



PROVIDING AN ON-ARRIVAL TRAINING TO SHORT-TERM EVS VOLUNTEER(S) Basic info-kit

To the attention of EVS organizations hosting short-term EVS volunteers

According to the rules of Erasmus+, for the EVS project of 2 months or shorter, you as a hosting organization have to organize the On-arrival training for your newly arrived volunteers. You can organize it according to your capacities (you can contact other EVS accredited organizations close to you and ask them for some help), but basically with this training you need to give them necessary information and support so that they can start doing their EVS projects.

Objectives of the training

The main objective of the on-arrival training is to introduce the volunteers to the host country, preparing them for the service period and the EVS experience. On-arrival training helps the volunteers adapt to cultural and personal challenges. It allows volunteers to get to know each other and to build a network. Volunteers should also receive guidance on conflict prevention and crisis management.

At the same time, this training equips the volunteers with communication skills, including aspects of intercultural learning. It helps them become aware that cultural differences require different models of behaviour. The training is also a time for the volunteers to plan the coming months and to develop their own personal goals for their period of service, in line with the non-formal learning philosophy of EVS.

If volunteers have already spent time in their Receiving Organisation, they exchange their first experiences and clarify questions related to their project.

Framework of the training

Conditions and training practices will vary from country to country, but the following indicators describe the most common operational framework for on-arrival training:

- ☑ Timing: within 4 weeks after the arrival of the volunteer;
- ☑ Duration: on average 7 working days;
- ☑ Venue: residential.

For the training to be of maximum benefit it should take place shortly after the arrival of the volunteer. **For volunteers doing less than 2 months' service, the Receiving or Coordinating Organisation is to organise training in line with these minimum quality standards, although possibly with a shorter duration.**

Expected achievements of the training

On-arrival training will vary according to national conditions, realities and training practices. Nevertheless, it should ensure that each volunteer:

1. is aware of and has the chance to discuss questions about visas, residence permits, her/his legal status as a volunteer, insurance, the EVS Agreement and 'What to expect from EVS';
2. knows the insurance and crisis management systems (AXA documentation and procedures);

3. knows what support is available from the National Agency, SALTO and the Youth Helpdesk of the Executive Agency;
4. has received information on the host country's history, political and social situation, on key aspects of the host culture and on how to get involved in the local community;
5. is aware of how to deal with cultural differences and with conflicts;
6. is familiar with the role of each partner (SO, RO, CO, volunteer) in the project and knows her/his own rights and responsibilities;
7. has the chance to meet and network with other EVS volunteers;
8. receives basic information about the European Union and its policies and programmes in the field of youth;
9. learns about the objectives and principles of EVS and the Erasmus+ Programme;
10. knows the meaning of being an EVS volunteer;
11. has identified clear goals and ideas for his/her voluntary service (and future achievements which could be included in the Youthpass).
12. The training should also contain modules for language learning in the host country language or the language used in the context of the project if such language training is not offered through the Commission online service for language support or through grants for language learning.

Sources: MOVIT archives; Web page of SALTO SEE; EVS training and evaluation cycle guidelines and minimum quality standards; Erasmus+ Programme, January 2014