should be strengthened by hosting a common EVS project. The first project named Kids in Action was successfully realized in 2012. Project Kids in Action 5 is 5th of its kind and it is keeping well-established tradition and partnership between above-mentioned organizations.

EVS volunteers will be included in the work of each Daily Care center for the period of 11 months, **from August 2018 until July 2019**. They will be involved in Daily center in; free-time holidays activities, camps for youth, helping youth with school tasks, free-time activities and other activities; helping at administration duties, dealing with media etc.



All the included institutions are the very perspective environment for EVS volunteers to show and improve their own abilities and skills, to grow in their knowledge, to be a part of successful work-team, to show or to develop their self-initiative, which is one of the most likable characteristics in our institutions. The EVS volunteers will be well and fairly included in the working team. All issues considering work, development, ideas, progress or problems will be discussed individually or on the weekly meetings. The project will **raise the quality of youth work** and created opportunities for joint projects and further successful work, not only on the local level but also at the regional. The aim of all in the project included youth organizations is to **get new skills and experiences, to increase the level of tolerance, mutual acceptance, understanding, respect**. Volunteers will acquire new skills, improve academic success, improve their employability and career prospects, they will develop their self-confidence and independence, they will gain a sense of entrepreneurship, strengthen intercultural awareness, they will internalize the values of the EU and increase the motivation for continuing education, both formal and informal.

Not only EVS volunteers will gain from the project, but also local young people, as they will participate in an international team, where they will learn from one another in a multicultural environment. Through it they will gain for such a small town as Škofja Loka, yet very much needed **European dimension of viewing the world**. At the same time, we will present and promote the Erasmus + programme among local youth and motivate them for participating at any of the existing programs in the future. In this way, through the examples of good practice, we will significantly impact on the **increase of mobility of young people**. In addition, the project aims to positively influence and **spread the values of the EU** among other residents of the local community many local residents will be indirectly involved since into the project through collaboration with various organizations and individuals.



## Project partners



**MDC BLOK** offers diverse and free programs for young people ranging between **the ages of 12 and 18**. First and foremost it is a local organization but it is also globally orientated in its state of mind. The purpose of its existence is to **promote diverse and constructive free time**. In accordance with this spirit, there are different activities going on which are mostly **creative and practical**, such as various workshops (creative, music, dancing, theater, cooking and reading, writing, sport, social participation, excursions) as well as **learning support and extra lessons**.

The daily youth center is designed for underprivileged children and for those who do not have the chances they need to **develop their personal potential**. These kinds of young people consequently then grow into immature adults, who end up representing the whole of society's problem. The responsibility of our daily center is not insignificant. To act appropriately and positively influence these youth, we also connect with other similar institutions, schools, centers of social work, other institutions.



**PUM-O** stands for "Project learning for young adults". The target group is people **from 15 to 25 years**. The main aim of the project is **informal learning** and therefore gaining **different competences and skills** through these form of learning. Basic aims of PUM are: a) encourage personal growth b) fight social exclusion c) enable basic education d) formation of professional, social and cultural identity.

The programme involvement lasts 10 months most. In certain circumstances less but never less than 3 months. The youngsters in this time learn about different occupations and educational programs. They are discovering their interests the project working. Each group has to present a project to the public – libraries, galleries, radio, television, internet et cetera.



**Škrlovec** – a daily care center for young people and families is a **social prevention program**, which operates within the Centre for Social Work Kranj and provides **psychosocial support to children, adolescents, young people** and their parents, who face different problems in their life and as such need professional support and help. The program is realized by two full-time professional staff and by cca. 20 volunteers, who are involved in the activities on the basis of their own desires, wishes, knowledge, and needs.

The target population of Škrlovec is children, adolescents and young people between **10 and 20 years of age**, who live in the area of Municipality of Kranj. First and foremost, into the activities of Škrlovec we want to include those kids, who face difficulties in growing up the process and who are deprived of normal family life – these are people with fewer opportunities.



**DC Om and MDC Podlubnik** are run by Center for Social Work Škofja Loka. Their program primarily intended for children and adolescents from Škofja Loka between the age of **6 and 18**, and their parents, who are **deprived of normal family life experience** – with behavioral, emotional, learning difficulties and other needs, seeking support and assistance. The aims of the programme: to reduce and prevent social exclusion and its negative consequences (eg. deviant behavior), positive self-image building, getting a sense of acceptance and security, school record improvement, acquisition of learning habits, to eliminate dislike of school work and school in general, active problem solving in domestic environment and involvement of entire families in the programme, to meet socializing needs, to improve communication skills, learning to accept differences, social network spreading according to our users needs, improvement of working habits and assuming responsibility. We strive to **improve the conditions for children's development** within their families, to assist with their integration in the social environment and to avoid behavioral deviations.



[Residential treatment institution for kids](#) is organized as a **group of community homes for children and youth with behavioral and emotional disorders**. We organize **programmes for support** to our children and their families according to their needs and goals. The programmes include diverse socio-pedagogical activities, counseling, sports, arts and other activities. We aim to connect and cooperate with local communities where each community home is located in. We also try to promote our activities and invite other people and institutions to work with us for public good.

