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Work Profile 2020 – 21



Dear future KERIC volunteer

This is the 'KERIC Work Profile', which contains details of our projects in Slovakia. These projects have received international volunteers in the past. We continue to develop new projects throughout the year and so we may also recommend a new project to you if we think it matches your interests.

KERIC is

- non-profit non-governmental organisation
- founded in 2003
- working mainly with children and youth aged 4-30 as well as adults from the Kysuce region
- activities with an extra added international dimension
- our projects involve some sort of education and social/care work
- our projects include things like working in education in the primary and secondary schools, lead conversation courses in foreign languages for children and young people, caring for elderly people in a senior houses or training to become an activity leader at an summer camps for the children
- all these projects involve working directly with people
- working hours for each project are explained in the profiles of each project

ACCOMMODATION

The best sentence to describe this experience in general is "Living together", you share the flat with people from different parts of the world so as you can imagine it is a "life experience" with everything that this could mean... good and bad moments...

It helps to increase your tolerance and learning from each other. Something important to try to understand another's person view is listening, also speaking honestly about how you feel in relation with some situation or episode can help "to clear the water" and start again from a better point. Respect other people's space, objects, religion and habits or at least try and you will be happy to live together during your EVS.

What to bring:

- Towels
- Sheets are provided by KERIC, but if you prefer your own ones, bring them
- Sleeping bag - if you have enough space in your suitcase is very convenient to have one for your traveling and summer camps
- Mobile phone
- There is wireless internet connection in KERIC, so if you are an internet freak, bring your notebook
- Materials and items you can use for presentation of your country or region
- Materials you can use in language classes (teaching English or your own language)

USEFUL WEBSITES

- KERIC website www.keric.sk
- for the transport: www.cp.sk (transport) – also available in ENGLISH

Location



Our organisation is based in the centre of Čadca, a small town with a population of about 30,000 inhabitants. Čadca is situated in the north of Slovakia, near the border with the Czech Republic and Poland. Čadca is the main town of a region called Kysuce, which is known for its beautiful countryside, with lovely mountains and excellent opportunities for skiing, hiking, sailing and mountain bike trips. The climate is mild but with cold winters and a lot of snow. The summers are usually hot with a lot of sunshine.

The centre of the town is organised in such a way that all important facilities are within walking distance. There is a good train connection with other bigger towns as well as with Poland and the Czech Republic.

NAME OF PROJECT 1	TEACHING LANGUAGES ADULTS and CHILDREN
LOCATION	Čadca and region Kysuce
COUNTRY	Slovakia
THEME OR TYPE OF PROJECT	education
AIMS OF THE PROJECT	<p>The aim is to motivate children to speak English, experience the culture of the volunteer and have fun while speaking English.</p> <p>The aim of the cooperation is to add an international dimension to the classes and to the school</p>
PROJECT'S ACTIVITIES	<p>Communication English courses for children: (2 – 6 hours a week)</p> <p>Communication courses for teenagers/adults in own language of the volunteer: (2 – 6 hours a week)</p> <p>Cooperation with local elementary schools: (6 to 8 hours a week)</p> <p>Office work (2 to 6 hours a week)</p> <p>Regular KERIC team meetings and mentor meetings (2 hours a week)</p> <p>Non-teaching activities - workshops, sports and creative activities (1 to 8 hours a week)</p> <p>Preparation for classes (4 – 12 hours a week)</p>
COMMUNITY CONTEXT	<p>Our organisation is based in the centre of Čadca, a small town with a population of about 30,000 inhabitants. Čadca is situated in the north of Slovakia, near the border with the Czech Republic and Poland. Čadca is the main town of a region called Kysuce, which is known for its beautiful countryside, with lovely mountains and excellent opportunities for skiing, hiking, sailing and mountain bikes trips. The climate is mild but with cold winters and a lot of snow. The summers are usually hot with a lot of sunshine.</p> <p>The centre of the town is organised in such a way that all important facilities are within walking distance. There is a good train connection with other bigger towns as well as with Poland and the Czech Republic.</p> <p>Even though the local community is developing really fast, the region is still one of the less economically developed regions in Slovakia, with a high unemployment rate and lower standard of living than in the rest of the country. Although the region Kysuce is on a crossroads between three countries – Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic, the people are only slowly becoming open to foreigners and a lot of them have prejudice against the unknown. These feelings often come from the absence of opportunities to meet foreigners or people of other races, religions etc. Therefore, the need to raise the European awareness and fight against prejudice and xenophobia is a very important part of our EVS project.</p>

VOLUNTEER'S TASKS

Communication English courses for children: (2 – 6 hours a week)

The aim of the courses is to motivate children to speak English, experience the culture of the volunteer and have fun while speaking English. The volunteers does not have to be "perfect" at English. His/her role in the lessons is to be the motivation for the kids to try to speak a foreign language. The age of the children is generally 7 to 14. We also have one class of children aged 5-7. The lessons are prepared and run together with a young Slovak teacher.

Communication courses for teenagers/adults in own language of the volunteer: (2 – 6 hours a week)

The aim of the courses is to let the students experience the culture, country and the language of the volunteer. The volunteer uses methods of non-formal education, can make cultural presentations and organise the lessons in a very informal way. The classes are prepared with the support of KERIC staff, but run independently.

Cooperation with local elementary schools: (6 to 8 hours a week)

The volunteer cooperates with one or two schools in Cadca or nearby villages. The aim of the cooperation is to add an international dimension to the classes and to the school as such. The volunteer helps different teachers in the school during their lessons, using non-formal education. It can be language lessons but can also be sports, art, IT, science, math, etc. The volunteers does games, creative activities with the students or supports the teacher anyway needed. In some classes, the volunteer might help weaker students or students with disabilities. The volunteer is motivated to get involved in life of the school as such – to take part in school trips, special events of the school, sports tournaments, etc.

Office work (2 to 6 hours a week)

Once a week, the volunteer helps in running the KERIC office, and organisation as such. This task involves every day office tasks, paper work, preparing leaflets about our activities, updating the KERIC website and facebook, cleaning and taking care of the facilities in KERIC, or other little jobs depending on the needs of the organisation

Regular KERIC team meetings and mentor meetings (2 hours a week)

Meetings to evaluate activities, plan the next steps and to discuss anything important for a smooth running of the EVS project.

Non-teaching activities - workshops, sports and creative activities (1 to 8 hours a week)

For the first weeks, the volunteer will be actively involved mainly in teaching. Later on during the project, the volunteer might want to balance the education activities and get involved in creative, sport or social work activities. The ideas of the activities and schedule will be discussed with each volunteer individually, support will be offered by KERIC to develop these activities. Volunteer's initiative is required in case of these activities. The volunteers can also take part in language course upon their own choice.

Preparation for classes (4 – 12 hours a week)

The volunteer will prepare his/her activities alone or with the methodological and logistical support of the KERIC staff. Equipment, reference books and special training are provided by KERIC as well as the local schools, that the volunteer cooperates with.