

ICYE FINLAND

WORK PROFILE  
2020-21



## WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER IN FINLAND!

We are happy that You are interested to come and experience an ICYE voluntary work period in Finland! This is the Work Profile of MaaIlmanvaihto – ICYE Finland. It has been made in order to give you an idea of the different types of voluntary work placements the ICYE program can offer.

You will find from this profile general information on ICYE voluntary work in Finland as well as examples of possible voluntary workplaces. Please keep in mind that the profile does not hold all the projects, and not all the projects in the profile host volunteers every year.

In the matching process we will do our best to take into account your preferences but we cannot guarantee you a place in any particular workplace or area in Finland.

## VOLUNTARY WORK IN FINLAND

**Most ICYE voluntary work placements within Finland are in the field of social work and education.** Social work in this context means child welfare institutions and work among elderly people and people with special needs, for instance. The voluntary work is mostly done in non-profit organisations and institutions. Social work in Finland is mainly carried out by the government and municipalities, but there are also many active non-governmental organizations in this field.

**In the social work placements the most important thing for a volunteer to have is a positive attitude and motivation for voluntary work and learning new things.** In addition, previous experience, interest in social work and some knowledge of English (or Finnish) will make it easier to find a social work placement for you. Especially in the beginning of the period and for a person without a special profession or experience, the work is often quite practical.

On the other hand, the work tasks depend a lot on the volunteer's own initiative! There is usually an opportunity to shape the work tasks according to your interest and skills. So, **please be active yourself and make suggestions** on how to develop your tasks during your voluntary work period!

**Most of the workplaces are situated in the countryside, and the public transport connections to nearby towns and cities may not be very good, so it may not be easy to go to the city very often.** But anyway, one of the most important parts of the experience is to get to know the culture through the local community. There nevertheless are also some workplaces in the capital city Helsinki and smaller towns.

## YOUR SKILLS, INTERESTS AND PREFERENCES

We do our best to find you a workplace where you can use your skills and learn. Please read through carefully which types of voluntary workplaces are available in Finland and send us then **the Preference List** with information on which types of placements you are interested in. The information you give us through the Preference List is important for us in the search for the best possible voluntary workplace for you. You can find the Preference List attached to the end of this Work Profile.

In the Preference List form you can also give us more information on your skills and experiences. It is our aim that the voluntary workplace can benefit from your contributions.

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF VOLUNTARY WORK PLACEMENTS

These are the different types of voluntary work placements that Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland coordinates:

### A) CHILD WELFARE INSTITUTION

Child welfare institutions include different kinds of organizations, but usually ICYE volunteers work in foster homes. Foster homes are created for socially excluded children who are taken into custody from their biological parents because of drug and alcohol abuse or mental and social problems. The ages of the children vary from toddlers to teenagers.

The community provides the children with care, social education and a home-like, safe environment for growing. Most foster homes in Finland work in close co-operation with cities and municipalities which finance and monitor them.

The volunteer participates in the daily activities of the foster home, supporting the staff and the children. Volunteers spend time with the kids giving them a possibility to learn from their language and culture. They organise free-time activities for them and also help in household tasks like cooking and cleaning. It is also possible that the volunteer creates for the children activities such as sports, arts and languages.

### B) FOLK HIGH SCHOOL

Folk high schools are boarding schools for mostly young adults aged from 16 to 30+. These folk high schools provide different types of study programs and courses from arts to languages and open university studies. Folk high schools are good options for young people who want to spend their "gap year" efficiently and to study something which will improve their possibilities in further studies. Many folk high schools also provide Finnish language studies for immigrants and refugees to support their adaptation process.

Most of the folk high schools are situated in the countryside. This provides excellent opportunities for social development and learning from the Finnish culture directly from the Finnish youth. A good motivation and active initiative taking are a necessary for a successful voluntary work period in a folk high school.

The volunteer work tasks vary according to the volunteers' skills and interests: from assisting teachers, giving language courses and organising free-time activities for the students to practical work like helping in the kitchen, library, office or gardening and maintenance work. Sometimes it may be possible to combine voluntary work and studying some subjects in the folk high school. In some folk high schools the volunteers work with immigrant students who study Finnish language and culture.

