Youth centre Kotlovnica Kamnik

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Ready and able?

**Project name**: Ready and able?

**Duration**: 1. August 2016 – 31. May 2017

**Total no. of volunteers:** 4

**Applicable country of partners:** Programme countries

**Accommodations**: Private rooms with shared (with other volunteers) kitchen, bathroom and living room

**Funds for volunteers**: travel cost reimbursement (according to official standards of EC), food money (150€/month), pocket money (85€/month)

**Profile of participants:** It is preferable that they have volunteered before (not necessarily with regard to disabled youth), but it is not a requirement.

**Short description of the project:**

The main topic of the project is work with disabled youth. Through their work in the Centre for youth with moving disabilities (which will open in September) the volunteers will be contributing to their everyday lives and also get to know their problems and struggles. They will use the knowledge gained to improve our own youth centre to make it friendlier for the target group.

The second part of the project will be helping in the youth centre Kotlovnica – help with day-to-day activities and also on our five festivals.

**Hosting organisation and country:**

The youth centre Kotlovnica is a place dedicated to develop the untapped potential of young people. We host activities and events on many topics, but mainly focus on culture, entertainment and entrepreneurship. We try to give youngsters chances to develop their untapped potential by giving leading them on their way and give them the technical capabilities and share knowledge, experience and connections with them. We organise concerts, theatre plays, poetry nights and other events along with five festivals throughout the year (link for the biggest one is below). Our other unit is a co-working space for young entrepreneurs where they develop their business ideas.

In the past two years we had the Gunpowder initiative in the EVS programme - two projects which lasted from 1st of August until 30th May (the second one is still on-going). The projects were revolving around industrial heritage - the volunteers were documenting a derelict gunpowder factory, making documentary films about it and making models of it. Apart from that they helped with the day-to-day going on in the youth centre. On both of these projects we hosted four volunteers.

Slovenia great opportunity for young adventurers and travellers not only for our own nature and culture, but, a small country on the crossroads of southern, central and Eastern Europe offers a also the fact that the borders to Italy, Austria, Hungary or Croatia are never more than an hour’s drive away.

**The project:**

The EVS project will take pl ace from 1. August 2016 to 30. May 2017. It will host 4 youngsters, ages 18 to 29 (max 2 from one country). The central theme will be community building and helping the disabled.

The project will go in two main directions: first one will be help in the youth centre in day-to-day activities (help with workshops, tending the bar, help with venue preparation) as well as help on the five festivals that we produce. Here they will also be able to attend different workshops, which include, but are not limited to: video production, music production, stage lights and stage sound, theatre classes, improvisational theatre, design, crafts, painting. As members of our team they will gradually, as they become accustomed to the environment, be able to influence our programme through suggestions and also with their own events/projects. Other affiliated organisations (cultural, youth council, student club, ...) will also give them an opportunity for them to expand their horizons and to include themselves in the local community. This part may also include some work on the industrial heritage of our town.

     In the second part they will be helping in a newly formed daily centre for disabled youth. Our town is the location of the biggest primary and high school for disabled youth, but there is a problem as when they finish their studies they are often less engaged in the community. A group of parents with disabled children is in the process of opening a daily centre for them so they have a place to go and to socialise. To this end the volunteers will spend one or two days ao the week there, helping the centre in any way possible: help with renovations, organize workshops, help with administrative chores or with PR and advertising or simply spend time with the youth in the centre. This help will be much needed and appreciated, but it will not be the sole aim of this part of the project. The volunteers will also be there on a "scouting" mission - they will gather not only their own experience, but also the experiences of the disabled youth and share this knowledge with our youth centre, where together we will try to make it friendlier for disabled people, both in accessibility and content. The project will culminate in a grand finale, an activity which is not yet determined, as we want it to grow with the volunteers. This can include anything (as long as it centres on disabled youth) from making a film or documentary, making a crowd-funding campaign, making a new event/festival (or make the existing ones more disability-friendly, making a booklet, starting an initiative regarding a problem in the local community, ...

    The volunteers will, through their work get to know the going-ons of at least three NGOs working on different field of youth work. Apart from their help they will gain competences, such as teamwork, interaction with others, community building, ... They will also get to know how to build a website, produce videos, attain basic design techniques and if they want also the techniques of stage lights, sound and music production.

**Useful links:**

Youth centre FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/kotlovnica/> (sorry, but it's in Slovenian language)

Entrepreneurial unit FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/coworkingkamnik/?fref=ts> (also, only Slovenian)

Our biggest festival Kamfest's gallery: <http://www.kamfest.org/kamfest-2015/slo/galerija>

Our municipality: <http://kamnik-tourism.si/index.php/home/>