

Service RENFORTS

(Already accredited but not yet available on the EVS hosting organizations database)

Theme 1: Disability

Theme 2: European awareness

Project period

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

The hosting Organization



The service RENFORTS is a part of the non-profit association ANDAGE, created in order to improve the quality of life of people with mental disabilities and their families.

“Renforts” aims to encourage the social inclusion of disabled young adults in the local social life by giving them the opportunity to do a useful work for our different partners, according to their skills and knowledge.

Renforts was born in 2007 and at the beginning, when the center opened, just three young adults with disabilities decided to try

the chance. In 2009, they became 13 to believe in the project and to flourish thanks to various activities. Nowadays the service counts more or less **30 young users** who are in between 18 and 40 years old.

We currently have around **50 partners** (schools, restaurants, youth centers, the cultural center, the city kennel, the horse riding school) that we’re helping on a voluntary basis. The partners respect and interact with the youngsters in order to integrate them in the local social life. The tasks done by our service users are concrete and adapted to the partners as well as to the youngsters.

Our staff is made up of 7 workers working full time or part-time. We are also supported by many local volunteers and we host very often students from the local schools who come at our place for their school traineeship.

Since last year the Service Renforts also includes two other services:

-a residential service where some of our beneficiaries live together developing their autonomy and independency;

-the “Alterboutique and son Comptoir”: a shop where people can go to exchange for free different things or just to have a bio drink. The little bar of the “Alterboutique” is completely managed by the Service Renforts users with the help of their educators. The aim is to foster their inclusion in the local community through citizen activities supported by Andage.



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EVS experience

It will be the 5th time that the Service Renforts will host an EVS volunteer.

We think that welcoming an EVS volunteer within our staff allows our public of young adults with mental disabilities to open themselves to other cultures and to develop a new relationship with somebody foreigner. Hosting an EVS volunteer also offers the staff the opportunity to introduce their world to somebody foreigner to the department and to promote and value their work. Also, we think an EVS volunteer working at service Renforts will have the opportunity to meet a lot of people and know the different associations of the town of Marche-en-Famenne, knowing that we are working with around 50 partners.

Location of the project

The office of **service Renforts** is located close to the centre of Marche-en-Famenne. This is where the EVS volunteer will meet every morning the youngsters and the staff before leaving for the different places where the work is planned. In the building there are several working rooms, a kitchen, a living room, a computer space, a locker room and the eating room where the volunteer will eat together with the staff when not being at the partners' place.



The volunteer will live close from where s/he works, in Marche-en-Famenne, a small town situated in the south French speaking part of Belgium. With about 17 000 Inhabitants, the municipality of Marche counts with numerous villages: Hollogne, Waha, Verdenne, Champlon-Famenne, Grimbiémont, Lignièrès, Roy, On. The volunteer will be in daily contact with other EVS volunteers being hosted in other projects in the municipality.

Even if Marche-en-Famenne offers all the modern facilities, **it is IMPORTANT to know that the town is situated in a semi-rural area and the nightlife here is less vivid than in bigger towns**. Nevertheless, Liège, Namur or Brussels are not far from Marche which has good train connection.

The project

We expect the volunteer to take an active part into the staff work. S/he will support and accompany the young adults with disabilities during their daily activities. S/he will facilitate their investments in the tasks realization.

For example:

- During the envelopes labelling at the youth center, the volunteer will be with the group, check the work done, suggest some improvement if needed, keep the good atmosphere during the work;



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- During the activities in “Tiroir des saveurs”, a restaurant which serves local and biological products, the volunteer will support the youngsters in the different tasks required as preparing the food, serving food in the restaurant...
- During the activities in the Gallo-Romanian archaeological site, “Malagne”, the volunteer will help the youngsters in tasks as gardening or little reparation tasks;
- During the activities in the second hand shop “La halle aux fringues”, founded by the French speakers Union of disabled people, the volunteer will help the youngsters to organize the clothes and put them in order in the shop.

With the support of other workers, the volunteer will play a big role in the maintenance of a good relationship with the different partners, the youngsters and the staff of service Renforts.

S/he will:

- Create a social link with the youngsters;
- Share his/her knowledge with the youngsters in order to help them to accomplish their tasks (computer skills, cooking skills...);
- Give the youngsters the opportunity to open themselves at the world around them;
- Raise awareness about volunteering among youngsters and partners;
- Be a resource of new ideas, new points of view about the way of working...;
- Be a support, somebody who listens to the youngsters.

