



<b>Name</b>	Viaje a la Sostenibilidad S.COOP. Pequeña
<b>Acronym</b>	VALS
<b>Address</b>	C/ Las Armas, 76, Local 6, Zaragoza, 50003, Spain
<b>PIC</b>	947592516
<b>OID</b>	E10184365
<b>Type of organization</b>	Social enterprise
<b>ESC Quality Label for Lead organization</b>	2023-1-ES02-ESC50-QLA-000124653
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://viajealasostenibilidad.org/">https://viajealasostenibilidad.org/</a>
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## Is the organisation a public body?

NO

## Is the organisation a non-profit?

YES

## Type of organisation

Social enterprise

# BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Viaje a la Sostenibilidad is an independent, environmental, and social non-profit organization based in Zaragoza, Spain. Dedicated to creating a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society, we focus on sustainability, circular economy, social inclusion, entrepreneurship, and culture through non-formal educational activities.

Our Mission and Objectives:

- Inspire local communities to adopt sustainable practices by promoting environmental and social values.
- Develop impactful and accessible high-quality educational resources to foster learning and awareness.
- Promote physical activity among young people through sports, green mobility initiatives, and recreational activities.
- Advocate for healthy lifestyles by emphasizing locally produced and sustainable products.
- Provide opportunities for individuals to share experiences and perspectives in an inclusive and diverse environment.
- Advance social inclusion and diversity by organizing activities that address social inclusion challenges, celebrate diversity, and strengthen entrepreneurial capacities.
- Encourage active citizenship and community participation among young people and local residents.
- Foster tolerance and intercultural dialogue to combat xenophobia, racism, and all forms of discrimination.

## Our Activities at International and Local Level.

### International level

As beneficiaries, we have extensive experience coordinating international non-formal educational projects within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Youth programs (KA1 and KA2).

As partners, we actively collaborate on several KA2 Cooperation Partnership projects in Youth and Adult Education, as well as Erasmus+ Sport projects.

We are a recognized ESC Volunteering Lead Organization. Each year, we host two volunteers who support our local initiatives. Additionally, we serve as a sending organization, helping young people from Spain find meaningful international volunteering opportunities abroad.

### Local level

**Haciendo Barrio (Making Neighbourhood)** incorporates several workshops and spaces focused on the following topics:

**El Gancho Sobre Ruedas:** A free educational workshop in Zaragoza's San Pablo neighborhood focused on bicycle mechanics and urban cycling. This initiative collaborates with social entities to empower youth to solve practical problems and organizes cycling excursions to natural parks around Zaragoza.

**Cosiendo Redes:** A local sewing project using recycled materials to involve and empower migrant women in the San Pablo neighborhood. The project promotes their inclusion and raises awareness of environmental issues.

**Jugueteka:** A toy library that allows families across Zaragoza to borrow and try out toys, reducing the number of toys purchased and discarded each year.

**Armario Abierto:** A free second-hand clothing space for the families of Santo Domingo School. This initiative is coordinated by VALS with the support of the school and families who help maintain the space.

**Hablando Barrio:** Weekly meetings with a group of migrant women in the neighborhood, providing a space to exchange cultural insights while strengthening their Spanish conversation skills.

## Our main projects

### As Applicant

**Accreditation** in the field of Youth (2021-2027) [2020-1-ES02-KA150-YOU-017380].

**Wheels of Change** [2023-1-ES02-KA210-YOU-000151551]: A project which aims to promote the use of bicycles as a form of green transportation among young people and by doing so contribute to the fight against climate change.

**VozAra** [2021-1-ES02-KA154-YOU-000011651]: “VozAra - Poniendo la juventud rural de Aragón en marcha” sought to promote the democratic participation of young Aragonese between 16 and 25 years of age in rural areas.

**Heritage in Dialogue** [2021-2-ES02-KA210-YOU-000048699]: A project that aims to encourage intercultural dialogue, inclusion, and integration of migrant women into their local communities by means of interpretation of the local heritage in each of the participating countries.

**You ART Me** [2021-1-ES02-KA152-YOU-000010347]: Using art as a tool to prevent and challenge hate speech against migrants and minorities, young people utilized their creativity and ideas to create permanent artworks such as mural paintings in Utebo, a town near Zaragoza. This initiative also engaged local youth, fostering collaboration and exchange.

**A Train, a Bike and You** [2020-3-ES02-KA105-016273]: The exchange consisted of an itinerant trip along the axis of the Huerva River, stopping in villages and places of interest in the Central Region with the aim of reaching out to young people in rural areas, where participants carried out activities on the promotion of European mobility and the environment.

**Create Your Own Project** [2020-2-ES02-KA105-015363]: The main intention of this project was to share our long and rich experience managing YE, TC, European volunteering, Solidarity Projects and Strategic Partnerships in the framework of Erasmus + and ESC with people who had little training or those who want to expand their knowledge on this topic.

**RecoNature** [2020-2-ES02-KA105-015622]: RecoNature arises from the need to bring about a change in habits, attitudes and lifestyle in our society. We are aware that each individual in the world plays a fundamental role in the transition towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly society.

**Nature in Action** [2019-1-ES02-KA105-013287]: A training project for youth workers offering tools and oriented paradigms that young people benefit from a greater contact with nature and their bodies and minds (self-reflection, mindfulness) in terms of self-development in line with the general objectives defined of the training course.

