

RUSSIA

“Learning active citizenship–Capacity Building Stage XVI” is a group EVS programme which addresses the issues of marginalisation & discrimination against minorities. It aims to raise the awareness of the 16 vols on the existing forms of discrimination, to sensitise them for their own situation as foreigners in the hosting countries and to encourage to actively strive towards a more inclusive society. The topic is tackled in a kick off training where the vols come together and discuss the wide ranges of marginalisation & exclusion, exchange ideas & experiences & analyse the different approaches in their home countries. The meeting provides the basis for the work in the projects. After the training the vols start the 10 months EVS in RU, UA and AZ. The projects directly involve people from disadvantaged backgrounds, socially excluded parts of the society and with fewer opportunities. As young dedicated Europeans the vols promote active citizenship & are role models for their peers. They run own activities to overcome marginalisation. During the EVS the vols stay connected with internet tools to exchange experiences and ideas. After the EVS the vols come back together in a meeting for evaluation and planning of follow up activities in their home countries.

SCI Germany applied as coordinating organisation for this multilateral EVS-project. OWA Poland, SCI Italy, SCI Belgium, VIA Netherlands, SCI Catalunya, KVT Finland, SCI Switzerland, VSI Ireland, IVS GB, Volunteers' centre Zagreb and SCI Germany have applied as sending organisations and their applicants will get first priority.

Applications to voluntariat@sci-cat.org

Requirements for the application:

- SCI application form,
- interview with the applicants and written support letter from the sending organisation

Practicalities for all projects:

Age limit: 18-30

EVS Project: travel costs, insurance, hosting costs, pocket money covered

Project language: Russian, English

Period: 10 months, start late 2013 or early 2014

Pocket money: 90 Euro per month

Accommodation: own room, eg. in a apartment or host family, to be decided together the with hosting organisation

Projects:

- Orphanage “Malyshok”, Ulan Ude, Siberia, Russia
- Youth Memorial, Perm, Russia – duration only 9 months!

Project descriptions:

The “Malishok” orphanage is a social care institution which hosts between 100 and 120

orphans and children abandoned by their parents. The children are provided with social and medical care and being prepared for school. The aim of the orphanage is to give a home to socially disadvantaged children and to help them integrate into society. The volunteers will work with the children, organise activities with them to help them integrate into society.

The volunteers will support the staff of the orphanage by working there as additional hands. The volunteers will help overcome the boundaries established by putting different groups of children together. By creating workshops for mixed ages of children, the volunteers will create the possibility for different groups of children to play together, to interact, and get to know each other better.

The volunteers will provide individual care for children ages 2-7. They will conduct games to increase children's social, cognitive, and practical abilities:

- Games educating about geometrical forms, numbers, colors, and different kinds of animals
- Group games to increase social abilities and teach the children to follow rules during the game
- Conducting cooking classes with two children at a time in order to teach them how to make cakes, cookies, etc., and to talk about different types of ingredients;
- Inviting the rest of the group to eat together and pointing out how important sharing is
- Cutting and painting classes
- Teaching children different games to enable them to play on their own during their free time.
- Classes on teaching children different techniques of handicraft

It is also very important to give the children individual attention and show them at least some aspects of the world outside the orphanage. Volunteers will take one child at a time out of the group and spend time with him/her, as well as take a group of children and spend time with them.

The volunteers will play a very important role within the orphanage. They will be an older sister (or brother) rather than teachers for these children. Because each group consists of about fifteen children, it is hard for the educators to give a lot of individual attention to each child. Many children grow up in the orphanage without having been cuddled or given a hug. So oftentimes the volunteers will be the only people to give the children a hug and pick them up every now and then.

Every group in the orphanage (altogether there are eight) is meant to have a teacher assistant but no group has such; which means that the educators not only look after the kids, they also have to keep clothes in order, wash the children, etc. If it is needed, the volunteers could be asked to do some chores such as watering flowers or mending clothes.

Volunteers will work 6 hours a day, 5 days a week. Weekends are the days they will have off. There are 20 holidays. The volunteers will work independently, as well as with the care givers.

The orphanage's staff have regular morning meetings which the volunteers have the choice of attending if they wish to do so. These meetings are for planning and evaluating the work that was done the previous day.

There are several possibilities of getting to the orphanage by public transportation. Since Ulan-Ude is not that big of a city, it shouldn't take the volunteers more than 30 minutes to get to the orphanage. The volunteers will get pocket money every month; they can spend this money for food and transportation.

