



YOUTH GREEN DEAL

Eco-camp “Rural life”

Refugi Casa Bigodé, Catalonia, Spain

04-14 July 2022

BASIC INFORMATION

Address of the camp: Calle Unica, s/n, 25513 Envall, Lleida

Dates: 04-14 of July 2022

Meeting place and time: 1 PM Plaça Catalunya in BARCELONA

Meeting time: 04th of July 2022

Contact person for emergency cases: Antonella Di Matteo (voluntariat@scicat.org)

Emergency telephone number: (+34) 934417079

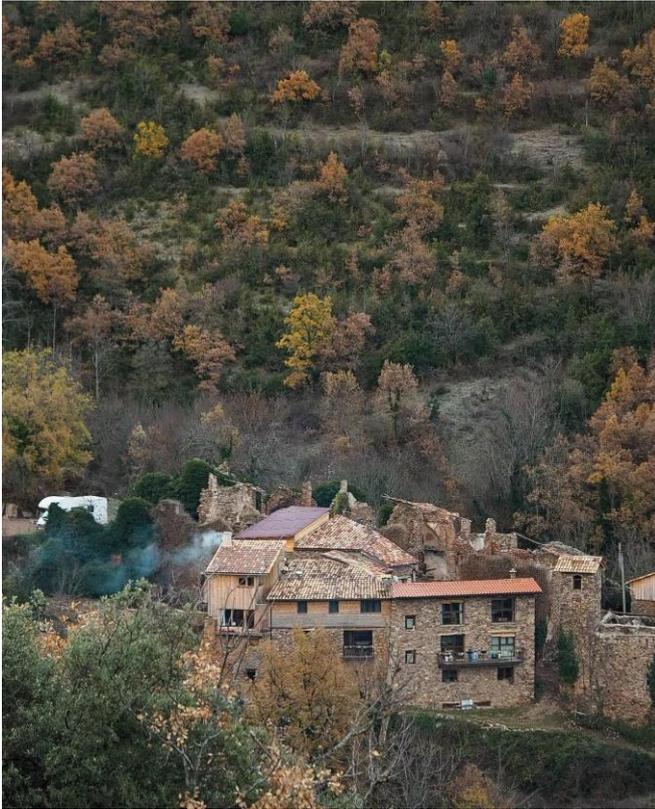
BACKGROUND OF YOUTH GREEN DEAL PROJECT

Youth Green Deal is a partly European funded project aiming at building the capacity of youth organisations promoting eco-volunteering in the Mediterranean area. The international volunteer projects bring together a group of 20 young people (18-30 years old) who will work with the local community to support them in the environmental work they are doing and to learn from each other and the community. By documenting the experiences of the volunteers and the local community during the workcamp the project wants to gather testimonies in order to promote eco-volunteering and find more support for such kind of initiatives. The eco-camp will create a space where young people and the local community can reflect on the effects of climate change and together inspire volunteers and local communities to mitigate climate change and lead sustainable lifestyles. By working together with various organisations we also want to focus on the Mediterranean/global dimension of climate issues.

This project “**Youth Green Deal**” is created by organisations who are part of the MIDI working group of SCI (Service Civil International www.sci.ngo). VSFr Tunisia is the lead organisation responsible for the overall coordination of the project but all partners are collaborating in the implementation of the project: CCIVS (www.ccivs.org) , SCI Catalonia (www.scicat.org), SCI France (www.sci-france.org), SCI Belgium (www.scibelgium.be), SCI Italy (www.sci-italia.it), SSD Jordan, EVO Morocco and Al-Shmoh Cultural Centre Palestine.

Apart from the 4 youth exchanges will take place in Catalonia, Tunisia, Palestine and Morocco in the summer of 2022, there will be a training on eco-construction in Jordan in September and a final conference in Tunisia in the beginning of 2023 to present all the outcomes and the stories gathered from the eco-camps.

