

#activeEUROPE

long term ESC individual volunteering
september 2020 - july 2021

POLITES Association is organizing a long-term ESC individual volunteering project that will take place in Szczecin, Poland - 10 months between September 2020 and July 2021.

Join our team of 21 volunteers. The main aim of the project is to develop key competences and gain experience by being an ESC volunteer. Taking part in our project means working with kids, youth and local community. You will have a great chance to present yourself, your country and culture, participate in different workshops and activities.

Join us to explore new possibilities,
gain experience and have lots of joy!

SEE YOU SOON IN SZCZECIN!
YOUR ESC TEAM



www.polites.org.pl
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**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



ABOUT US

We are a group of people with different interests, points of view and ways of life. But there is one thing we have in common - being active. Every day we are trying to convince people, young and old, that after work or school, there is a lot of interesting things to do. Our motto is: The active are living more attractive!

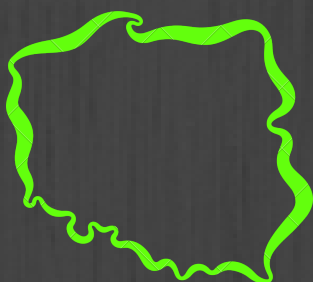
We run several programmes like Regional Voluntary Service, Sektor 3 - NGO Support Centre, Big Brothers Big Sisters. We are active on international level since 2007 as a sending, hosting and coordinating EVS/ ESC organization and hosting for students and professionals from countries of Eastern Europe to Poland.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our long term ESC project is concentrated on developing 8 key competences while doing various volunteer activities like working with kids, supporting the work of Regional Volunteer Centre and local nongovernmental organizations. The aim of the project is, for you, to gain and strengthen mentioned competences and to promote voluntary service as an interesting way of spending free time.

During this time you will be presenting your culture, country, ideas and creative approach in organizing activities for kids, youth and local community. You will have a chance to participate in many workshops that will help you develop the skills in working with kids, will show you the basics of management, Social Media, idea of being a volunteer. Those workshops will prepare you to work in the chosen area, which could be kindergarten, middle school or NGO office - depending on the specific project.



The biggest section of any grocery store in Poland is the candy section.

The name "Poland" originates from the name of the tribe "Polanie" which means "people living in open fields".

Poland is a land of potato - you can find and eat it everywhere.

VOLUNTEERING POSSIBILITIES

KINDERGARTEN

14 volunteers in 4 kindergartens support the staff in taking care of the kids/ teaching basic skills such as personal hygiene and social skills, teaches basics of the native language, organizes and leads activities designed to promote physical, mental, and social development such as games, arts and crafts, music, and storytelling.

SCHOOL

3 volunteers organize classes for students about language/ culture and traditions of various countries of EU, support pupils in learning foreign languages, carry out various activities about EU, help running school radio/ broadcast music/ trivia/ cuisine and culture of a given country, activate pupils in sport.

OFFICE

4 volunteers support Regional Volunteering Centre and its programmes Big Brother Big Sister and Emergency Teaching, administrate our Social Media, prepare posters/ flyers, promote the idea of ESC, write reports, organize courses of native language/ workshops, cultural events.

A volunteer can take part in only one longterm Solidarity Corps volunteering activity. Volunteers who have taken part in an Erasmus+ volunteering activity or a European Voluntary Service are not eligible.

MORE on KINDERGARTEN work

We are working with 4 different kindergartens - 3 in Szczecin and 1 in Stargard, which is approx. a 30 min, one way, train trip from your accommodation place. Kindergarten work looks very similar in every place. If you are chosen for kindergarten in Stargard we will provide you with a train ticket as well so you can travel there freely.



WILL I GET ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MY STAY IN POLAND? WHERE WILL I LIVE DURING MY STAY?

Every volunteer who is taking part in the long term ESC in Szczecin is supported with pocket and food allowance money (not less than 180 Euro). It means that for your stay you will receive the money for your expenses that you can use to buy the food for yourself, travel around, buy new clothes or visit an art gallery. You will be accommodated in a rented flat with access to kitchen and bathroom. All the kitchen appliances like forks, spoons, plates, pots etc. will be there also. Bills are mainly paid by POLITES Association.

WILL I HAVE ANY HOLIDAY DURING MY ESC?

Sure – you cannot work all the time. Being on ESC also means a chance of visiting many places or travelling around. Each month there are 2 days for you to use as days off. You can use them in the beginning of the month or in the end – your choice but you need to remember about one thing – if you do not use them, they will not be cumulated. For a longer break you can use the holiday time that you receive for the whole project. Planning your days off or holiday goes hand in hand with the working schedule of your hosting organization.

SHOULD I APPLY IF MY EDUCATION IS DIFFERENT THAN PROJECT SUBJECT?

