



Volunteering team project

***Project
Friendship***

28.3.-26.4.2025



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Project Friendship

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Villa Elba, Kokkola 28.3.-26.4.2025

Welcome to Villa Elba!

12 volunteers will work in Kokkola and surrounding villages in schools with the theme of friendship. The volunteers will plan and lead functional workshops about friendship and interaction skills for children at local schools in Kokkola. During this project, volunteers will learn how to: Plan and implement workshops for children; Manage their time wisely in both planning and in the schools when implementing workshops; Engage and motivate children to participate; Communicate effectively using verbal and non-verbal communication



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Villa Elba

Youth Centre Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work. We work under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education.

Our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity.

Our work consists of international mobility for young people and those working with young people, voluntary services, training courses, International Club activities, advice and guidance on international programmes, project activities and coordination of volunteering projects.



Profile of participants:

The participants are young people seeking new possibilities to their lives. The volunteers can be unemployed, face educational, economic, social or physical challenges or have low language skills. We wish that the volunteers are interested in working with children. There is no need of previous experiences just the interest to try it out and learn more!

We offer the volunteers:

- a chance to live in a new culture
- possibility to do volunteer work for the local community
- a chance for intercultural learning
- a project where you can use your creativity
- opportunity to meet other international volunteers and make friends
- develop your skills and abilities

Volunteers should be prepared for:

- changes
- cold
- adventures
- new experiences

We expect from volunteers:

- flexibility
- respect
- ability to follow the rules and schedule



Tasks:

Volunteers will work in Kokkola and surrounding villages in schools with the theme of friendship. They are going to plan and lead functional workshops about friendship and interaction skills for children of different ages.

Volunteers work with the people they meet to think about what a good friend is like, how to maintain a friendship, and how to create friendships.

We encourage participants to bring their own ideas and competences when planning and realizing the content of the different events and activities organized during the project.



Working hours :

The volunteer will work 5 days a week, approximately 35 hours. The working hours are usually from 9-16 including lunch break, but sometimes work times can vary depending on events that we are taking part in. In that case, work can also be in evening time for example from 14.00-20.00 or 7.00-14.00.

Accommodation and meals:

During the project, the volunteers will live in Villa Elba in Lassela or in cottages.

Cottages

The cottages fit 8 people each and are uniquely furnished and have a toilet, shower, kitchenette, WIFI and TV.



Lassela

Lassela is an old villa building in the garden of Villa Elba, right by the sea. Lassela has beds for 12 people in two separate rooms, a small kitchen, a lounge, a toilet, WIFI and a shower.



Volunteers will share a room with others. Therefore it requires patience and flexibility, as you will share the space with other people during the whole project.

Meals are served in Villa Elba during On-arrival training, and during the rest of the project on working days volunteers will get lunch either at Villa Elba or schools but other meals will be prepared themselves together (food money for groceries are provided).



On-arrival training:

First 2 days of the project will be on-arrival training in Youth Centre Villa Elba. The aim of the training is to get to know other participants and learn about European Solidarity Corps. Volunteers will learn about aim of the project, intercultural learning and about their rights and responsibilities.



Support measures:

Extra support is available for volunteers 24/7 during the whole project. The support persons helps with everyday issues (cooking, cleaning, shopping), to get familiar with local community and culture, helps in difficult situations and supports the volunteers to reflect on their learning outcomes. There will be organized mentoring meetings weekly and volunteers are entitled to take part in the mentoring meetings.



Villa Elba project staff:

Work leader:

Is in charge of instructing the volunteers in daily work tasks. Supervisor organizes the work and gives instructions on how to do the work.

Support persons:

Support the volunteers during the whole project. Their task is to help volunteers to fulfill their commitments and to support them to manage their everyday life: cooking, cleaning, free-time activities etc. In case of problems, the support persons are available 24/7.

Mentor:

Helps the volunteers to get to know the local community and meets the volunteers regularly to help them to reflect their learning outcomes. Mentor presents free-time activities and helps volunteers to find meaningful things to do in their free time.

