

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

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| Name of the programme | European Voluntary Service (EVS): long term and short term |
| Programme's objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing your own skills through the practical experience of volunteering abroad - Developing the ability to interact with people of different languages and cultures - Spreading tolerance among young people of the European Union - Promoting active citizenship - Supporting the development of local communities - Encouraging the learning of another language |
| Target group | <p>Job seekers</p> <p>Young people with little qualifications and/or language skills.</p> <p>Graduates or students who want to take a gap year.</p> <p>Young people who want to change their professional orientation.</p> <p>People who want to actively be involve in the community work.</p> |
| Limit of age | 17 – 30 inclusively |
| Duration | <p>Short term: 2 weeks to 2 months (58 days).</p> <p>Long term: 2 months to 12 months.</p> |
| Where | <p>European Union Programme countries.</p> <p>Countries neighbouring EU.</p> |
| Accreditation (Y/N) | Yes |
| Activities covered by the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic engagement • Culture and creativity • Development co-operation • Environment • Inclusion of disadvantaged • ITCs (Information, Technology, Communication) and media literacy • Non-formal education programmes • Social care • Youth information and policies • Young people's personal and socio-educational development |
| Grant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport – unit grant • Organisational support (Accommodation, Food) • Linguistic support • Individual support (Pocket money) • Insurance |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional costs – Visa, vaccines, reinforced mentorship (when applicable) • Special needs (when applicable) |
| <p>Training</p> | <p>Pre-departure: 2 - 3 days, shortly before the departure provided by the National Agency/ sending organisation (<i>all the departures are made the first week of the months, the training should take place one week before</i>)</p> <p>Topics: EVS life cycle, expectations and objectives, logistic and administrative matters, rights and responsibilities</p> <p>On-arrival: in the receiving country, soon after the volunteers' arrival, from 5 up to 14 days, provided by the National Agencies and European network</p> <p>Topics: intercultural learning, presentation of the host country, concept of volunteering, risk prevention.</p> <p>Mid-term meeting (for long term EVS only): in the host country, up to 3 days. Topics: project evaluation, activities, support, feedback, planning the next activities.</p> <p>Final evaluation/follow-up: in the sending country, up to a week (organised by the National Agency or the sending organisation). Topics: evaluation, perspectives after their mobility, feedback, dissemination of the project.</p> |

Roles and responsibilities of organizations taking part to an EVS project

An EVS project includes three main pylons: coordinating, sending and receiving organizations.

It is very often that the coordinating organisation is the same as the hosting or sending organisation on one project. It is also possible that an organisation can be the coordinating, sending and receiving organisation on the same project or different projects.