### C) KINDERGARTEN

Kindergartens are day-care centres for children (aged between 1 and 6 years) whose both parents work during the daytime. Volunteers help the staff in the daily chores such as playing with the children, helping the kids in eating and dressing outdoor clothes and cleaning the kindergarten. We have found the kindergartens to be the best places to learn the language!

Some volunteers have been placed in English or Spanish language kindergartens or to kindergartens using special pedagogic methods, like Montessori or Steiner. Volunteers who work in a kindergarten are accommodated in host families.

## D) OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

Old people's homes are organisations that take care of elderly people who are not able to live on their own anymore. These homes offer accommodation, care and daily activities for them. Usually the elderly live in the rooms of one or two people, and the houses also include common rooms for all the inhabitants. Usually these homes aim at creating a homely atmosphere.

The volunteers help the staff in daily work tasks, such as assisting the elderly in dining and providing them with different daily activities. It is important that the volunteer is motivated to learn Finnish, since the old people often do not know English.

## E) SCHOOL / EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

In the Finnish elementary school there are 9 grades (with the possibility for an extra 10th grade) and the children are aged from six to sixteen. Most of the schools in Finland are run by the government. Some schools are interested in hosting volunteers in order to create for the pupils a possibility for intercultural learning and practising a foreign language.

The volunteers assist the teachers in the daily school work and also help the staff in other tasks like organising international days or other happenings. Some of the volunteers are placed in other educational institutions, such as schools for students with special needs (physical or mental disabilities) and vocational schools.

## F) WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Some of the work placements offer education, work and accommodation services for people with special needs. There might be people with developmental, mental and/or physical disabilities and challenges in learning in these placements. Volunteers work, for instance, in day activity centres, schools, arts & crafts workshops and communities.

The voluntary tasks with the disabled people depend on the type of workplace in which the volunteer is working. Work can be very practical: helping the people in their everyday duties, such as dining, but at the same time there are opportunities to assist in different types of therapy, art classes, handicraft workshops, agriculture, garden work, animal care, etc.

Working with people with special needs can be challenging and requires some patience especially in the beginning – but it is also very interesting and rewarding. It is important that the volunteer is motivated to learn Finnish since the disabled people often do not know English.

## G) YOUTH WORK

Youth work is work that aims at supporting the growth of the young people and advancing their active citizenship as well as intergenerational interaction and social strengthening. In the youth work field volunteers may, for instance, organize free-time activities for youngsters in a youth center. It is important that the volunteer is social and takes actively contact with the kids.

## H) OTHER WORKPLACES

Some projects do not fall into any of the above mentioned categories. There are, for instance, some cultural projects, non-governmental organisations and local voluntary centres offering voluntary work placements.

## ABOUT THE PREFERENCE LIST

**Please, fill in the "PREFERENCE LIST" form and give it to your sending ICYE organisation. You can find the Preference List attached at the end of this Work Profile. We do our best to find you a suitable voluntary work placement. The more you tell about your interests and personal skills, the more likely the placement meets your wishes.**

We nevertheless CANNOT guarantee you the placement you have chosen and we want to remind you that the wishes are not binding. They only give us an idea on what kind of work you are interested in. We encourage the work placements to contact you and have Skype meetings with you so that you can have more information on each other and confirmation that your expectations meet.

**When you get the information on your voluntary workplace from ICYE Finland, please contact the workplace prior to your arrival to Finland!**

We will provide you with contact details. Contacting the voluntary workplace is important in order to get a clearer idea of the place you are going to: if you have any questions, you can ask them from your mentors. It is also nice to get to know each other in advance.

**In case you have special needs, such as a physical disability or health issues, please consult us on possibilities to volunteer in one of the voluntary workplaces. We will gladly see if there are suitable options available for you.**

## EXAMPLES ON VOLUNTARY WORKPLACES

On the following pages you will find examples of some voluntary workplaces we co-operate with. Usually each workplace hosts one ICYE volunteer at a time but in some cases there may be two ICYE volunteers at once.