The volunteers will live with host families. If they prefer to eat separately from the family, they have the option of cooking meals for themselves.

The volunteer will be provided with 60 hours Russian classes in 10 months of their stay. At the beginning the volunteers will have more intensive learning. Their teachers will be wither English-speaking students from the Department of Foreign Languages at the Buryat State University or teachers of English who are certified to teach Russian as a foreign language.

We want to point out that volunteers usually take part in other projects, which means that their work is not limited to working at the orphanage. They often cooperate and work with youth clubs, participate in movie and English clubs organized by other SCG and EVS volunteers, work with other orphanages, rehabilitation centres, and hospitals. Therefore, incoming volunteers should be ready to do that.

Sometimes volunteers work with sponsors who help them financially with their mini-projects at Malishok. For example, one year a photo studio took pictures of children from the orphanage for a photo exhibition; the goal of this exhibition was to find friends or “Big Brother”/ “Big Sister” for the children. This year volunteers proposed a project that teaches children from the orphanage to take care of their teeth. A couple of dentists from a privately owned dentistry clinic volunteered to teach the kids about taking care of their teeth, and one locally-owned company donated tooth brushes and toothpaste.

Requirements: The volunteer should be highly motivated and think positively. It is important that he is able to work independently and has some organisational skills. S/he needs to be very interested in the work with children. Creativity and interest in handicrafts are a plus. When working with small children, the volunteer has to display a lot of attention and care.

Number of volunteers: 2, 1 vacancy

Youth Memorial, Perm, Russia

The aim of the project is to bring together young volunteers and elderly people who were subjected to political repression in the Soviet period. The EVS volunteers take care of elderly victims of political repression in their every day life. About 4 500 people, which was political persecuted, live now in the city and are members of the Society “Memorial”. About 40 from them are lonely and ill and need regularly help. They can’t often afford to pay for the state social help. For those aims the social voluntary service of “Youth Memorial” was created about 20 years ago. Since 2003 foreign volunteers (along with young Russians) visit elderly victims of political repression, help them with cooking, cleaning of the flat and shopping for food and medications.

The role and tasks of the volunteer(s):

1. Work with the elderly victims of political repression: home visiting to clean of the flat and shopping for food and medications, as well as communication with them

The EVS volunteers start to work with elderly people immediately after their on-arrival

can offer their own topics (including Human Right) interested for discussion and organize some meetings of the club;

- help to organize and take part in learning seminars for youth and civil actions of the Youth Memorial
- organize and take part in summer youth projects: Search expeditions “On the Memory Rivers”; renovating workcamps in the GULAG Museum “Perm 36”; summer schools and others. The EVS volunteers could be camp leaders (if they wish) together with a local in our projects. That’s a great opportunity to get experience of doing and leading of an own social project. At the same time could be a good final of their EVS.

In the first stage of their EVS the volunteers only observe everything works and learn with the youth in our organisation. Later they could be involved more actively in the youth work. It takes 20% of their working time (except summer, when they do workcamps, then it’s almost 100%).

3. EVS volunteers are also responsible for the public relations work (meetings with students, public discussions, participation on the TV or radio broadcasts, web site, etc.) That takes about 10% of the working time.

Volunteers learn a lot from the elderly people. While doing different household jobs for the elderly and communicating with them, the volunteer get to know about the political history of Russia and the impact it made on the lives of people, and about the conditions in which victims of political repression live in today's Russia. Besides, the volunteer familiarizes themselves with the work of the non-commercial sector in Russia, the conditions in which social work is carried out and its significance to those who are involved in it.

Volunteers will gain a huge amount of experience in working with youth. They will learn new communication skills, problem solving skills, will develop greater confidence, learn how to organise and run activities and events and learn how to work in a team (especially in workcamps).

The working language of the project is Russian, so volunteers will be able to learn Russian to a very good standard by the end of the project. There will be a great opportunity to take part in a variety of cultural and social projects which will demonstrate many different sides of the life of the city.

Practical arrangements

The volunteer will receive a monthly allowance for food and local transport from the hosting organization. The pocket money will be transferred by the coordinating organization. The volunteer will live in a shared flat.

The volunteer will be working five days a week, 30 working hours. He/she will get two days off per week and a settled number of holidays plus national state holidays. The volunteers will have different types of working days, e.g. days in the office where he/she will work in the projects of “Youth Memorial” or own projects. Other days will be spent working with elderly people.

Number of volunteers: 2, one vacancy for 9 months