**Taste from You(th)** [2019-2-ES02-KA105-013705]: This project values cultural diversity, specifically the culinary richness of the cultures of the different groups that participated in the exchange to address the increasing discrimination and violence in European society.

## As Partner

**DigiHike** [622417-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-SPO-SSCP]: explores the potential of adventure tourism to empower small organizations and communities in mountain and outdoor activity areas by leveraging this growing niche for regional development.

**YoUrban Lab** [2021-2-IT03-KA210-YOU-000048494]: promotes civic engagement and social development among disadvantaged European youths living in marginalized urban areas through urban art and regeneration practices.

**Kids on the Go, Cycling for health and environment** [101048382]: has the main objective to foster, encourage and spread healthy lifestyles among kids, through the constant and daily practice of basic sports, in particular cycling

**Outdoor for Inclusion (Out4In)** [2023-1-FI01-KA220-ADU-000153615]: promotes the empowerment, community integration, and environmental awareness of Refugee or Migrant women and girls.

**Youth Voices for Climate Action in European Elections (ECHOES)** [2023-2-BE04-KA220-YOU-000183481]: A project that aims to empower youth in climate action, engage policymakers, raise public awareness, and enhance collaboration among partners.

**Promoting Activism Through Hiking (PATH)** [101183333]: A project that seeks to involve and promote active participation of younger generations in taking part into sport associations that focus on hiking.

## **What profiles and age groups of learners are concerned by the organisation's work?**

Viaje a la Sostenibilidad engages with a wide range of individuals from all age groups through our diverse local activities. These include:

- Families with young children through initiatives like Jugueteka and Armario Abierto.
- Youngsters through activities such as El Gancho Sobre Ruedas, which fosters practical skills and environmental awareness.
- Migrant women through projects like Cosiendo Redes and Hablando Barrio, which promote inclusion, cultural exchange, and skill development.

While our primary focus is on youth aged 14 to 30, we also work extensively with:

- Youth from marginalized backgrounds, including unemployed individuals, migrants, and those from rural areas.
- Social agents.
- Environmentally-conscious youth and youth workers.
- Young people with fewer opportunities due to economic, geographical, or social challenges.

Viaje a la Sostenibilidad benefits from a strong network of local contacts connected to sustainability and is committed to expanding this network to the international level.

## **Years of experience**

Viaje a la Sostenibilidad has 12 years of experience working in the field of sustainability, youth empowerment, and social inclusion through non-formal education, both at the local and international levels more specifically Erasmus+.

## **Would you like to make any comments or add any information to the summary of your organisation's past participation?**

Viaje a la Sostenibilidad has a strong track record of involvement in Erasmus+ projects, both as coordinators and partners. We have successfully coordinated several international non-formal educational projects under the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Youth programs. Additionally, the organization has worked closely with local authorities, schools, and youth centers, providing sustainable solutions and fostering social inclusion in Zaragoza. Our long-standing commitment to sustainability and social inclusion has also allowed us to build a solid network of local and international partners, positioning us as a key player in the promotion of youth empowerment and environmental consciousness.

## **What are the skills and expertise of key staff/ persons in your organization that will be involved in this project?**

VALS is made up of 4 staff members with competences in organizing non formal education and learning activities and 2 volunteers who are actively supporting the different activities of the organization.

### **Elena Kragulj**

A cultural heritage specialist, Elena serves as Project Coordinator at Viaje a la Sostenibilidad. She has extensive experience in project management under Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) and ESC (volunteering and solidarity projects). Elena has facilitated over 20 Erasmus+ Youth projects and previously contributed to the National Heritage Strategy of the Kingdom of Bahrain and various heritage impact assessments.

### **Jorge Vidal**

With a background in information technology, Jorge has led international projects since 2012. He is trained as a facilitator specializing in youth exchanges and Erasmus+ training courses. Jorge's passion for technology and ecology drives his innovative projects focused on sustainability and inclusion. He has also worked on healthcare initiatives in Middle Eastern countries and currently serves as President of Viaje a la Sostenibilidad.

### **Isabel Serrano**

Isabel holds a degree in Fine Arts from Madrid and specialized in Education and Cultural Heritage Management in Zaragoza. She manages social media and coordinates local artistic and cultural heritage projects for youth at Viaje a la Sostenibilidad. Isabel also conducts research and develops content for youth exchanges and training courses.

### **Valentina Akilic**

Valentina holds a degree in Interlinguistic and Cultural Mediation from the University of Trieste and joined VALS as a volunteer through the European Solidarity Corps program. She coordinates international mobility activities and facilitates Youth Exchanges and Training Courses within the Erasmus+ framework. Additionally, she participates in various local projects of a social nature.



## **Dissemination of project results**

### **On a local level**

In Zaragoza, we promote projects using our social media network but also the visibility we have with our local projects in the neighbourhood of San Pablo; Instituto Aragones de la Juventud (IAJ) with whom we cooperate closely and who have an ample network of young people; the Coordinadora Aragonesa de Voluntariado a network of institutions which offer volunteering experiences for young people; and Cipaj a centre of information for young people in Zaragoza. We work with several schools and youth centres and have a growing network of young people from Zaragoza.

### **On a regional and national level**

We promote projects with the National Agencies INJUVE and SEPIE in charge of Erasmus+ projects as well as with organizations we collaborate with.

### **On a European level**

We use our network of partners and our social media network with over 17000 followers. In addition, we send a biannual newsletter which includes the promotion and dissemination of project results.

## LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

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