Activities the volunteer could participate in or create:

- To think up and develop a project with the youngsters (try cooking recipes, cultivate chicories in caves...);
- To actively participate in the educational staff meetings;
- To suggest some changes in order to improve Renforts, willing to evolve constantly;
- To take initiative;

The volunteer’s activities can be adapted according to his/her skills and wills.

During the first weeks, s/he will meet the different partners and will be introduced to the several tasks dealt by the youngsters. Then, according with the agenda of the staff and his/her preferences and skills, s/he will have the opportunity to choose the activities s/he’s more interested in.

No matter which activities the volunteer will prefer, her/his EVS will always foresee very **varied tasks!**

Proposed activities to EVS volunteers

Example of what could be a typical week:

Monday:

Between 08:30 and 09:00 → meeting at Service Renfort office

09:15 → cooking at the local school of St. Julie school (partner)

12:00-13:00 → lunch time at the “Alouette”



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13:00 → Back to Service Renforts office
13:20-15:40 → wrapping cutlery at the local hospital
16:00 → end of the day

Tuesday:

Between 08:30 and 09:00 → meeting at the office
09:15-12:00 → cleaning stables in the local horses stables place
12:00-13:00 → Lunchtime at the office
13:20-15:40 → several tasks at the youth local center (labeling, painting, cleaning, tidying up...)
16:00 → end of the day



Wednesday:

Between 08:30 and 09:00 → meeting at the office
09:15-12:00 → Cooking workshop
12:00-13:00 → Lunchtime at the office
14:30-16:00 → cleaning books and tidy up at the municipal library



Thursday:

Between 08:30 and 09:00 → meeting at the office
09:15-12:00 → gardening at Renforts
12:00-13:00 → Lunchtime at the office
13:20-15:45 → Cooking and washing-up dishes at the restaurant "Le Tiroir des Saveurs"

Friday:

Between 08:30 and 09:00 → meeting at the office
09:15-12:00 → Tidying up lunch tables and helping in the kitchen of the school of On
12:00-13:00 → Lunchtime at the school
12:00-13:00 → Lunchtime at the office
13:20-15:45 → Gardening at the eco-village "La Gatte d'Or"

This timetable will be changed in order to integrate the French lessons and the volunteer's wills.

The volunteer will also have the opportunity to participate in other activities out of the Service Renforts but linked with the same target group such as board games evenings, movie



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nights organized by the Association des Compagnons Bâisseurs or in various activities organized by the local youth center, both situated very close from volunteer's accommodation and Service Renforts office.

Collective activities with other EVS volunteers

The EVS activity within Service Renforts is part of an EVS group project that aims to increase European awareness among youth in the town of Marche-en-Famenne and to improve a closer collaboration between the local social services. For this reason, some activities will be run with other EVS volunteers (hosted by three other local organizations).

The volunteers are encouraged to work together especially during specific youth events organized once a year in Marche-en-Famenne: Rock festival, youth services open day... The volunteers will help to prepare and follow-up these events. In some occasions, they can hold an information stand presenting EVS program and youth exchange opportunities. Volunteers can also organize a "European night" in the local youth house to have the possibility to present 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 organisation and working with people, regardless to their nationality, religion, believing, diploma, professional experience. Because our public doesn't speak any other language than French, the volunteer is asked to be already able to communicate a bit in our language at the beginning of the service.

We expect the volunteer to have social and communication skills and be open to the difference, ready to build an atmosphere of confidence and security with the youngsters; we expect the volunteer to be ready to involve him/herself in the several tasks we do with them; be able to work together with the staff; be interested in the topic of disabled people inclusion; agree with our philosophy of equality and openness to the difference; willing to listen, communicate and care of young adults with disabilities.

The volunteer will have to provide a certificate of good conduct (CGC) related with the work with disabled people.

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 (4 in total).

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 before **9th September**.

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



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Preference will be given to volunteers who write in French (although it does not have to be perfect!).

We encourage the volunteers to learn a bit of French before the beginning of the projects.

Responsibilities and practical arrangements

Responsibilities: The EVS volunteer will always work under the responsibility of youth workers of SERVICE RENFORTS. 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 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 organization in this project we are in charge, together with our coordinating organization Compagnons Bâisseurs and our national agency, to provide the resources that can help in case of any serious casual problems.

Contacts

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