

Peace with nature: Rebuilding Envall

Refugi Casa Bigodé, Catalonia

04-14 September 2023

BASIC INFORMATION

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

Dates: 04-14 of September 2023

Meeting place and time: 1pm Plaça Catalunya in Barcelona

Meeting day: 04th of September 2023

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

Emergency telephone number: (+34) 934417079

THE ECO-CAMP “Peace with nature: Rebuilding Envall”



We are happy to have you in “Peace with nature: Rebuilding Envall” eco-camp in Catalonia!!

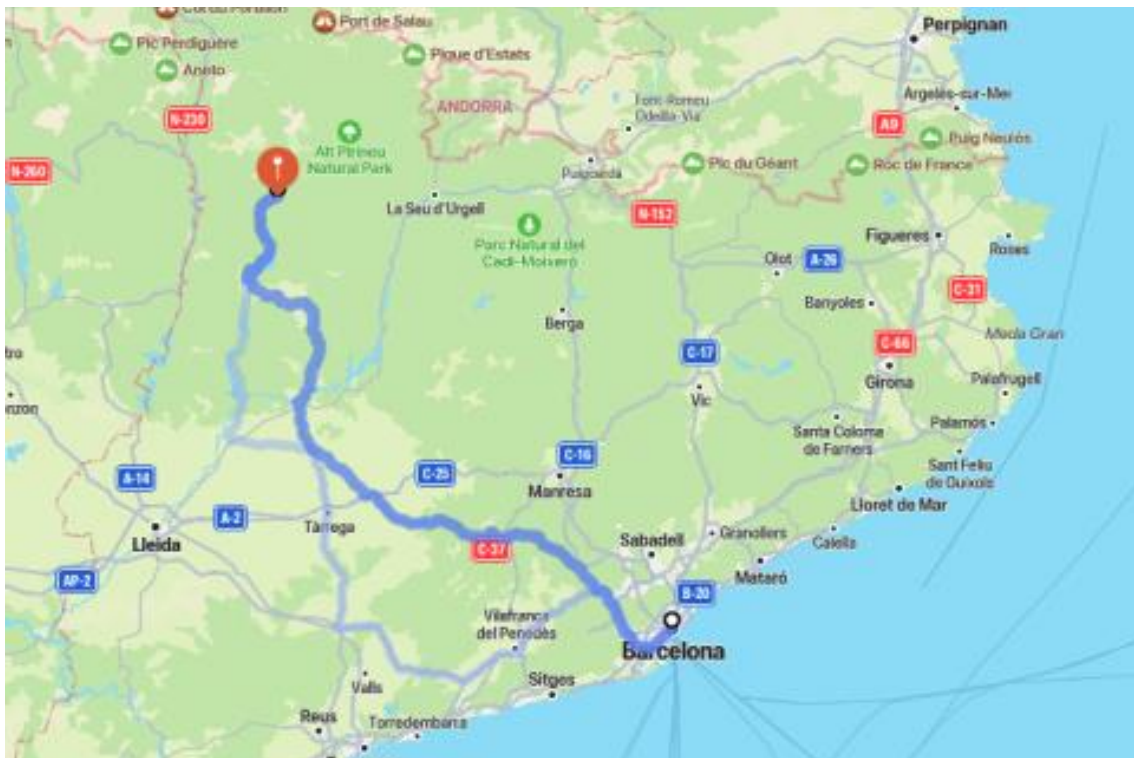
Envall is a Catalan village in the Pyrenees that was abandoned for nearly 30 years as a result of the rural depopulation caused by the exodus towards the cities. 20 years ago a small group of people started to come back to the village.

These people started a cooperative to bring back life in this rural village.

The Envalls 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.



Envalls 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: Catalonia, Morocco, Palestine and Greece. 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.

- **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 ACCOMODATION 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/refugee 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 September 4th 2023. 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. The idea is to rent a minibus for all the participants to go together to the camp site.

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 CONDITION

The project is supported by the Erasmus+ programme:

- 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.

Catalonia	23 Euro
Morocco	275 Euro
Palestine	530 Euro
Greece	320 Euro (Green travel)

- Other necessary expenses such as visa fees, will be paid by SCI Catalonia since they are included in the project expenses.