It's not only that you can – you should! It could be a great chance to gain new knowledge and develop skills. You will have a chance to try something new and we will help with that. You can use your personal skills and talents anywhere—it is all about the happy attitude and creative approach.

HOW WILL MY WORKING DAY LOOK LIKE?

It all depends on where you will be a volunteer. Places like kindergarten or school are much more rigid than our office. All the volunteers work the max of 38 hrs per week. A normal working day of a volunteer is full of many all-the-time changing activities (mainly in the kindergarten). You will help the kids or youth in their everyday actions, you can organize your own activities with them, do some sport things, build LEGO or help in doing homework. In the office you will have a chance to visit our partners, organize an event or prepare some information for our followers. Working day during ESC is dynamic.

CAN I GO FOR ANOTHER ESC AFTER THIS ONE?

There is only one chance in your entire lifetime to take part in the long term ESC. Remember, though, that you can apply for seminars, training courses and other projects within the programme. There are many other possibilities to choose from.



HOW THE TRIP TO POLAND SHOULD BE ARRANGED? HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Do not fear! There are few ways of how it can be done. First of all, you already know that the city of your project is Szczecin, Poland. You can start arranging the trip by yourself. If you face difficulties - we are here for you! You can send us a message and we will do our best to find the best travel option. Also, do not forget about your Sending Organization. Who knows, maybe they know a cheap transport company that goes directly from your home city? The cost depends on the available possibilities and your own choice. The exact amount of money that will be given to you is based on Distance Calculator.

HOW WILL I MOVE AROUND THE CITY? HOW WILL I GET TO MY WORKPLACE?

As your Coordinating Organization we will buy a local transportation ticket for the time of your stay so you can reach your working place without any problems.

IF YOU ARE AN EU CITIZEN ELIGIBLE FOR THE EHIC CARD YOU MUST HAVE IT WITH YOU DURING YOUR VOLUNTARY WORK

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE WITH ME IF I AM SELECTED FOR THIS PROJECT?

First of all, take all kinds of positive emotions! Your new journey will start soon. There are few material things that you will need, though. Bring: all the personal hygiene essentials, towels, bedsheets, 2 pictures (size of your ID/passport), documents, clothes and shoes for every season, comfortable clothes for sporty activities.

WHAT WILL I GET FROM ESC?

Besides a chance of meeting new people, living in a new place, doing some new things in your life - everything you need to become a team player and be more self-confident. ESC is not only about the voluntary tasks. It is also about spending some time abroad to get to know yourself better. After the ESC is finished you will receive the official paper on your ESC - the YOUTHPASS Certificate that will confirm your personal development and your stay in Poland. But what you will learn here - stays forever!

CAN I WORK DURING MY ESC AND EARN MONEY?

That would be too good to be true. ESC volunteers are not allowed to work during their project. Also, they are not allowed to take part in other ESC, Erasmus+ projects during their voluntary service. If you want to work or take part in something additional - it has to be after your ESC is completed.



COVID-19 vs project (may 2020)

Similarly to most countries of the world, Poland is also facing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation is extremely dynamic, both the national and local governments base their decisions on the current epidemiological recommendations. In this section of the infopack, we would like to share some essential details regarding the pandemic in our country.

CROSSING THE BORDER

At the beginning of the pandemic, Poland was one of the first countries to close its borders and introduce a two-week quarantine for Poles returning to the country. As for the beginning of May, the restrictions of not allowing foreigners is still in motion (only in certain cases, foreigners can enter the country). However, the government intends to lift them in mid June 2020.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASS EVENTS

From the beginning of the pandemic, the leaders of the Polish national government, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, were encouraging the Polish society to stay home and meet others as little as necessary. In public spaces, the rule of two-meters-distance applies. Similarly to other countries, Poland banned mass events, including concerts and sport games. This restriction will not be eased until further notice.

FACE MASKS

While in public spaces, everyone is required to cover their mouths and noses. Only in specific cases, this rule does not apply. For example, children up to age four and people suffering from respiratory conditions do not have to wear face masks. What is more, you can take it off when walking in a forest.

FOUR STAGES OF EASING

Poland's national government has created a plan to relax limitations after lockdown. Reopening hotels, shopping malls, cultural institutions, kindergartens, schools, restaurants, beauty and hair salons, theatres and cinemas, gyms, cinemas is an ongoing process planned to finish till the end of June.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Taking part in any ESC project is strictly connected with limits and regulations that are issued in every european country. Although, our project starts in September and we strongly believe that till then most of limitations will be relaxed, we all need to approach our new reality in flexible way and be ready to start it as soon as possible.



HOW TO APPLY

FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM
THAT YOU CAN FIND HERE (CLICK).

We are looking for 21 volunteers mainly from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, Ukraine, Georgia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania.

COORDINATING ORGANIZATION

POLITES Association
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