

YOUNG FOLKS LV

ESC volunteering in Latvia

Info Pack 2020





Young Folks LV is the youth organization with the main branch based in Riga, Latvia. The organization was established in 2012. Young Folks LV started as an informal youth group, but since July 2014, Young Folks has become an official NGO.

The target audience of the organization is young people aged between 13 and 25 years. The organization has 20 leaders and 180 participants from 12 to 25 years old, as well as children from 2 to 12 years old, parents and friends; the total number of participants of the youth organization exceeds 1000 persons. Nowadays, Young Folks has their branches not only in Riga, but also in such cities as Jelgava, Liepaja and Daugavpils.



The mission of the organization is to assist the youth in finding their way in life in order to be happy. Leaders from various groups (photographers, artists, volunteers, dancers, actors, journalists, chefs, designers, teachers, project group etc.) form the structure of Young Folks.

The main methods used in the work with the youth are as follows:

- ❖ Children teaching children;
- ❖ Travelling around the world;
- ❖ Lifelong learning;
- ❖ Connecting generations;
- ❖ Carrying out projects;
- ❖ Organizing events;
- ❖ Gaining real life experience.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Young Folks LV, a youth non-governmental organization from Riga, would like to host three volunteers - from Italy, Ukraine and the France - with the main aim of strengthening and promoting social inclusion and European integration within the organisation, local community and also on a national level by facing various local challenges - developing a proactive youth community both at Young Folks, local community and in Latvia. With the help of foreign volunteers the youngsters in Latvian community will be able to learn about solidarity, democracy, be more unified, and as well gain new competences for personal, educational, social, cultural and professional development and in general be more involved in proactive activities locally. We plan to strengthen our organization capacities and engage invited volunteers on three exciting internal organization's projects, where they will be able to grow both personally and professionally and help strengthening the local social inclusion into the local activities, those internal organizational projects are: Green Folks (ecology and sustainability project), Urban Folks (suburb area development and creation of youth centers in areas of Riga) and the digital youth magazine "Voice". In addition, volunteers within the project will work on social activities, work on their new local initiatives for the local community and meet up with youngsters to improve the pro-activeness in the community.

In the project we are preferably looking for volunteers from the following countries (but we may also change countries based on the candidates suitability and motivation to work on a certain project) and working on the specific projects:

- The French volunteer to work on the Urban Folks project regarding city planning, architecture and urbanistics;
- The Italian volunteer to work on Green Folks project regarding ecology, sustainability and nature protection issues;
- The Ukrainian volunteer to work on the digital youth magazine “ Voice” as a coordinator and leader.

All volunteers are expected to work on the projects from October 2020 to October 2021

Project aims

This project sets short-term and long-term aims, which are as follows:

Short-term aims of the project

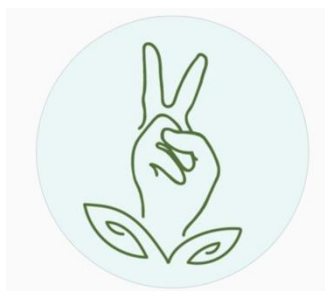
- Lead and organize activities of the certain assigned project (Green Folks, Urban Folks or “Voice”)
- To plan and realize monthly plans: to organize 4 own events, visit 4 external associations, involvement in 4 additional projects;
- To help and organize association’s social events;
- To work on strategic planning of Young Folks as social entrepreneurship;
- To participate in trainings and different association’s activities;

- To develop the volunteers' skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic, cultural and professional development

Long-term aim of the project

- To create a long-lasting impact of the assigned project on the community and further expand its activities;
- To provide sustainable interrelation with business community (local and international companies) for development of cooperation with youth sector;
- To enhance citizen active participation among young people and engagement in social projects in this way changing the society;
- To provide sustainable interrelation with local community, neighbourhoods for development of cooperation with youth sector;
- To develop environment for inclusion of English-speaking society for engagement in youth sector and social projects.