Project administration:

Project coordinator deals with administration: applications, final reports and collection of travel documents, organizes practical arrangements like pickups from train station or airport, accommodation and other practicalities.

Office clerk deals with the financial issues; pays the pocket money, and makes payments to sending organisations.

Development manager has the overall responsibility for the project.

Tips for travelling to Kokkola:

We encourage volunteers to use green means of transportation, there are good train connections for example from Copenhagen to Stockholm or from Berlin to Tallinn. You can also travel one way with the flight and the other with trains and boats. If you have to fly to Helsinki, please remember about sustainability and pay extra fee for CO2 emissions.

Tips for green travel at Green Erasmus website:

<https://www.greenerasmus.org/before-mobility/travel>

CO2 EMISSIONS IN COMPARISON *



TRAVELLING BY TRAIN/FERRY WILL LOWER YOUR CO2 EMISSIONS BY MORE THAN HALF

* 1000 KILOMETERS

From Helsinki Airport the most convenient and green way to travel to Kokkola is by train. You can find tickets here: <https://www.vr.fi/en> (Helsinki Airport -> Kokkola)

Please notice that accommodation is booked between 28.3.-26.4.2025. Please schedule your travels so that you would arrive on the arrival day 28th of March. We recommend to buy tickets in advance because prices are increasing dramatically closer to departure day.

If you are taking train from Helsinki Airport, then on your way there will be one short transfer at Tikkurila station. Please, be very careful and check all the information: train track number etc. in order not to miss the train. There are displays everywhere as well as information via speakers in english.



What to bring along:

- In April the average temperature is around +5 to +10 Celcius. During evening and night temperatures can drop to around -2 Celsius. Take spring/winter clothes with you (jacket, hoody, sneakers) as well as something warm (sweaters, thermo clothes, winter shoes). We would strongly recommend taking wool socks with you because sometimes floors can get cold in the house.
- **European health card (very important, you will need it if you need to go to health center / hospital!)**
- Personal medication and hygiene products
- Swimming suit if you want to wear them in sauna or want to go to swim
- Something typical from your country to present your culture (music, dances, some traditional snacks etc.)
- **All your travel documents! If you have your boarding pass online - remember to take a screenshot of it!**

At Villa Elba we will provide you with bedsheets and a towel, so don't worry about those. In case you need another towel you can bring one with you or just wash the one you get here - we have a washing machine that the volunteers can use for free.

Financial issues:



Travel grants

Travel grants are paid after the project according to the funding rules of Erasmus+: Travel grants depend on the length of the journey and for measurement of the journey we use Erasmus+ distance band calculator: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en

Villa Elba will arrange pick ups for volunteers from the Kokkola train station or Kokkola airport, costs for transport are deducted from the travel compensation. We try to organize common rides to keep costs as low as possible. We highly encourage volunteers to arrive to Kokkola by train because taxi from the airport is pretty expensive, around 60-90€ one way.

Non-green travel:

10 – 99 km	28 €
100 – 499 km	211 €
500 –1999 km	309€
2000 – 2999 km	395€
3000 – 3999 km	580€
4000 – 7999 km	1188€
8000 -> km	1735€

Green travel:

100 – 499 km	285€
500 –1999 km	417€
2000 – 2999 km	535€
3000 – 3999 km	785€
4000 – 7999 km	1188€
8000 -> km	1735€

Payment is done only after volunteer has finished their reporting obligations (the EU Commission report) and after we have received all original travel documents, as well as the invoice from the local transportation if needed.

Pocket and food money

The pocket money is 7€ / day which will be paid in parts in cash during the project.

Food money are paid every week in cash and divided between cottages.

Hopefully, this infopack helped you to get to know more about the project. You are about to start an amazing adventure so don't hesitate and participate in everything! We have a very supportive staff, in case you have any kind of questions - you are more than welcome to ask.

See you at Villa Elba!

www.villaelba.fi

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