

## **Non-formal hand in hand with formal**

### **About the project:**

Youth Centre Litija is hosting projects of youth motilities 9th year in a row. We began with the inclusion of volunteers into regular youth work and the local community. During this time, elementary schools in the municipalities of Litija in Šmarno recognized the effect of volunteers on youth and, one by one, joined the project. First, they included volunteers in regular activities and later on, they incorporated lifelong and non-formal learning for pupils. With the volunteers in schools, pupils are improving their foreign languages and social skills, and are receiving content that the regular curriculum does not cover.

The project has three major goals: personal and career development of participants, use of non-formal learning methods in the non-formal and formal learning environments, strengthening and empowerment of organizations and mentors in hosting of volunteering activities.

In two activities, we plan to host five volunteers that wish to strengthen their competences as youth workers or teachers and working with youngsters. We will provide participants opportunities to strengthen their basic competences in fields of youth work and lifelong learning. Though non-formal learning they will experience daily work in youth centre or at one of the elementary schools.

Participant in the activity in the youth centre will cooperate with employed youth workers with regular programs and projects, and provide assistance in the daily centre. He/she will design multimedia content and promotional materials, provide content for social media. He/she will have weekly meetings with other volunteers where they will share and evaluate their experiences and gain new knowledge.

Participants in the second activity will participate in elementary schools. They will prepare non-formal activities and share their experiences with pupils. They will cooperate with all regular lectures within the curriculum, co-create a debate club, and help in pre- and after-school care.

Both hosting environments provide participants with enough space to try their own ideas in practice and strengthen/develop key competencies for their future careers.

Dates of the mobility:

**from 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018 until 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2019**

### **How to apply**

To apply for this project please send CV and short motivational letter to: [erasmus@mclitija.si](mailto:erasmus@mclitija.si)

You can take these questions as a guidance for writing motivational letter:

- How do you imagine project will look like?
- What is most important for you to happen during the project?
- How will you contribute to the project?

## About Youth Center Litija

Youth Centre Litija was established on the 25th of May 2005. We are implementing a range of activities for young people, in several fields: education, culture, information, counselling, prevention, sport, intercultural dialogue, we nurture contacts between young people and their organizations. Litija Youth Centres main objectives are:

- Encouraging and promotion of creativity of young people and the youth field in general,
- Active participation of young people,
- Active citizenship,
- Development of volunteering,
- Multiculturalism,
- Active spending of leisure time,
- Intergenerational dialogue,
- Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities,
- Preventive activities.

Regular activities:

- Day centre offers a place for youngsters every day from 14:00 to 20:00 (closed on weekends): socialising by workshops, playing board games, sports, computers, etc.
- Encourages and promotes youth cultural production: regular exhibitions, literary and musical evenings, theatre performance of in-house production, film, music, dance, art, design, musical studio
- Organizes a number of sporting events (tournaments, leagues) and regular exercises,
- Various forms of non-formal education enhances knowledge and skills of young people: workshops for young people, youth clubs, project work, preparation of proposals, documentation, designing websites for clubs,
- Project and teamwork result that the project brings new values for the whole community: we give organizational and technical support to young people, mentoring and guidance,
- Coordination of youth associations in the municipality and the region,
- Provides the environment and knowledge for the development of voluntary work
- Carries out activities in the field of intergenerational cooperation and solidarity,
- Provides young people with useful information and advice in various areas of life and work
- Implementation of a number of preventive activities for young people and other people in Litija: printing materials, promotional stalls, lectures, debates, panel discussions,

More at:

Website:

<http://mclitija.si/>

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/YouthCenterLitija/>

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/gpoKUUUM4Jk>

## **About elementary school Litija**

This year Litija Primary School has 541 pupils, which are included in 32 departments, and 16 children, who attend kindergarten at Polšnik. In addition to the primary school (6 - 15 years old), we have two subsidiaries where classes from the 1st to the 4th classes (6-11 year old pupils) are conducted, and a branch with a customized program for students with intellectual and other disabilities, for children from 6 to 26 years. There we have four departments of program with a lower education standard for students with minor mental disorders and three departments of the special education program for pupils with moderate and severe mental disorders. This year there are 47 children with special needs. Our school employs 69 teachers who carry out educational work, three counsellors and a librarian. At Polhek kindergarten, we also have two kindergarten teachers and an assistant kindergarten teacher.

The primary school is located in the center of the small town of Litija, which is 37 kilometers away from the capital Ljubljana. The school is new, since we began with the lessons in it in September of 2014. The classrooms in it are modern equipped with ICT technology (each classroom has at least one computer, a projector ...). The vision of our school is to become a sports and cultural center that will enable top achievements, excellent knowledge, rich culture, friendly atmosphere and personal development of each student. The involvement of a volunteer from a foreigner area would be of great help to us in achieving this vision. One of the most important goals that we want to achieve at school is also education and training for sustainable development and active participation in a democratic society, which includes deeper knowledge and responsible attitude towards ourselves, our health, other people, our own and other cultures, natural and social environment and future generations. Even in achieving this goal, the volunteer would be one of the key actors. We also talk to pupils about developing the awareness of nationality and national identity, the history of Slovenes, their cultural and natural heritage, and encouraging them to be civil liable. We educate pupils for cultural and civilizational values that originate from the European tradition, which could be further deepened and expanded through the volunteer. Inclusion of a foreign citizen into our environment would certainly contribute to more successful education for respect and cooperation, acceptance of difference and mutual tolerance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Communicating with the volunteer would encourage the development of the ability to communicate in foreign languages, both for pupils and for employees at school.

