



Erasmus+ volunteering with Volunteers' Centre of Vojvodina (VCV) in Novi Sad (Serbia) – 2021/22

Volunteers' Center of Vojvodina (VCV) is an association of citizens established in Novi Sad, Serbia, in 2005. Volunteers' Center of Vojvodina strives for the promotion and recognition of voluntary work as a tool for change and building societies and individuals, through organizing and implementing volunteering, community-based and educational programmes and actions, providing opportunities for quality and informed volunteering, sharing the values of volunteering.

Activities

The main activities of VCV are:

- international short-term voluntary projects (workcamps) in small towns in the regions of Vojvodina;
- long-term exchanges of volunteers on a regional and international level (mainly through the ESC programme)
- non-formal educational activities such as workshops, presentations, movies screening and other, aimed mainly at youth, on different relevant topics;
- local projects (mainly solidarity-oriented actions) based on volunteering and capacity-building of volunteers;
- awareness raising campaigns on a variety of topics, mainly linked to human rights and climate/environmental awareness and justice ;
- mobility of young people and youth workers;
- promotion (through events, presentations, the web) of mobility opportunities for learning and volunteering (youth exchanges, training courses, ESC, workcamps).

Since 2008, VCV is the Serbian branch of Service Civil International (SCI), one of the largest global voluntary peace movements, that celebrates 100 years of existence this year.

The project starts **Mid-February 2021** and lasts 6 to 8 months. It is part of the Erasmus+ program "European Voluntary Service (EVS)". More info about the EVS program you find [here](#).



Tasks of the volunteer

- Placement Officer: For the period of the project, you will be doing the volunteer service in our office in Novi Sad city center. You will work on placing the volunteers in workcamps in Serbia and abroad, but do not think of this service as dull and boring computer work! You will also have a chance to join VCV's activities and conduct your own workshops – if there is anything you are good at or like doing, this is the time and place to show it to the world! Additionally, if you enjoy communication work, designing and creating beautiful promotion material - you can also help our PR coordinator with online communication in ongoing projects and for ad hoc activities.
- Project based on personal initiative (on a weekly or monthly basis) for the local community (can be a cycle of workshops, or something else, depending on interests and skills of the volunteer and our capacities) - this wouldn't start right away but after the volunteer has familiarized with the context.
- Support with ongoing projects, such as logistics, space and materials preparation and more, depending on the nature of the project itself and its activities.
- Support with creation and promotion of VCV merchandising: T-shirts and other items with messages/slogans (this is something we haven't started yet, but about which we have started discussing and would like to implement in the near future)
- Support with preparation and implementation of activities based on environmental awareness: it's finally becoming popular here to discuss waste reduction, environment-friendly lifestyles and more, especially for young people and people living in cities, who are interested in learning more about how to improve the sustainability of their lifestyles as well as connecting with people who are similar minded, among other reasons also to exchange goods.
- Support with researching new donors, especially from Switzerland: mapping opportunities for grants, translating important information into English.
- Promotion of volunteering abroad: promotion of existing opportunities for short and long term volunteering abroad (ESC, Weltwärts, LTV, workcamps) to local young people through info-sessions in schools, Universities, clubs and more.
- Support for the preparation and implementation of workcamps for the summer 2021.
- If the person has experience in workcamps: leading a camp in Serbia, supporting us in the preparation of camps, supporting us in training small groups of local coordinators. The volunteer will also be able to attend one or more workcamps in summer 2021, in Serbia as well as in Kosovo, at our partners' GAIA.
- Solidarity kitchen: cooking once per week (vegan) meals for individuals and families in need. It is an initiative by our partner CK13 and the local branch of the anti-eviction initiative Roof over the head. The idea is to increase the number of meals and beneficiaries from autumn, reaching out to more vulnerable persons and families, therefore there will be a bigger need for volunteers and that is where VCV (and our volunteers) could jump in.
- Stammtisch: German conversation group once a week, again it is an initiative of our local partner CK13, which is often looking for native speakers to lead the group.
- Weekly staff meeting with staff, active members, volunteers, as well as supervisor's meetings with the project supervisor on a weekly basis/when needed.
- Serbian language classes: once per week, we could arrange it more often if we have enough budget.

Good to know:

- VCV doesn't have its own space, we are hosted by the local youth center CK13, with whom we share an office and working spaces. CK13 could possibly lose its space in the following months (from January 2021), therefore the volunteer should be willing to accept this situation, help out with moving to the new space as well as be flexible in a few "transition" weeks in which CK13 and VCV could move out, and enter the new working space. This might also affect the volunteer's work in 2 programmes: Solidarity kitchen and Stammtisch.
- Autumn could be tricky when it comes to a potential new wave of COVID-19 pandemic. In case the volunteers should return home, we would suspend the project, while in case the volunteer will stay here we could struggle with online activities and remote work, as we have tried it with our previous ESC volunteer and we didn't really have the need for tasks to be carried out remotely, but online communication was very energy consuming for all sides.
- Even though our organization is hosted by CK13, we assume the coordination of the volunteer's activities, having CK13 as a partner in the realization which is not responsible for other tasks of the volunteer who do not take place in the frame of their programmes and activities.



VOLUNTEERS PROFILE

Volunteer should:

- be between 18 and 30 years old
- share the values of VCV and SCI (volunteering, solidarity, tolerance, equality, peace and nonviolence and respect for environment)
- have good knowledge of English
- have at least basic computer skills (Internet, MS Office, Social Media)
- be open-minded, adaptable and ready to adjust to a different culture as well as to life abroad
- be patient, flexible and able to work in a team
- be committed to sharing own knowledge and skills

Experience with communication work and skills in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Canva and Mailchimp are an asset. Experience as a participant in workcamps (local, international) are an asset, too.

BASIC CONDITIONS OFFERED

All general EVS rules apply. Accommodation will be in a shared flat with WC/bathroom and kitchen in Novi Sad city center or close surroundings

Please write to evs@scich.org if you are interested in becoming an Erasmus+ volunteer. Please note that you can only apply if you are between 18-30 years old and if you have not volunteered through the Erasmus+ before.

Send your application via email to evs@scich.org with the subject **Application VCV Serbia**, and include all the following documents in English:

- 1) CV, Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Specific motivation letter for the project

Deadline for the application: **as fast as possible**

More details about the Volunteers' Centre of Vojvodina (VCV) and their activities can be found at

<https://www.volontiraj.rs/>