THE ECO-CAMP “Rural life” - refugi casa Bigodé

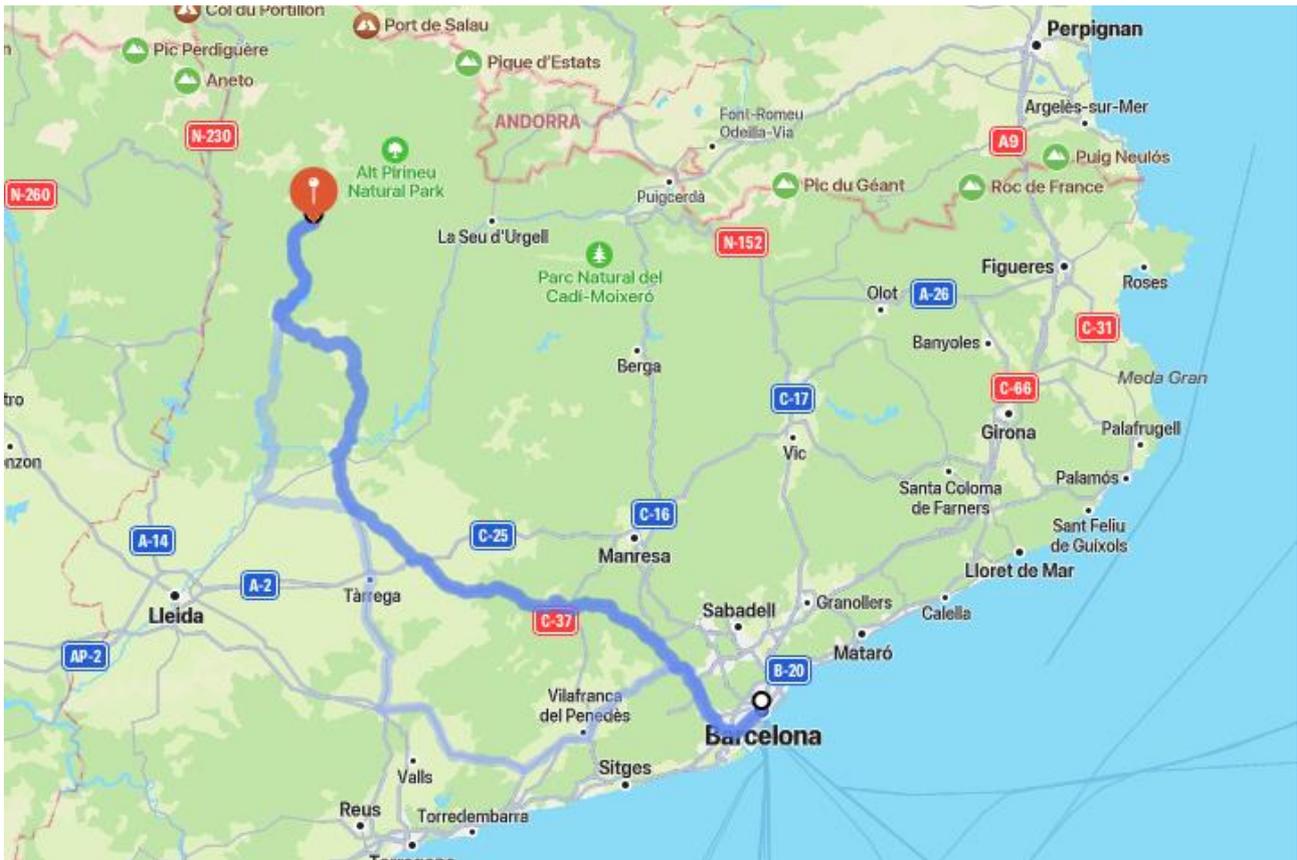


We are happy to have you in the Rural Life - Refugi Casa Bigodé eco-camp in Catalonia!!

Envall is a Catalan village in the Pyrenees that was abandoned for nearly 30 years as a result of the rural depopulation caused by the exodus towards the cities. 20 years ago a small group of people started to come back to the village. These people started a cooperative to bring back life in this rural village. The [Envals cooperative](#) is now promoting 2 projects aiming to repopulate and generate income for the village. The first project is the Refuge, a mountain hostel for people who want to explore the mountains, and the second is a future School of the Mountain.