More at:

Website:

<http://www.os-litija.si/>

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/vefDcXsPEe82>

## **Tasks of the volunteer**

The volunteer will be taking part in activities carried out within the framework of regular and enriched primary education curriculum.

The volunteer will be taking part in all school activities:

- Regular classes,
- Creative workshops (craft, culinary, art, photography, graffiti, etc. workshops)
- Topic-based activity days (cultural, science, sports, technical),
- Tutoring (helping student with learning and other difficulties),
- Travelling lectures, representation of other cultures,
- Cultural events (fiction, music, film screenings),
- Social skills and social games,
- Healthy School Project activities,
- Ecology and environment protection,
- Weekly meetings, timetable preparation, preparation time.

The pupils from a relatively specific demographic region will be able to benefit from an authentic contact with a foreign and unusual urban environment of the EU from the volunteer's part.

The school will help the volunteer discover his strong points and include them into the school life. His or hers weaker points will be strengthened and improved.

One day per week (Wednesdays) volunteer will cooperate with other volunteers included into project to learn about youth work and prepare program and activities in Youth Centre Litija such as:

- Cultural nights
- Assistance with preparation of activities for youth
- Participation in promotional activities that Youth center is part of (Week of volunteerism, bazars of NGO, other events produced by local community, cooperation with other youth centers in Slovenia and participation in their major events)

The volunteers will participate in training:

- Pre-departure training (organized by the sending organization)
- Induction and orientation meeting at the arrival to the project location
- On-Arrival Training (provided by the Slovenian National Agency)
- Safety and security training
- Mid Term Evaluation (provided by the Slovenian National Agency)
- Slovenian language training
- mentor support for the learning process and personal development
- Final evaluation of the project
- Final evaluation of the learning process
- Other trainings related to the project objectives

## **About Litija**

Municipality of Litija lies in the center of Slovenia, east of Ljubljana, in the western part of Posavje Hills, which surrounds the Sava River from both sides. Municipality is an area of approximately 227 km<sup>2</sup>, counts 14,530 people and has 108 villages. Town of Litija has 7000 citizens. Its hilly areas are sparsely populated; more villages and towns were built in the valley near the river Sava, the venue of major roads and rail. Litija has good connections with virtually the entire country; it is located on the railway line that connects Maribor and Ljubljana. Inhabited by people, who mostly enjoy the high standard of living. The climate is moderately warm continental type.

For socializing of youngsters, there are many locations: Litija YC and Litija and Šmartno student club, gym, large paved courts (basketball and soccer), library, several non-governmental organizations in the field of culture, sport. All of these locations are in the town or on its outskirts, at a distance of two kilometres. Many students, despite the fact that they study in Ljubljana, still live in Litija, as transport links to Ljubljana are very good and there is no need for temporary relocation.

Among the best known tourist destinations in Litija, as well as in the wider region, is Vače village known for Situla and other archaeological finds from the period of 5th century BC, »GEOSS« - the geometric center of Slovenia. A diverse landscape provides many opportunities for hiking and recreation, the whole area is crisscrossed with biking and hiking trails and tourist farms. The most famous hiking events such as Levstikova pot from Litija to Čatež, Charcoal Way to Dole and March from the church to the church in Polšnik. Many visitors come to Litija also for traditional events such as the Carnival, hike and bike climb to the GEOSS geometric center of Slovenia, Medieval games at the castle Bogenšperk and other cultural and entertainment events in Litija.

## **Accommodation**

Volunteer is going to live on a nearby touristic farm, 2,5 km from youth centre: <https://goo.gl/maps/CtpUgTZWufw>. He or she will share the apartment with four other volunteers. Each of them will have their private room, but they will share two kitchens and two bathrooms. The apartment is fully equipped and provides all you need for a normal life (equipped kitchen, bathroom, internet connection). Because there is no local transport in the area, we will provide bicycles for your transport. In case of bad weather, we will arrange transport with a car. The farm is about 3 km from Litija. You will be able to find everything in Litija (schools, shops, post office, banks, administrative unit, police, and health center). The capital Ljubljana is only 30 minutes away by train or car.

## **Transport**

The volunteers will use bicycles for local transports, since there is no organized local transport in the area.

## **Food**

The volunteer will get cca. 200 € to buy food by himself/herself.

In Litija there are many options for food. From restaurants and bars, where you can find a varied selection of food to large number of shops, markets and discounts, where it is possible to shop for food and drink at favourable prices, which volunteers can freely prepare at home.

## **Pocket Money**

The volunteer will receive 85 euro at the beginning of every month. The volunteer will get the money via bank transfer.