

Partner Information GRAIN&SENS

ERASMUS+ mobility youth workers

OID

E10271160

Type of organisation

Association

Please briefly present your organisation. (max. 5000 characters)

Grain&Sens is an eco-initiative that was created in 2018 with the ambition of creating a multicultural and bilingual project where people can share spaces, equipment, land and knowledge, aiming at the preservation of natural resources. The project consists of 11 adults and 4 children sharing their passion for the environment and their openness to the world.

Grain&Sens is based in a domain: The Lavenant estate, located at an altitude of 750m. It is cradled in lush greenery, surrounded by 20 hectares of forest and prairies. There are independent spaces per family / inhabitant, and communal spaces. A beautiful nature surrounds the inhabitants who have adopted a lifestyle with low environmental impact.

The main activities and training courses happening on site, focus on education for sustainable development. The training courses bring people together from France and Europe to share knowledge and co-create together.

**What are the activities and experience of the partner organisation in youth work?
Please provide information on your organisation's / group's regular youth work activities.**

The association Grain&Sens has been organising Immersion camps in English for children and youth since the last 4 years. The camps happen in the summer, in tents with full immersion in nature, for 2 age groups (8-11 years old and 11-16 years old).

We also host young adult groups (13-30 years old) in ecological lodges all year round. The participants follow theoretical and practical courses around the ecological transition. They will concretely learn by doing, for example, participate in growing food (gardens, wheat fields and bakery with the bakers) as Grain&Sens has various sustainable ways to produce food (organic vegetable gardens, bread making from producing our own cereals)

Recently, the association is in the process of creating a "Tiers Lieu" (social environments that come after home and work), in order to diversify our cultural activities, increase the local connections with various actors, such as artisans, local authorities, local artists and other educational organisations focusing on sustainable development. We also aim at increasing employability by hiring young people locally to help with maintenance, repairs and land management on site. We have at heart to participate in our local resilience and encourage active Citizenship locally.

Grain&Sens hosts, all year round volunteers to learn and work with us : Woofers, local volunteers and french youth exchange (Service Civique) where they can develop their ecological awareness, social and community building skills as well as professional skills. Typically, the local young volunteers and woofers help with our organic food growing and from September onward, we will hire a couple of Service Civique people to help with administrative work, events management, help with the language association The Wooden House and the local Forest School.

English immersion Summer Eco-camps for children (8-16):

4 day training course organised by the Association The Wooden House - During these camps, the people of the community are the teachers and nature is our classroom. Although we have staff who are trained and experienced in teaching, we believe that we all have something to learn from each other. This is why we call our teachers, 'camp organizers'.

Learning and practicing English takes place informally and naturally in complete immersion within the English-speaking community where participants can live and learn together in an environment without performance expectations. Children from 8 to 16 years old are nourished by the language immersion as well as the nature immersion where they can develop their ecological awareness.

T-camp for young adult (18-30):

4 day training course - The training was designed by the Transition Campus and the Colibris in 2018. The T-Camp is designed for Masters level students from all backgrounds, as well as young professionals who already have a few years of experience.

The T-Camp will provide students with a knowledge, both theoretical and practical, around ecological transition (Permaculture, sociology and transition policy, Territory dynamics), in order to help them launch their own entrepreneurial or associative project. The training is validated by a certificate issued by the Colibris, the Oasis Cooperative and the "Campus de la Transition".

Camps Éclaireurs de la nature (EDLN) for children (8-16):

10 day training course - The aim of the camp is to contribute to the education of children and young people and to their engagement in social life. The camps follow the principles and methods of Scouting. It strives to include its educational action and all of its activities in a vision of eco-citizenship and respect of the environment

Open to all, regardless of participants origin or belief, the EDLN movement responds to the youth's need for comprehensive education, wisdom and non-violence, empowering every young person to flourish and become a responsible adult in society.

Training course BAFA-BAFD - Brevet d'Aptitude aux Fonctions d'Animateur for young adults (18-30)

7-day training course organised by the EDLN, which allows participants to deepen their skills in animation. The course is designed according to the scout method. The trainees are invited to live in a team, to learn through play and to discover life in immersion with nature and camping.

Please give information on the key staff/persons involved in this application and on the competences and previous experience that they will bring to the project.

Romain Guilbaud (French), bilingual, agroecology trainer.

Victoria Widener (American / German), Ecology facilitator, on-site immersion camps facilitator.

Ed Carr (English), engineer, photographer, carpenter.

Astrid Charra (French, 42 years old), on-site immersion camps facilitator.

Joël Chashanovski (Belgian, 30 years old) and Joanna (Belgian, 29 years old), both teachers, in the process of creating a forest school for children.

Margherita Bertoli (Italian, 34 years old) and Raphaël Mena (French, 31 years old), both actors, offer theater lessons in villages for children. They also create shows on environmental and societal themes for young people.

Igor Wilson (Belgian, 30), Chef for the training courses.

Please How can you help disseminate the project results? What are your communication channels (print or email newsletters, which kind of social media, website, events, media contacts)?

(Comment: everything that is not the standard of website, own social media page, newsletter is especially relevant)

- Quarterly newsletters reaching 700 people
- Mailing lists reaching over 700 people
- Website with about xxxx visits per month
- Facebook with 1,895 followers

Has the organisation participated in a European Union granted project in the 3 years preceding this application?

Not yet, this is our first application

Legal Representative 1

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