Whether all of the workplaces take a volunteer in the season 2020–21 depends on various factors, such as their financial situation and availability of accommodation. For projects which cannot offer accommodation, ICYE Finland needs to find a host family before we can confirm the placement for the volunteer

1. School of Kirkonseutu (school)
2. Lepola's Kindergarten (kindergarten)
3. Fallkulla Domestic Animal Farm and Youth Center (farm work, youth work)
4. The English Kindergarten of Kotka (kindergarten)
5. Kainuu College (folk high school)
6. Mi Casita (kindergarten)
7. Joutseno Folk High School (folk high school)
8. Koskenrinne Home (old people's home)
9. Tapola Camphill Community (work with people with special needs)
10. Kaunismäki kindergarten, Municipality of Mäntsälä (kindergarten)

# 1. SCHOOL OF KIRKONSEUTU

## WORK FIELD

School / Educational institution

## VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

The school of Kirkonseutu (*Kirkonseudun koulu* in Finnish) is a public elementary school with about 280 pupils, 15 teachers, four special needs teachers and eleven school helpers / teachers' aids.

In the school there are classes for children aged at 6–12 years (preschool education and basic education). There are also special classes for children with special educational needs.

The school is located close to the center of Nakkila and near to the sports area.

Website: [peda.net/nakkila/kirkonseudun-koulu](http://peda.net/nakkila/kirkonseudun-koulu)



## VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers mainly work as teacher's aide. They in particular assist the teacher in classes. They can also prepare teaching materials and crafting as well as introduce for the pupils their home countries and interests. With the volunteers the pupils get to practice English. International perspective and contacts are very important for the school, and in their tasks the volunteers get experience on teachers' work.

## VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be active and motivated to work with kids. Good communication skills are valued.

## LOCATION

The school is located in a municipality called Nakkila in southwest Finland. There are about 5 700 inhabitants in Nakkila. The school is located in the countryside. The nearest city is Pori which is situated some 20 km away from Nakkila.

## ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. During the working days the school offers lunch for the volunteers.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the workplace cannot host volunteers with physical or sensory disabilities.

## 2. LEPOLA'S KINDERGARTEN

**WORK FIELD** Kindergarten

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Lepola's kindergarten (*Lepolan päiväkoti* in Finnish) is a public kindergarten in Jokela. It is situated next to a school with which it works in close cooperation. The staff of the kindergarten includes thirteen persons. There are four groups in the kindergarten, and the children are aged from one to six. There are about 75 children in the kindergarten.

The kindergarten gives quality early childhood and pre-school education. The staff takes care of children and provides them with daycare in a safe environment together with parents and specialists, for example psychologists and speech therapists. The kindergarten also tries to make days peaceful and unhurried for the children, and a child-centered orientation is very important in the activities of the kindergarten.



### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer works as an assistant in a group with children aged from three to five. They also help the staff to organise the daily routines of the kindergarten, such as setting the table, bed-making, clothing arrangement and children's play moments and games. We can offer for the volunteers a possibility to experience Finnish daycare and its ways of working. We can teach the volunteers some methods used in daycare work.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer should have good interaction skills and be motivated to work with kids. We hope that the volunteer will be interested of children and the Finnish daycare system. We also wish that the volunteer is motivated to learn about the local culture environment and ways of being with children. We hope that the volunteer is spontaneous and brave to meet new challenges.

### LOCATION

Tuusula, a municipality in the Southern Finland. The municipality is very rural and sparsely populated. It is a home for over 36 000 people. The kindergarten is situated in Jokela, the northern centre of Tuusula, some 40 km away from Helsinki to which there is a train connection. It is a community constructed in a garden-city style; its industrial history is linked with an old brickyard. Several lovely pools are a remnant of the brickyard tradition.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. In workdays the volunteers can eat lunch in the lunchroom with the children and co-workers.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The physical environment of the workplace is suitable for young people with physical disabilities. Wheelchair access is possible through the front door, and there is an accessible toilet in the building. The people working in the kindergarten do not, however, have the possibility to offer continuous intensive support the volunteer. Unfortunately, the workplace does not have the resources to organise for a volunteer with sensory disabilities the needed support for fruitful interaction with the children.

### 3. FALLKULLA DOMESTIC ANIMAL FARM AND YOUTH CENTER

#### WORK FIELD

Farm work, youth work

#### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Fallkulla Domestic Animal Farm (*Fallkullan kotieläintila* in Finnish) is the only municipally owned youth centre in Finland where young people can take part in practical work with livestock. Fallkulla was established in 1989. Fallkulla gives young people aged 9–17 the opportunity to tend sheep, pigs, goats, cows, hens, ducks, rabbits and horses as well as the chance to participate in various activities with the youth. Fallkulla is run by the Helsinki city youth department.