### **Working hours**

DC OM, MDC Podlubnik: 13.00 – 19.00

DC Škrlovec: 13.00 – 19.00

MDC Blok: 13.00 – 19.00

PUM-O: 8.30 – 14.30

Residential treatment institution for kids Kranj: 10.00 -15.30 or 15.00 – 22.00

### **Guidance**

Each volunteer will have his / her **work coordinator** who will **follow the volunteer's achievements**, involve the volunteer in the work processes and inform him about the work of the organization and the people involved in the work. He will be also responsible for the preparation of **YouthPass**, which will be created by each volunteer. The work co-ordinators will ensure that the tasks of the volunteers are clearly defined and well-executed.

We will also provide volunteers with **6 mentors** who will provide volunteers with **personal support** and include them in the **local environment, social life, meet local customs, lifestyle...**

**Language support** will be devoted to a **60-hour course** in the Slovene language, where volunteers will get acquainted with Slovene languages organically.

**Supervision** over the work of mentors and work coordinators will be carried out by the EVS coordinator, who will, in the course of the entire project, be in direct contact with everyone in the project involved persons. His responsibility is quality preparation and implementation of the project.





### **Accommodation, food and transport arrangements**

The volunteers will be accommodated in **two fully furnished apartments** with WiFi within the same house located on the **main square of Škofja Loka**, the old historical town with about 13000 inhabitants, located 25 km NW from Ljubljana. Each volunteer will stay in the **single bedroom** with shared cooking, washing, laundry and social facilities. Volunteers will cook by themselves, monthly **food allowance** will be provided (180 €). They will be also entitled to receive a **monthly**

**allowance** of 91,35 €. To each of the volunteers, the **bike will be provided** and tickets for public transportation (if needed).

### **Free time**

Škofja Loka is located in 25 km from Ljubljana, 40 km from Bled and 120 km from the Slovenian coast.

Škofja Loka is a regional center with **all the infrastructure** that comes with it. We have a library, post office, banks, numerous restaurants, pubs, four sports halls and other recreational facilities (tennis, squash, bowling, table tennis), cinema hall, theater and many different clubs (airsoft, paintball, shooting club, beekeepers, climbing despite, mountaineering society, animal welfare society, yoga, dance, folklore), all these are activities in which volunteers can join. Language should not be an obstacle because everyone speaks English well.

The volunteers will have many opportunities to socialize with local youth in

leisure time. The hinterland of Škofja Loka has many possibilities for **activities in nature**, which also includes various forms of recreation such as **hiking, running, cycling**. In summer, swimming in the Sora river is possible. The volunteers will also be given bicycles.

The volunteers also have a stimulating effect on the Škofja Loka living environment. The city is just as great that young people are personally familiar with each other, but it is also an environment that enables individuals to creatively engage in society, and the city itself has the extensive green hinterland, which gives the individual genuine contact with nature and additional opportunities for leisure activities.

Due to its central European location, Slovenia also makes it easy to visit nearby European cities. Budapest is 500 km from Škofja Loka, Venice 250 km, Vienna 350 km, Zagreb 170 km.



## Volunteer profile

Candidates should be motivated, flexible, patient, creative, open-minded, self-initiative, communicative, interested to work with children and adolescents and they should be able to speak English. Some past experiences from pedagogy and youth leisure are welcomed. Ability in music, sport, manual activities, handicrafts, dances, art, multimedia would be also convenient. The future volunteer should bring in her/his own ideas into the project and be prepared to create, plan and execute her/his own projects. We look for 6 volunteers of a different nationality.

## How to apply

If you are from a EU country and you're interested in the project and you want to be EVS volunteer in the project, send us your CV and motivation letter to [international@zavodo.org](mailto:international@zavodo.org) until 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018. But we suggest you to send them before the deadline, because first candidates, which we will consider suitable, will be selected. During the selection period, we might contact you for further information through eMail and Skype!



## Useful links

**MDC Blok:** <https://www.facebook.com/mladinskicenterBlok/>

**FB PUM-O:** [https://www.facebook.com/pum.familijaskofjaloka?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/pum.familijaskofjaloka?ref=br_rs)

**FB DC OM, MDC Podlubnik:** [https://www.facebook.com/Dnevni-center-OM-%C5%A0kofja-Loka-156160397756878/?hc\\_ref=ARTU3wOMRxBV-Etn4tj4baWaLSmxJ2\\_e9HmGh9uqJlkrJZSLtNBQ9naQg1Qtxxve3oMw](https://www.facebook.com/Dnevni-center-OM-%C5%A0kofja-Loka-156160397756878/?hc_ref=ARTU3wOMRxBV-Etn4tj4baWaLSmxJ2_e9HmGh9uqJlkrJZSLtNBQ9naQg1Qtxxve3oMw)

**FB DC Škrlovec:** <https://www.facebook.com/Skrlovec>

**FB Residential treatment institution for kids Kranj:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/stanovanjskaskupina.kranj>

**FB group EVS projects at Zavod O:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/389667864441065/>

**Zavod O International:** <http://international.zavodo.org/>

**Zavod O:** <http://www.zavodo.org/lang/grb/>