In 2020 the first house was restored. It was an old haystack that now became the Refuge or mountain hostel. The Refuge can host up to 24 people and it is a space that suits all needs and ages.

In line with the principles and values of the cooperative to go back to nature and to live in respect and harmony with the natural environment and to be as much as possible self sustainable, the hostel only offers vegetarian food. All vegetables and other ingredients are locally produced, making this project quite unique compared to other tourist accommodations.



Envalles is situated about 220 km from Barcelona in a very remote area of the Pyrenees. It is difficult to get to and the volunteers will have to travel with public transport from Barcelona to El Poble de Segur from where a pick-up with cars will be organised.

THE GROUP

The group of participants who will take part in this eco-camp will consist of 20 people, 16 participants between 18 and 30 years old and 4 group leaders coming from 4 different partners of the Youth Green Deal project: Catalonia, Jordan, Tunisia and France. Although there are small country groups, the emphasis is on intercultural learning and getting to know each other. Through these intercultural meetings, the eco-camps want to promote peace building and create safer spaces for all participants to explore other realities and become more aware of one's own identities.

VOLUNTEER TASKS

Apart from the usual tasks typical of a work camp or any project (cleaning, cooking, checking that there is good group dynamics), participants will have the opportunity to explore different aspects of eco-sustainable volunteering in line with the philosophy of the community that will host them.

Together with the local community the following tasks were selected to be carried out by the eco-camp groups:

- **Restoring a dry stone wall.** Dry stone construction is a very old and traditional building technique in the Pyrenees. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn this technique and to understand how constructing with local materials and old techniques can be a sustainable alternative to modern high energy consuming and polluting building techniques. This is hard work since stones will have to be carried, cleaned and put together.
- **Maintaining the permaculture garden.** The garden wants to provide the local community with vegetables and fruits. The cooperative started a permaculture garden as a way to grow vegetables in respect with nature. To find out more about permaculture you can visit the [Permaculture principles](#) website. The founding principle of permaculture is **earth care, people care** and **fair share**. The work in the garden is important for the community and especially in summer, when it can be really hot, can be demanding. A hat to protect against the sun might be needed. Volunteers will learn about permaculture design and how it benefits people and nature.
- **Decorating the workshop room with clay paint.** The cooperative wants to promote sustainable building and therefore most materials used are natural materials. The workshop room of the hostel needs to be finished with clay paint. Volunteers will learn about this material and how to use it as an alternative to chemical paint.
- **Constructions with wood.** Small furniture will be produced with wood.

Each day the participants will be divided in different groups in order to carry out the different tasks. Volunteers will have the possibility to learn different skills, work together in a team and take responsibility for different tasks.

THE STUDY PART

Apart from different team building activities to get to know the other participants and the different cultures, there will be 4 workshops offered by the local community:

- Ceramics, pottery and clay workshop. This mountain area has a long tradition of pottery and the volunteers will have the possibility to learn about the “clay culture” and the pottery techniques.
- The principles and philosophy of permaculture and the importance of a healthy SOIL. See also the SOIL campaign promoted by many international volunteering organisations.
- Also one session will be dedicated to climate change and ecological issues in the Mediterranean region.
- Another topic that is proposed by the local host is the use of Forum theatre and gender roles in our societies.

THE FREE TIME

The camp will last 10 days and the volunteers will work every morning from 9:00 to 13:30 with a mid-morning break. The afternoons when no special session /workshop is offered, the volunteers can relax, go to the nearby river or play games. In the eco-camps the idea is that volunteers experience communal living and decision-making. The organisation of the day, the activities during the leisure

time and the overall daily tasks are decided in group following principles of consensus decision making.

There will be one free day during the weekend when the volunteers will have the opportunity to explore the area a little bit and have more time to connect with each other. During the weekend there will also be a music festival.