Website: [www.fallkulla.munstadi.fi](http://www.fallkulla.munstadi.fi)

#### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

There are various tasks for the volunteers, such as feeding the animals, cleaning the barn and stable, milking the goats, brushing the animals, horseback riding and taking care of the common cleanliness of the cattle shed. Other work tasks include youth work, gardening and other outdoor work as well as office work. The working schedule of the volunteers may include both morning (8 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and evening shifts (1 p.m. – 8 p.m.) as well as working at weekends. The voluntary work period will provide the youth, the staff of the farm and the volunteer with an international experience as well as possibilities to improve language skills.

#### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer should be interested in animals and their welfare and enjoy working in the cow stable and yard. The volunteers should also be motivated to support youngsters in working in similar tasks. The participant must be in good health and cannot have any allergies (animal, hay or dust).

#### LOCATION

Fallkulla is located in northern part of the capital city, Helsinki. There are some 620 000 inhabitants in Helsinki. The farm is situated near the residential areas of Malmi and Tapanila. There is a good public transportation network in the area.

#### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family in the Helsinki area so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living.

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the workplace cannot host volunteers with physical or sensory disabilities. For instance, even if the buildings of Fallkulla are accessible for the customers, the work with the animals in the stable and elsewhere is not suitable for a volunteer who needs aid devices. The work includes much lifting and different kinds of working positions.

## 4. THE ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN OF KOTKA

**WORK FIELD** Kindergarten

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

The English Kindergarten of Kotka (*Kotkan englanninkielinen leikkikoulu* in Finnish) offers early childhood education both in English and Finnish for children aged 1–7 years. There are 42 children and 6 teachers in the kindergarten. The kindergarten is run by the Finnish-American Society.

In the kindergarten it is believed that every child is unique. Respect towards others and the environment as well as good manners are valued. Central to the goals of the kindergarten is providing the children with a chance to familiarize themselves with the English language and culture. The mission statement of the kindergarten is "Together with the parents we want to raise our children in a safe and caring environment that will encourage the children to grow into self-motivated, confident, and co-operative individuals. We believe every child is unique and hope to strengthen their self-esteem. We emphasize the importance of good manners as well as important social skills. The children are immersed in the English language through curriculum and play. We hope to instill a sense of global awareness and tolerance of all people." Website: [www.kotkansay.fi](http://www.kotkansay.fi)



### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers work and play with the children and assist the teachers in different duties and everyday routines. Work also includes sharing cultural differences and similarities with the staff and the children. Volunteering in the kindergarten offers a chance to improve own skills in English, to learn Finnish as well as to develop social skills and get to know Finnish culture.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer should be able to communicate in English, be motivated to work and play with children aged 1–7 years and should have good social skills.

### LOCATION

The kindergarten is located on the south-east coast of Finland in the city of Kotka, about 130 kilometres away from Helsinki. Kotka is a city of about 55 000 people. Local bus connections are rather good.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers will live in a host family so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack are served at the kindergarten during school days. Other meals are provided by the host family.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the physical environment of the workplace is not very well suitable for people with physical disabilities: wheelchair access is possible through two doors but not to all rooms because of some stairs. There is an accessible toilet in the building with a smaller sized wheelchair. The nearest bus stop is about 1 km away from the kindergarten. The staff does not have the possibility to continuously offer intensive support for the volunteer. The workplace cannot receive a volunteer with sensory disabilities.

## 5. KAINUU COLLEGE

### WORK FIELD

Folk high school

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Kainuu College (*Kainuun opisto* in Finnish) is a learning institution and adult education center that is open to all and offers many opportunities. The mission of the college is to organise general education and vocational training, provide support, inspiration and services for hobbies and provide guidance in further learning and active citizenship.

There are about 100 students in the college, and the college has some 20 employees: principals, teachers, secretaries, cleaners, youth and leisure instructors... The values of the college are pietism, Kainuu virtues, balanced and active citizenship as well as a safe culture and environment.

