

Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl **(2013-BEFR-37)**

Theme 1: European awareness

Theme 2: Anti-discrimination

Project period

EVS activity will start on 01/02/2017 for a duration of 12 months

The Hosting Organization

The Association of Compagnons Bâtisseurs, aka CBB, is a non-profit, non-political youth organisation recognised by the French Community of Belgium. The organisation proposes different kinds of activities, mainly based on *volunteering* and *non-formal education*: local and international work camps, medium and long term voluntary service, week-end workcamps, leisure time activities for and with disabled people, youth exchanges and local and international trainings.



All these activities would not be possible without a network of 420 Belgian volunteers, almost 200 international volunteers during the summer and a team of 9 employees.

We are a Youth Organisation and most of our public is aged between 16 and 25 years, even if there is not upper age limit to integrate our groups of volunteers.

CBB especially promote an inclusive approach of the public; we strongly believe in the richness of diversity and we take action to favour the heterogeneous character of our groups of volunteers. Therefore, the members of the association (+- 420 people) are from diverse origins and capacities.

EVS experience



We participate in the EVS Program both as sending and hosting Organization since 1997.

We are accredited as coordinating organization since 2007.

We believe that this program perfectly fits with our organization goals and methods: non-formal education, active citizenship promotion, volunteering



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and multiculturalism are keywords in our daily action.

We also particularly appreciate the learning opportunities that the EVS offers to all young people, regardless to their origins, background and economical means.

CBB is member of the ALLIANCE of European Volunteer Service Organisations.

Location of the project

Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl presents the specificity to develop a lot of international exchanges and to be located in a small town of the south-French speaking part of Belgium. From our office, by the square of [Marche-en-Famenne](#), a 17 000 inhabitants town of the Belgian province of Luxembourg, we organize projects all over the French Community of Belgium (Brussels and Wallonia) and maintain close partnerships with non-



profit organizations from all over the world. This unique situation will permit the volunteer to share the semi-rural life style of the area, but also to meet young people from different places of the country as well as to be in contact with people from the other side of the world.

During his/her EVS, the volunteer will live and mostly work in Marche-en-Famenne.

The town offers all modern facilities (shops, supermarkets, sport center, cinema).

For the urban-life-style-lovers, it is however IMPORTANT to know that our town is located in a semi-rural area. Even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (57 km from Liège, 106 km from Brussels, 47 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look remote and very quiet.

The project

The volunteer will be mainly involved in the **promotion, preparation, implementation and follow-up of our voluntary projects (work camps, youth exchanges...)**. S/he will also work sometimes in partnership with other local youth and social organisations. As part of CBB team, we will expect from him/her to attend collective activities such as staff meeting, GA, team building day...

1) Promotion of CBB activities:

- To prepare and to hold information stands and raising awareness activities in the, youth centers or in fairs in order to present our activities and increase young people awareness about volunteering, non-formal education and intercultural exchanges;
- According to his/her knowledge, to take care of the virtual promotion of the organisation activities (Facebook, Flickr, website updating, support to the communication officer in general);



2) Preparation of weekend projects, international work camps and youth exchanges:

- To visit organizations that would like to host an international camp organized by CBB;
- To maintain the contact with our partner organisations through Internet communication and to send them regular updates about our projects (mainly about workcamps);
- To receive and answer to the application requests of foreigner volunteers who'd like to participate in our projects in Belgium and to follow-up their registration process (this is an important task from April to July that permits to develop a lot of contacts, but can also be considered as very administrative);
- To give a support in the preparation of the activities: preparation of material, participants list, info sheet, food...



3) Co-facilitation of weekend and international work camps

International work camps are short-term voluntary projects gathering young people from different countries. During two or three weeks, these young people work on a voluntary basis for a non-profit organizations or a local community. The tasks to realize during an international work camp can be very varied: renovation, construction, environment protection, summer camps for children...

In collaboration with the camp leader, the EVS volunteer will help to maintain a good group dynamic and to favour the learning experiences within the participants.