| COORDINATING ORGANISATION | SENDING ORGANISATION | RECEIVING ORGANISATION |
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| <p>- submits the application and bears the financial and administrative responsibility for the entire project towards the National Agency or the Executive Agency;</p> <p>- coordinates the project in cooperation with all sending and receiving organisations;</p> <p>- distributes the EVS grant between all sending and receiving organisations;</p> <p>- ensures that the volunteer(s) receive(s) the EVS Info Kit and attend(s) the full EVS Training and Evaluation Cycle;</p> <p>- provides support to the volunteer(s) it places in the receiving organisation(s);</p> <p>- carries out all or some of the administrative tasks of the sending or receiving organisation(s) involved in the project;</p> <p>- ensures, with the sending and receiving organisations, that each volunteer is in possession of the European Health Insurance Card (if applicable) and is covered by the obligatory EVS Insurance plan foreseen in the Erasmus+ Programme;</p> <p>- arranges, with the sending and receiving organisations, a visa for the volunteer(s) who</p> | <p>Preparation</p> <p>- helps the volunteer(s) to find and contact a receiving organisation;</p> <p>- provides adequate preparation for the volunteer(s) before departure, according to the individual needs and learning opportunities of the volunteer(s) and in line with the Volunteer Training Guidelines and Minimum Quality Standards of the European Commission;</p> <p>- ensures, in cooperation with the receiving organisation, that the volunteer receives support in carrying out language preparation (if applicable, support to carry out the online language course and assessments provided by the Commission);</p> <p>- ensures the participation of the volunteer(s) in the pre-departure session, if organised by the National Agency or SALTO.</p> <p>Contact during the voluntary activity</p> <p>- keeps in contact with the volunteer(s) and with the receiving organisation(s) during the project.</p> <p>Upon volunteer's return</p> <p>- provides support to volunteer(s) to help reintegrate them into their home community;</p> | <p>Mentor</p> <p>- identifies a mentor who is responsible for providing to the volunteer(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal support, • support to carry out the online language course and assessments provided by the Commission (if applicable) • support to carry out a self-reflection on the learning outcomes of the EVS activity (through the use of Youthpass). <p>Task-related support</p> <p>- offers supervision and guidance to the volunteer(s) through experienced staff.</p> <p>Personal support</p> <p>- provides personal support and support during the learning/Youthpass process to volunteer(s);</p> <p>- gives the volunteer(s) the opportunity to integrate into the local community, to meet other young people, to socialise, to participate in leisure activities, etc.;</p> <p>- encourages contact with other EVS volunteers whenever possible.</p> <p>EVS training and evaluation cycle and language support</p> <p>- ensures the participation of the volunteer(s) in the on-arrival training and mid-term evaluation organised by the NA or SALTO;</p> <p>- arranges language learning opportunities and support to volunteers undertaking language courses.</p> |

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| <p>needs it. The National/Executive Agencies can issue visa support letters, if needed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides support for the learning/Youthpass process. Completes, with the sending and receiving organisations and the volunteer, and issues, a Youthpass Certificate for those volunteers who want to receive it at the end of their EVS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gives volunteers the opportunity to exchange and share experiences and learning outcomes; - encourages the involvement of the volunteer(s) in dissemination and exploitation of results and learning outcomes; - provides guidance regarding further education, training or employment opportunities; - ensures the participation of the volunteers in the annual EVS event organised by the National Agency in their country. | <p>Accommodation and food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing suitable accommodation and meals (or a food allowance, covering also the holiday period) to the volunteer(s). <p>Local transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensures that means of local transport are available for the volunteer(s). <p>Allowance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gives the due allowance to the volunteer(s) on a weekly or monthly basis. |
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Principles of EVS

- ensuring universal accessibility to EVS: receiving organisations cannot specify that volunteer(s) should be of a specific ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion, etc.; neither can they require qualifications or a certain educational level in order to select the volunteer(s);
- offering to the volunteer(s) the opportunity to carry out a well-defined set of tasks, allowing some of the volunteer's ideas, creativity and experience to be integrated;
- identifying clear learning opportunities for the volunteer(s).

Useful information about EVS :

- Consult the **EVS Info Kit**: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/evs-charter-2014_en.pdf

- **EVS accreditation:**

The organisations wanting to work on EVS projects have to be an EVS Accredited Centre. It means that they have to complete in a special application form created by the Programme. The application can be found and downloaded on each National Agency (NA) webpage. Once the form is submitted to the NA, it can take up to six weeks for an answer to be received. Delegates from the NA may visit the applying organisation or be contacted by telephone interview.

- **The maximum length of an EVS project is 12 months.**

These are cumulative for people doing short term followed by a long term. It means that somebody who made a one month EVS project can still do 11 months of EVS on a long term project.

Important: The participant cannot do two EVS projects. It is cumulative only Short term + Long term!

A long term beneficiary cannot take part in a short term EVS. Which means that a persons who completed a three month EVS cannot apply for another EVS project.

One person can only apply for one of the following: Short Term / Long Term / Short and Long Term.

- **The EVS database** – https://europa.eu/youth/evs_database - is a tool created by the European Commission and include all the EVS accredited organisations.

You can use it to select your future partners. Please check the IT skills section to see how to use.