Dear Partners,

Youth Center Villa coordinates a strategic EVS-project that will receive 60 volunteers to Finland between 1.9.2017-31.8.2020.

List of projects coordinated by Youth Centre Villa Elba
This project aims to help small communities in Finland to get positive experiences from other cultures, and the EVS program is a great tool for this.

The receiving organisations varies from youth houses, schools, and kindergartens to youth- and hobby associations. During the projects, the volunteers work with the everyday tasks of the receiving organisations as a part of the working community. Each hosting project with its’ specific tasks are listed later in this letter.

As the strategic input in this project, we create with the help of the volunteers International Club activities in rural areas. The idea is to make internationalization a part of everyday life for young people as well as youth work in municipalities and organizations. We also want to ensure that young people in rural areas have an equal opportunity to internationalize and support young people's independence, social responsibility and life management by providing information, counseling and counseling.

We are looking for persons who want to develop their own skills through international activities, improve their language skills and develop their leadership and interaction skills. They are interested in youth, education or social affairs and want to be acquainted with the field before they are studying or perhaps graduated already in the field and in need of work experience to improve their employability.

Strategic EVS project has the same financial rules as normal EVS projects: Travel costs are compensated according to distance and pocket money is 4 € / day. We pay sending organisations 30 € / month for sending costs.

**If you are interested in sending volunteers, please contact:**

Youth Centre Villa Elba:

[Email](mailto:iycebelba@kokkola.fi)

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**Nykarleby ridklubb r.f (Nykarleby riding club)**

Nykarleby Ridklubb is an association that aims to develop equestrian sport in Nykarleby and in the region. We are members of Ostrobothnian Riding Section and the Equestrian Federation of Finland. The association's core values are good manners and good habits, horsemanship, good team spirit and joy and no smoking, no drinking, no drugs.
Our associations’ guidelines stress: participation in the project that promotes smoke free stables, in the area everyone uses a helmet, leaders and coaches should lead by example and develop riders at any level, high level of ethics and sportsmanship and horse welfare in the first place.

We mainly work with people between 6-50 years. We also organize summer camps and weekend camps for young people aged 6-16 years).

**Hosting two volunteers’ 1.10.2017-30.9.2018**

**Proposed activities:**

One volunteer will work with practical work tasks in the stable and surroundings. The work includes fixing and renovating the buildings and fences, cleaning stables and paddocks, taking care of the equipment, snow work in wintertime, cutting grass and bushes in summer time. The work is physical and work is done outdoors also in cold weather.

One volunteer will work with organizing different kind of clubs and events at the riding club. The volunteer will also work for local associations (Sports club, 4 H), to help them with their activities.

**Profile of the volunteer:**

The volunteer must be interested to work with animals, to work with outdoor activities and not be afraid of dirt and hard physical work. The volunteer should be disciplined, because of the safety regulations when working with big animals. The volunteer should also have sense for initiative and be able to live independently.

The selection of the volunteer is done together with the sending organisation. We would like to work with sending organisations that have been working together are ready to support the volunteer during the EVS-project.

In order to have a successful project, we would like to point out that Nykarleby is a small town with not much nightlife, so this project is looking for a volunteer that is more interested in cultural activities, arts, music, sports and outdoor activities than active nightlife.

**Practical arrangements:**

The volunteer will live in the club house at the horse stable, where she will have her own room and share kitchen and bathroom with another EVS volunteer. She will receive food allowance of 125 € / month to buy food supplies. Lunch package will be supported by hosting organization or she will have extra support to do it herself.

**Youth department of Seinäjoki**

The City of Seinäjoki youth services provide teenagers with guided leisure-time activities, clubs, camps, trips, influence groups and online services. The activities are open for all teenagers. We have trained youth workers who are in charge of the activities. The main purpose of Youth Department of City of Seinäjoki is to organize the specified services ordered in the Youth
Legislation for young people under 29 years of age. We are also supporting organisations and action groups with grants and in other ways, youth information and counselling services, as well as, multi professional and international cooperation. The Youth Department works closely with other youth work organisations, in the field of social work and education.