THE ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

As mentioned before, the volunteers will together set up a schedule to make sure all daily tasks are taken care of such as cleaning the accommodation, cooking and keeping the kitchen tidy.



Since there is no shop in the village, the hostel responsible will do some shopping in the nearby town once a week. According to the menu agreed (based on available vegetables in the community and local products available on the market, the volunteers will make cooking teams and take care of all the food. **All the food will be vegetarian.**

The group will be accommodated in the hostel/refuge in shared rooms.



WHAT TO BRING?

- Sleeping bag
- Towels
- Comfortable clothes to work,
- Mountain shoes (and river shoes, if you want)
- Sunscreen
- Hat (the mountain sun is very strong!)
- Work gloves (if you want)
- Some typical sweets from your country to share with the group

Remember to bring some warm clothes for the evenings as well. When the sun goes down it can get colder!

TRAVEL INFO AND MEETING POINT

We will all start travelling from BARCELONA on [July 4th 2022](#). If you have a problem arriving before 1:30 PM on July 4th please inform SCI Catalonia. In that case you should try to arrive on July 3rd so that you can travel with the group to the venue of the camp. [Here](#) you can find train options to reach the camp site with the rest of the participants.

For the departure, the camp will end on the 14th and therefore we advise you to book a flight / train / bus for the late afternoon or evening on the 14th, or otherwise there may be the possibility to sleep one night in Barcelona on the 14th and leave on the 15th.

HOW TO PREPARE?

For this eco-camp we ask you to prepare a presentation about your country with a special emphasis on the ecological issues in your region. Your sending organisation will also conduct a preparation session with your group to make sure you are well prepared and all your questions are answered.

ECO-GUIDELINES

This eco-camp is part of the Youth Green Deal project and one of the aims is to develop eco-guidelines for volunteer camps. These guidelines should also support volunteers to be more conscious about climate issues and take action once back home. Try to think of some measures you can take as an individual to reduce your ecological footprint and bring some ideas with you to reduce the ecological footprint of the eco-camp.

IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION

Due to the pandemic situation participants are asked to be fully vaccinated before coming to Barcelona. You should not have symptoms related to Covid or have been in contact with someone who

has COVID in the last 10 days before coming to Catalonia. We will contact the participants with more specific to follow more instructions once they are selected.

In Barcelona right now it is not mandatory to wear a mask outdoors or indoors. You must wear the mask only for healthcare places (such as hospitals and pharmacies) and public transport. These measures may change in the following months, but we kindly ask all the participants to commit to follow the sanitary measures that might happen by July.

INSURANCE

All volunteers taking part in the eco-camps will be insured by the SCI insurance. This insurance is an additional medical insurance, covering costs which are not covered by your own public health insurance. It is not a travel insurance and doesn't cover lost luggage or other travel related costs. Your sending organisation will provide you with more info about the insurance and advise you on this.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The project is supported by the Erasmus+ programme but this funding doesn't cover all the costs of the eco-camp. Furthermore, the travel costs for some countries are much more than the money allocated by the EU and for some countries the own contribution is disproportional so we decided to install a solidarity fund through which we re-distribute part of the travel costs.

- Food and accommodation during the eco-camp will be provided by the Erasmus+ grant
- Travel costs will be reimbursed **up to the travel limit** set by the EU and if all necessary travel tickets (boarding passes, invoices) are handed in within the agreed time frame.

France	275 Euro
Tunisia	275 Euro
Jordan	530 Euro

- Other necessary expenses such as visa fees, COVID-tests and special medical insurance will have to be paid by the participants unless otherwise agreed with the sending organisation and after approval by VSFr as the coordinating organisation.
- **Your sending organisation will inform you about the extra fee that is set for the participants of your country to participate in this eco-camp.**

APPLICATION FORM

Please fill in this [online application form](https://forms.gle/Woirwv7TrFbCx69x5) : <https://forms.gle/Woirwv7TrFbCx69x5>

YOUR SENDING ORGANISATION

Do you have more questions, contact the organisation in your country!

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