The project – Green Folks



The project “Green Folks” was established in February 2020 by our previous ESC volunteer Lucas from France, thus we are looking for a following leader for this internal Young Folks project. The main aim of the project is to raise awareness of the zero-waste and sustainability issues among local youngsters in Latvia by organizing various activities such as presentations, beach cleaning, workshops, arrange regular events with the participants to clean up nature, visit the Getlini landfill, popularise garbage sorting, as well as a greener way of life. The leader will be responsible for leading a group of members, organize events and also expand the activities of the project. The volunteer will also be able to work on other projects and ideas within the Young Folks organization.

The project – Urban Folks



The project Urban Folks has been founded also in 2020 and deals with city planning, urban settings and architecture. It is supported by our friend architect Olga who leads the sessions with the youngsters. The dream of Young Folks is to create youth centers in other areas of Riga, namely micro-areas and to expand the youth work to areas where youngsters live the most. We are looking for a volunteer who will lead and also organize various sessions with local youngsters regarding urban planning, expand project's activities and make it a long-term sustainable project. The volunteer will also be able to work on other projects and ideas within the Young Folks organization.

The project – digital youth magazine “Voice”



“Voice” is a youth digital magazine, which was established by our previous ESC volunteer Tania from Ukraine. The main aim of the magazine is to give voice to youngsters by writing articles about any topic they wish and to be heard, via a digital platform. The articles are written by youngsters which are also supported by illustrations, also done by youngsters. The volunteer assigned to this project will need to go through articles, coordinate authors and illustrators, create a long-term strategy for the magazine and

expand its activities and the project itself. The volunteer will also be able to work on other projects and ideas within the Young Folks organization.

The role of volunteers

The volunteers will play an important role of being the "ambassadors" of the World, democracy and solidarity that means that they will be an example of their countries and spirit of the world to people. People will know better the new culture, mentality, many stereotypes will be broken and this is important for building a tolerant and inclusive future of European society.

The volunteers will explore the organization Young Folks, its methodologies, scope of work and find their place in the organization to assist it's work by proposing activities and organizing events for children, youngsters and their parents. The volunteers will take part in daily activities of the organization.

The volunteers will be:

- actively involved in organising public events;
- speaking about association, its objectives, promote active citizenship and active participation in organisation among young people during different events in schools, universities and other institutions;
- visiting and interacting with local and international organisations based in Riga; proposing intercultural activities; speaking about their countries;
- planning and working on own individual project;
- participating in artistic workshops, cinema club, photography club to develop creative skills, as well as making own workshops;
- enhancing the development of short-term and long-term aims of the project.

Participant's profile

We encourage the participation of everyone, especially young people with fewer opportunities (e.g. economic obstacles, cultural differences, educational difficulties), in our project. That is why this project is open to everyone and any person from 18 to 30 years old can propose his/her candidature. There is no strict criteria in volunteer selection, but we will take into consideration motivation, wish to exchange (ideas, knowledge, energy etc.) and build together of candidates. We are seeking for someone, who speak English in order to better and easier integrate in the work of association and local community and someone, who is interested in youth work and who has a wish to integrate in our structure of work.

Accommodation

The volunteers will share the apartment specially rented for them in Riga city center, near to Young Folks office. Each volunteer will have his/her own room, but they will have common kitchen and bathroom. The flat will be safe, clean and fully equipped. The apartment will be located in the city center with good connections to shops and transport.

Money

The money envisaged for food and pocket money will be provided monthly in cash.

Working time and days off

The volunteers will work around 35 hours per week. In case of the big workload, for instance, during school holidays, when many activities are organized and proposed for children and young people, the volunteers might work up to 38 hours. In this case, the number of working hours will be reduced the following week for the according amount of hours.

Saturdays and Sundays will be free days for volunteers. During the school holidays, the organization holds many events and proposes activities for children and youngsters, sometimes, the volunteers might be asked to participate in these activities to support the organization. In this case, the volunteers will have two days off the following week. Normally, the days off are devoted to discover the country and culture, participate in local cultural events.

Holidays

The volunteers will have 2 days off per month, which they can collect and use a week of holidays, for example, when they want. The mentor will arrange the schedule of holidays, it means that volunteers should inform in advance when they are willing to use the holiday, as well as provide additional information, for example, if they want to travel in Latvia or going abroad.

Young Folks team

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web: <http://youngfolks.lv/>

Young Folks Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/YoungFolksLv/>

Instagram: @youngfolkslvofficial

We are looking forward working together and hope to hear from you soon!