Website: [www.kainuunopisto.fi](http://www.kainuunopisto.fi)



### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers can (depending on their interests) e.g. study Finnish in our courses and assist in English courses – for instance in lessons that focus on speaking English or using the language in different practical situations. They also take part in daily duties, such as duties of the kitchen and office of student affairs, cleaning and working with the host/hostess of the student dormitory. In addition, they participate in planning and organising student events and happenings. When the volunteer arrives we will plan a schedule together, so that the volunteer will have a chance to participate in planning of their duties.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The language of the college is Finnish, so we wish that the volunteers would be interested in studying Finnish. To assist in English courses they need some English skills. Open mind, social skills, the ability and motivation to work in a new environment with new people as well as a positive attitude are requested!

### LOCATION

The college is situated in Mieslahti which is a village in the municipality of Paltamo. Mieslahti is located about seven kilometers east of the town center. The village has about 350 inhabitants. The nearest city Kajaani is situated some 29 km away from Mieslahti.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a dormitory near the workplace. The room is a single room, but the kitchen and washing facilities are shared with others.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The physical environment of the workplace is unfortunately not suitable for young people with physical or sensory disabilities. For instance, there are many floors in the buildings but no elevators.

## 6. KINDERGARTEN MI CASITA

### WORK FIELD

Kindergarten

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Mi Casita is a private Spanish language kindergarten. It was established in Helsinki in 1994. The children at the kindergarten are between 0–6 years of age. Mi Casita ry was founded to provide Spanish speaking daycare and to offer cultural knowledge of Spanish speaking countries for children.

The children are mainly Finnish, from Spanish/Finnish speaking families. All staff members are native Spanish speakers. The kindergarten is run by the Parental Association of Mi Casita and it is funded by the monthly fees paid by the parents, financial support from the City of Helsinki and by other means of fundraising. Mi Casita has around 40 places for children including a group of pre-school children. Currently the staff consists of eight employees.

Website: [www.micasita.fi](http://www.micasita.fi)

### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

Volunteers do kindergarten work, such as practical tasks and teaching-related duties. They help and support the other employees in handling groups of children. They play with the children and can also teach them games. They also read to the children, take them out, help them with dressing and undressing from outdoor clothes and help them with eating lunch or snacks. The volunteers take part in all activities of the kindergarten. If the kindergarten visits for example museums or other public places, the volunteer will help in taking the children there. Depending on the skills and interests of the volunteers, they can e.g. teach the children music or art, organise theater with them or instruct sports to them.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

Volunteers should be motivated to work with children and speak Spanish fluently.

### LOCATION

The kindergarten is located close to the center of the capital city of Finland, Helsinki. There are some 620 000 inhabitants in Helsinki. The city is situated in the Southern Finland. Train station is located less than 1000 meter from Kindergarten and also other public transportation are very close.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Volunteers live in a host family in the capital area so it is important to be motivated to adapt to family living.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the kindergarten cannot host a volunteer with a physical or sensory disability.



## 7. JOUTSENO FOLK HIGH SCHOOL

**WORK FIELD** Folk high school

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Joutseno folk high school (Joutsenon opisto in Finnish) is a folk high school which aims at offering high quality education and supporting the individual growth of their students. The school focuses on open university studies, language studies and art studies. Joutsenon opisto is a boarding school where the majority of students both live and study. The syllabus consists of the following programs: Open University Program, English Language Program, Teacher Training Program, Arts Program, Japanese Language Program, Intermediate Japanese studies and Finnish Language Course for Immigrants. Sustainable development is important for Joutseno folk high school. Every summer they also have the so called “Joutseno’s Art Summer courses” for eight weeks.

The folk high school has five full-time teachers, about 28 part-time teachers and 11 people in supporting services (administration, kitchen, maintenance). They have some 110–120 students per year. The students come from all over Finland.

Website: [www.joutsenonopisto.fi](http://www.joutsenonopisto.fi)

### VOLUNTEER’S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer works with the staff according to one’s own interest; in the classroom, office, library or kitchen. The volunteer has a good chance to learn Finnish and to get good experience of the Finnish school system and Finnish youth.

### VOLUNTEER’S REQUIREMENTS

The most important is the volunteer’s attitude towards new people and things. We hope that the volunteer is an open-minded and social person who gets along well with different kinds of people. We also hope that the participant is self-contained enough.

