

Description of the organization:

The Institute for Environmental Policy (IEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit environmental organization founded in November 2008. IEP's general objective is to enhance environmental sustainability in Albania through the implementation of projects aimed to raise awareness among the local population and to formulate environmentally friendly policies in collaboration with local and national authorities.

IEP was founded by a group of young experts committed to bringing about positive change after years of environmental degradation and negligence in Albania. IEP members are highly motivated and have the required experience and education to influence the Albanian society towards a sound environmental protection and sustainable living. In its activities, IEP frequently cooperates with other NOGs, local and international experts and volunteers from the local youth.

IEP has implemented various projects and activities and has experience in awareness raising, trainings, seminars, campaigns and working with youth; this is done connecting different spheres of the Albanian society with a particular attention at the sustainability of activities and processes.

IEP has also implemented several public actions on pollution and environmental sustainability with the help of young volunteers in the Tirana area and other regions of Albania and is now considered a leading NGO in Albania in supporting the development of sustainable lifestyles and green economy. IEP was a partner organization with Ethical Links during the "Developing green skills and behaviors" Youth Exchange, organized in Estonia in June 2013. IEP is currently working with local and international young volunteers in IEP, (currently there are two EVS volunteers from Italy, project 2014-3-IT03-KA105-005030), training them on how to manage projects, teaching them environmental management, and is also helping them in learning new foreign languages (in the case of foreign volunteers, the staff of IEP is teaching them Albanian).

IEP projects are primarily concentrated on (but not limited to) the following areas:

- Climate change
- Sustainable living
- Ecosystems and people
- Water management
- Renewable energy
- Waste and recycling
- Youth and environment

Website: www.iep-al.org



Project title: European youth for a more sustainable future

The project consists in helping IEP in its daily activities and its projects on environment, climate change and raising of environmental awareness, and in the motivation of young people to become more active citizens in the field of environment and sustainability. IEP had a variety of topics where its projects are mostly concentrated, ranging from water management to youth and environment, from purely scientific to raising awareness of youth, so volunteers are expected to love different environmental topics.

1. IEP's activities and projects have an environmental topic, so it is expected that the EVS volunteers will help and assist in all stages of the activities and projects, from inception to implementation. They will bring along their previous experiences and learn by engaging in IEP's activities, assist in implementing our projects, and are expected to feel free to propose and initiate their own initiatives and projects with the assistance of IEP's staff.
2. Special emphasis in their work will be the development of Youth and Environment topic, through developing environmental projects for youth (youth exchanges, training, seminars, camping, and excursions) and connecting them with Erasmus+ program or other programs where we can get funding for the implementation of the projects.
3. Help in adding content and managing IEP's website and social networks accounts - help in the preparation of information for the website, writing short descriptions of their activities, describing their EVS experience-life and work in IEP and Albania, researching on environmental issues in Albania and in the world, and bringing environmental news from their own countries.
4. Translate news related to environment from English (and Albanian) if possible, into Spanish and Catalan, in order to promote Albania and connect IEP with Spanish and Catalan NGOs and activities.
5. Help in organizing fairs and public activities related to environment. We encourage them to come up with their own ideas. Together with the people from IEP, they could help to organize an international meeting of young people and be involved in a wide range of activities. At the same time, this event also gives the volunteer the chance to establish contact with a great variety of youth.
6. Apart from help by the above mentioned programs, the volunteers will have a chance to get involved also in other projects of IEP. The volunteers could help by organizing conferences, seminars, discussions, simulation games, thematic evenings, campaigns, trainings, etc. Recognizing their potential we also invite volunteers to help us establish new contacts in their home countries or regions with whom IEP could develop future initiatives.
5. The volunteers will be encouraged to come up with their own ideas and make their own projects during their stay in Albania. IEP staff will provide support through all stages of the process. Volunteers are encouraged also to contribute with suggestions on how to make the participation of youth and volunteers in IEP's projects more successful.