IMPORTANT: CBB promotes social inclusion in general and more specifically inclusion of mentally disabled people. When a person with disability or facing any difficulty (social, educational...) will participate in a camp, the EVS volunteer will be especially in charge to help him/her to integrate the group. This doesn't mean that our EVS volunteer will always work with disabled people. This could happen but only from time to time.

4) Activities according to the personality of the volunteer and to his/her desires:

We really hope that the volunteer will bring us innovation and creativity. Depending of his/her preferences, of his/her desires and his/her capacities, s/he may make a short film or a photo report presenting the organisation, create posters or write texts about its activities, to organize raising awareness activities about intercultural learning, equal opportunities, mobility...

Our EVS volunteer will be encouraged to develop a personal project as long as it complies with the values defended by our organisation! We are ready to support him/her in its implementation!



5) Collective activities with other EVS volunteers:

The EVS activity within Compagnons Bâisseurs is part of an EVS group project that aims to increase European awareness among youth in the town of Marche-en-Famenne and to



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maintain a close collaboration among the local youth services. For that reason, some activities will be run with other EVS volunteers (hosted by other local youth organizations). The volunteers will work together especially during special events organized once a year in Marche-en-Famenne: intergenerational events, youth services opening day.... The volunteers will help to prepare and follow-up these events. In some occasions, they could hold an information stand presenting EVS program and youth exchange opportunities. They could organize a "European night" in the local youth house and to present therefore their country and traditions.

Profile of the volunteer

Our project is open to anybody motivated by volunteering and who wishes to be involved in our organization and be in touch with people regardless of their nationality, religion, believes, diploma, professional experience. We expect the volunteer to be interested in international volunteering projects, be ready to build an atmosphere of confidence; ready to involve him/herself in the several activities we do; be able to work together with the staff; agree with our philosophy of equality and openness to the differences.

Number of EVS volunteers hosted

One on this project but s/he will have regular contacts with the other EVS volunteers hosted in Marche-en-Famenne (around 4).

How to apply

We wait for a **specific motivation letter for this project as well as a CV on 4th September 2016 at latest**. Once the application is received, the pre-selected volunteers will have to fill in a questionnaire and send it back by the 9th September.

The application of those who will send their motivation letter and CV later than September 4th won't be taken into consideration.

Responsibilities and practical arrangements

Responsibilities: The EVS volunteer will always work under the responsibility of youth workers of CBB. S/he will have the autonomy s/he'll need to develop his/her own initiatives and personal projects, but s/he won't be responsible of an activity on its own.

S/he will always get the advice and support of a youth worker.

The activities s/he will take part in will always be prepared with the staff.

Preparation meetings will allow the staff to inform the EVS volunteer about the rules to respect, about all in risks prevention and safety.

Accommodation: The volunteer will be hosted in a house that s/he will share with other EVS volunteers. The house is located in the centre of Marche-en-Famenne and has all the modern comfort needed. The volunteer will receive a monthly allowance and will take care of the meals by her/himself.

Risks and crisis prevention: Risks prevention is firstly linked to a good preparation. We will provide the volunteer with complete and true information before s/he will join our project. The sending organization will be in charge to follow the volunteer during the pre-departure process, to inform him/her about the EVS program, about the rights and responsibilities of



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the different actors involved, about the administrative obligations the volunteer has to respect before to leave his/her country, etc.

When arrived in Belgium, the volunteer will participate in the on-arrival seminar and the mid-term evaluation organized by the French speaking National Agency.

At the very beginning of the project, we'll especially take care to welcome the volunteer, to show him/her interesting places of our town and Belgium and to present him/her to other young people.

We'll also check that everything is in order with the insurance.

The EVS volunteer will participate in our weekly meeting in order to be integrated in the team and to have the chance to talk about the difficulties s/he lives.

An evaluation of the EVS experience will be made on regular basis with his/her mentor. If there is a problem, a meeting with the project coordinator will be held in order to solve it.

In case of crisis/emergency, we'll require the intervention of the specialized services required, according to the situation.

As we are the hosting and coordinating organization in this project we are in charge, together with our national agency, to provide the resources that can help in case of any serious casual problems.

Contacts

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