### LOCATION

Joutsenon opisto is situated in Lappeenranta, southeastern Finland. Joutseno is a part of the municipality of Lappeenranta. The population of Lappeenranta is about 72.000 and Joutseno about 9.000. The railway station is about two kilometers away from the folk high school and the bus stops are less than one kilometer away.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The volunteer lives at the Joutseno folk high school’s student dormitory house where also the students live. The folk high school can offer an own room and full-board from Mondays to Fridays, when the meals are provided at the school restaurant.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Because Joutseno folk high school’s buildings are quite old, the physical environment of the workplace unfortunately is not suitable for people with physical or sensory disabilities.



## 8. KOSKENRINNE HOME

### WORK FIELD

Old people's home

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Koskenrinne is a non-profit organisation. The association was founded in 1945 and the first elderly home built in 1955. Koskenrinne provides a large variety of care services for the elderly: it rents apartments and provides day care services, home services incl. cleaning, medical support, day and night care and terminal care. Services are individually planned

for each customer. The basis of the existence of Koskenrinne is to fulfil the special needs and requirements that are unique for each old person (incl. health, social activity, rehabilitation) and to improve residency and wellbeing of the elderly.

The volunteer works in the Koskenrinne Home (*Koskenrinteen koti* in Finnish) which is a sheltered home for the elderly. Koskenrinne has three sheltered homes in Kotka, from which the Koskenrinne Home is the biggest with 150 inhabitants and about 60 employees. The other homes are Kotka-Koti and Karhula-Koti with 60 residents each. The total amount of employees is over 100.

Website: [www.koskenrinne.fi](http://www.koskenrinne.fi)



### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer spends time with the elderly according to each one's own interests and skills. Music, singing, reading, discussing and walking are most popular activities.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The most important requirement is the volunteer's own interest to spend time with the elderly.

### LOCATION

Koskenrinne is located in Kotka in southern Finland. The bus trip to Helsinki takes two hours. Kotka is a middle-sized city with some 54 000 inhabitants. The location is by the sea, and there are beautiful parks in Kotka.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accommodation is provided by a local host family. The lunch is served at the workplace and other meals provided by the host family.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the voluntary workplaces does not have the resources to host volunteers with physical or sensory disabilities.

## 9. TAPOLA CAMPHILL VILLAGE COMMUNITY

**WORK FIELD** Work with people with special needs

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Tapola Camphill village community is a vibrant living and working community for adults with special needs. We have 49 residents and all together the same number of coworkers, families and volunteers. Tapola has eight homes, a farm and various workshops such as weavery, cheesery, garden and herbal workshops, food processing etc. In Tapola we have a rich cultural life with different festivals and activities. Tapola's aims and values are the well-being of all residents, developing a balanced community life, enabling for everyone an individual life and supporting self-determination – everyone is special and deserves acceptance, respect and love. We are also very aware of the surrounding environment and nature.

You can learn more from us at [www.tapola-camphill.fi](http://www.tapola-camphill.fi) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDILWS5kIPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDILWS5kIPE)



### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The tasks Tapola offers are assisting in care work and guiding adults with special needs in their daily life in the houses, providing residential services such as meal preparation, cleaning and evening activities and also assisting and guiding the residents in the different workshops. Preparing for the festivals and other special occasions, running a Sunday cafeteria or arranging some freetime activities for the residents is also a part of the volunteer year. The volunteer's role is to help, support and guide the residents and to be involved in the whole community in different ways. By living and working alongside with the residents the volunteer gets to experience how it is to share life with other people. To help to fit in the community Finnish lessons are provided regularly.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

The volunteer is expected to have an interest in community life and joining the common gatherings. A 1 year commitment is wished, since learning the language, getting familiar with the community life and Finnish culture may take some time. The motivation to live in a countryside community and meet everyone as an individual is important. Basic knowledge of housework such as cleaning and cooking and also taking care of other people are necessities. Tapola offers opportunities for the volunteers to be free to create something new and bring in their own skills and abilities into action in the form of e.g. music, sports, hobby groups and events.