Thanks to participation in our projects the young people will have the chance to learn many new things, develop new skills and competencies.

Some of them include:

Greater understanding and appreciation for Albanian culture, as volunteers will have formal and non-formal opportunities to learn about specific elements of the culture during the training after the arrival, participating in office meetings, meetings with local partners, participation in planning activities and implementation of projects with local partners and in local communities all over Albania.

Understanding and working knowledge of the Albanian language. Besides regular lessons, daily practice with all staff members and, most importantly, immersion in the Albanian culture, will enable the volunteers to gain proficiency in the Albanian language.

Project design and management skills through implementation of different projects, where they will learn how to plan a project, design, write, organize and plan a project. These skills can be of great value for volunteers, especially those who will pursue a future career within the civil society sector.

Working in an environment with another culture will help them see their culture from a different perspective and help them learn how to work into another European culture.

Working hours:

Volunteers should expect to have office-based work and outdoors work according to the needs and projects that the organization implements. Working hours will be from 9:00-16:00, with lunch break from 12:00-14:00. The volunteer has to complete the 35h per week. During the first weeks a schedule will be given but after the volunteer can chose the activities he likes the most or plan his own schedule.

The office is located in Rruga Mine Peza, Vila nr. 4. Tirana, very close to the center, 5 minutes on foot.

Volunteers are expected to be involved in IEP's activities in Tirana and in other parts of Albania and be ready to travel around Albania.

Location of the office:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/41%C2%B019'50.2%22N+19%C2%B048'49.0%22E/@41.3306024,19.8128511,199m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x0>

EVS volunteers will bring their experiences with them, their energy and passion in working for the good of the whole planet, and learn new skills, languages, cultures, dimensions and ideas while doing something that benefits the whole of humanity.

Albanian language course: The EVS volunteers will have a 3-hour language course twice a week, for a period of 2 months, aiming an enabling the volunteers to have an A2 level of Albanian.

Accommodation:the two volunteers will be accommodated in a two-room apartment, which is located very close to the IEP's office, around 200-300 m.

Location of the apartment:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/41%C2%B019'53.1%22N+19%C2%B048'50.3%22E/@41.3314271,19.8133758,159m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x0>

Period of volunteering:

1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017 (12 months)

Profile of the volunteers:

EVS volunteers for this project are expected to be young people of 20-30 years old, preferably Catalans but also Spanish in general. They should be willing to participate in activities of non-formal learning, be able to do teamwork, be able work independently, and love topics related to environment in general.

The participants will be youth who need to learn in a non-formal ways and get skills by being involved in activities, projects, training, seminars, and other non-formal activities that NGOs implement during the day. Besides these skills, they should be willing and looking forward to get a valuable experience by participating in activities in a multicultural environment, get new language skills, and offer their experience and skills in helping the receiving NGO.

The following are required from Volunteers:

- Good level of English (knowledge of any other language is an asset);
- Ability to adapt to and work in multicultural environments;
- Willingness to bring their previous experience in working with environmental projects;
- Flexibility and autonomy;
- Team-work orientation and problem-solving skills;
- Spirit of initiative, willingness to learn and deal with new challenges;
- Capacity and experience in organizing activities and events;
- Active and communicative attitude;
- Interest in the project's objectives;
- Interest in the EU Action and Youth Programmes.

Candidates should send their Motivation Letter and CV at:

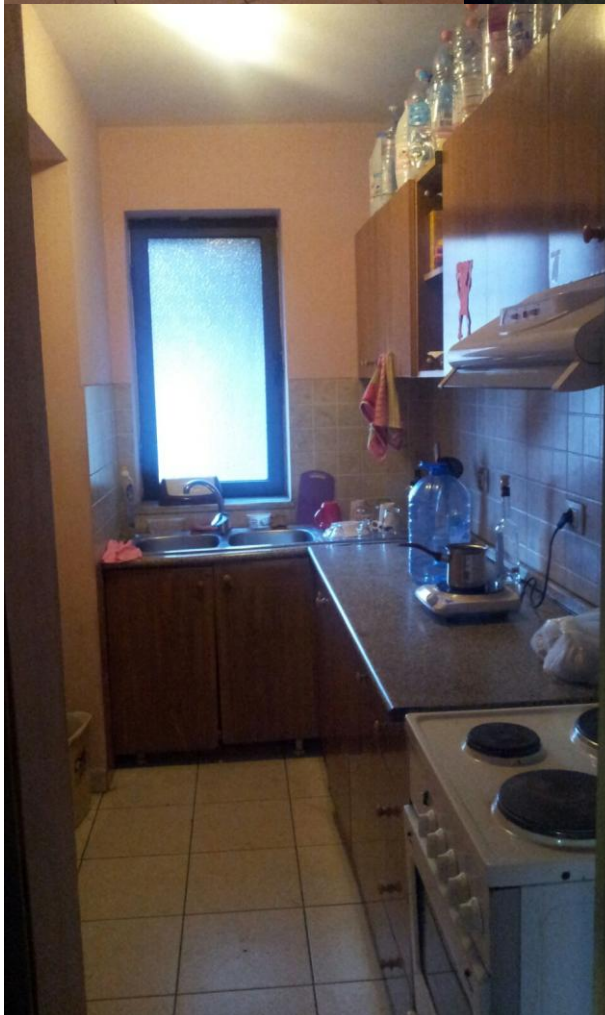
iep@iep-al.org

and

sveterresebre@hotmail.com

Picture from the apartment:





Tirana:

The population of the city proper at the 2015 census was 610,070 and the municipality of Tirana, created in 2015, has a total population of 800,986 (2015 census).

The Municipality of Tirana is located at (41.33°N, 19.82°E) in Tirana County, about 32 kilometers (20 mi) inland. Tirana's average altitude is 110 meters above sea level and its highest point measures 1,828 m at Mali me Gropa. The city is mostly surrounded by hills, with Dajti Mountain on the east and a slight valley opening on the north-west overlooking the Adriatic Sea in the distance.

The city has four artificial lakes: the Tirana Artificial Lake around which was built the Big Park, Paskuqani Lake, Farka Lake, Tufina Lake, and other smaller lakes or reservoirs.

Tirana is on the same parallel as Naples, Madrid, Istanbul, and New York, and on the same meridian as Budapest and Kraków.

The present Tirana municipality was formed at the 2015 local government reform by the merger of the former municipalities Baldushk, Bërzhitë, Dajt, Farkë, Kashar, Krrabë, Ndroq, Petrelë, Pezë, Shëngjergj, Tirana, Vaqarr, Zall-Bastar and Zall-Herr, that became municipal units.

Tourists usually find Tirana a beautiful and charming city, where cosmopolitan and small town feelings are intertwined with a lively night life. However, Tirana suffers from pollution problems mainly due to the rapid increase in cars in the city and continuous construction.

Today the situation has dramatically improved regarding power outages. Tirana is undergoing a major renovation from its communist days. Many of the ugly dull buildings have been repainted, but a lot of work still needs to be done. English is rapidly gaining steam as the second language of the city with the youth but many older residents also speak Italian.

Albanians are very hospitable towards foreigners, despite media frequently portraying them as thieves and mobsters. Tirana itself is very approachable if you're the adventurous type - crime is rare, if ever directed towards foreigners and the costs are very low by regional standards. The worst experience you may have is with erratic driving style of Albanians.

The main business and entertainment area (not by coincidence) has become "The Block" (Blloku) which is the area where in the past, the communist leaders used to live under strict protection. Locals prefer to hang out at the many cafes and main parks. Tirana is a youthful and lively town resonating constant energy. A popular retreat is by cable car to Mount Dajti where one can get a panoramic view of the city from above.

Tirana has a humid subtropical climate with hot and moderately dry/humid summers and cool and wet winters.



Main square in Tirana, around 400 m far from the office



Main boulevard North-South in Tirana