### LOCATION

Tapola is situated in a countryside community in Niinikoski village, Southern Finland. We are 10 km away from the nearest town of Orimattila (around 16 000 inhabitants), 30 km from a bigger town of Lahti and 100 km from Helsinki. The public transportation from Tapola to Orimattila is limited, but from Orimattila the connections are good (bus, train). In addition, volunteers with driver's license have an opportunity to use the volunteer car provided by Tapola.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The volunteer lives in one of our eight houses together with residents and co-workers. Everyone has their own room, other facilities are shared. The basic necessities for living are provided. The houses are like small families, the meals are prepared and enjoyed together or cooking can be a task of a workshop. All the houses and workshops are within walking distance from each other. Ten kilometers away is also the Tapola lakeside cabin, which can be used together with the house community or if available also with friends and families.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Unfortunately, the physical environment of the workplace is not suitable and the staff does not have the resources to support volunteers with physical or sensory disabilities.

## 10. KAUNISMÄKI KINDERGARTEN, MUNICIPALITY OF MÄNTSÄLÄ

### WORK FIELD

Kindergarten

### VOLUNTARY WORKPLACE INFO

Kaunismäki kindergarten organises day care and preschool education for children. The kindergarten has about 120 children and 30 workers. Children are aged from one to six years. The kindergarten is open from 6.15 am to 18.30 pm, but the volunteer works 6–7 hours daily.

The values of the kindergarten are appreciating childhood, human growth, the rights of the child, parity, equality, the diversity of families and healthy and lasting way of life. Kaunismäki kindergarten aims at supporting children's growth and development.

Website: [www.mantsala.fi](http://www.mantsala.fi) (website of the municipality of Mäntsälä)



### VOLUNTEER'S ROLE AND TASKS

The volunteer works in pre-school groups. The task is to help the groups and play games with the kids. The volunteer gains information about the Finnish culture and language and familiarises oneself with the Finnish early childhood education and care.

### VOLUNTEER'S REQUIREMENTS

We hope that the volunteer is interested in working with children. Everyone in the work community speaks English somewhat well, but it is important to learn some Finnish during the volunteering period to be able to communicate with the kids.

### LOCATION

Mäntsälä is a small but growing municipality in the Uusimaa region, 40 minutes by train from Helsinki, the capital of Finland. There are about 21 000 inhabitants in Mäntsälä. Mäntsälä is known for its manor houses, the Mustijoki river and the Mäntälänjoki river, which flows through the original village. The train station is next to the kindergarten, and the bus station is in the center of Mäntsälä.

### ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The volunteer lives in a local host family. Kindergarten offers food for the volunteer during lunch time.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The physical environment of the workplace is suitable for young people with physical disabilities. In the kindergarten, it is easy to move around with a wheelchair and there is an accessible toilet in the building. However, the voluntary workplace is suitable only for a volunteer who is able to move around independently. Unfortunately, the workplace cannot receive a volunteer with sensory disabilities.



Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland  
Oikokatu 3, 00170 Helsinki, FINLAND  
Tel. +358-44-318 0888  
E-mail [hosting@maailmanvaihto.fi](mailto:hosting@maailmanvaihto.fi)  
(Program Coordinator Mari Takalo)  
[www.maailmanvaihto.fi](http://www.maailmanvaihto.fi)

   @maailmanvaihto

# MAAILMANVAIHTO – ICYE FINLAND WORK PROFILE 2020–21

## PREFERENCE LIST

**Please indicate in order of preference your 5 most favoured voluntary workplace types (indicate in order of preference from 1 to 5).** We try our best to place everybody to their favoured type of a workplace, but unfortunately this is not always possible. So, please be prepared to make compromises.

- Child welfare institution
- Folk high school
- Kindergarten
- Old people's home
- School / Educational institution
- Work with people with special needs
- Youth work
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be placed in (mark with X):**

- City
- Countryside
- No preferences

**Would you prefer working with (indicate in order of preference from 1 to 5):**

- Children
- Disabled
- Elderly
- Immigrants
- Socially excluded
- Youth

**Why would you prefer working in this type of voluntary workplace?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What are your expectations towards volunteer work?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Describe your skills and previous experiences which might help you in this voluntary work.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Additional information if needed:**

\_\_\_ I allow Maailmanvaihto – ICYE Finland to store the information given in this form and to share it with its voluntary workplaces. Maailmanvaihto will not share the information with other parties. In case you would like further information about the storage of the information, please contact [hosting@maailmanvaihto.fi](mailto:hosting@maailmanvaihto.fi).

Volunteer & Country\_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Work Year\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_