Hosting two volunteers’ 1.2- 30.8.2018

Proposed activities:

The Youth Services department provides hobbies and activities for young people, under the age of 29, living in Seinäjoki. Youth Services are available to young people in many ways: through the internet, organized events, youth clubhouses, schools or their own hobbies. The voice and opinions, activities and living conditions of young people are important to us.

During the EVS project, EVS volunteers can instruct games, perform, teach different things about their countries and just interact with the young people. Each volunteer service will be planned as an individual project. Activities can vary, depending on the skills and interests of the volunteers.

Project 1:
Volunteer will work at Seinäjoki Youth Department and take part in everyday activities. The volunteer work with children’s theatre groups, circus workshops and in "Jojo", a meeting place for young people.

Project 2:
Volunteer work at the Department of civic engagement and competitiveness offers an assistant work with events and city marketing (local / national /international level). Work is also involving with new webpages of city and it includes photographing projects. Volunteer can also organize own international events and create his / her own project with own interests and competences.

Profile of the volunteers:

Project 1:
We are looking for a volunteer interested to work with children and youth. The volunteer must be motivated to do international volunteer work, as well as to learn country’s language and culture. Working in another country with a foreign language requires flexibility, cooperation and initiative.

Project 2:
We are looking for motivated volunteer to work with marketing and office work. Volunteer will be working as a team member in different teams so positive attitude, independence and flexibility will needed. Working with marketing and photography requires creative thinking and self-expression.

Practical arrangements:
The volunteers live in a student apartment, Marttilan kortteeri. The receiving organisation takes care of the apartment interior design, curtains, carpets and other textiles. Marttilan kortteeri has laundry, where can self-do laundry.

The receiving organisation give money for dining direct to the volunteer, the sum is 150€/month. The volunteer can buy food at the market and bring own food to workplace (if possible dining in workplace). In student apartment is a kitchen, where volunteer can prepare meals.

Youth department of Ranua

Youth, sports and culture office of Ranua is a governmental, non-profit unit, which works under the Municipality of Ranua. The youth and sports office is responsible of the local youth club, music facilities, camping site, exercising areas, camping Centre and youth workshop among many other places and events. Working together with the local organisations, schools, projects and local authorities, youth and sports unit is strongly concentrating on international issues and European dimension. The office has a very a wide range of tasks. It provides activities and events for the youth and at the same time develops new projects to enliven the variety of choices.

Hosting one volunteer 1.10.2017-30.9.2018

Proposed activities:

The Ranua Youth, Sport and Culture office offer vide range of activities. The volunteer will work mainly with youth activities in the youth house, but there will be also activities with local schools, and youth- & sport associations. The volunteer take part in the everyday work tasks: In the youth house play games and organize clubs, activities and event together with visitors. In schools the volunteer can make presentations in different lessons, help the schools to organize field visits etc.

The main goals of youth, sport and culture office of Ranua are to improve young peoples' living conditions, health, international activities and to improve avocation, culture and free time activities. One of the Youth, Sport and Culture office aims is also the prevention of youth's smoking and usage of alcohol and drugs. This work includes close contacts with local schools and youth organisations. All the activities of the office are aiming for drug free life.

During this project, we expect that the volunteer will become more self-confident and learn new skills or deepen his/her knowledge in language skills, computer skills, social and team work skills etc. These competencies can be achieved by active interaction between the mentors and volunteer and by ensuring that the volunteer has right kind of tasks that are not too difficult but challenging enough. Regular meetings concerning the work and general progress of the volunteer will be held in order to ensure that the volunteers will achieve the goals set up for this project.

Profile of the volunteer:

We are looking for a social, open-minded, motivated and active young people. The volunteer should also have a sense for initiative and be able to live independently.
Practical arrangements:

The volunteer live in a student house, with own room and share kitchen and bathroom with others. The volunteer get a lunch at working days, and food money 120€ / month for other meals.

Youth department of Kaskinen

Youth department of Kaskinen is part of Kaskinen town structure. They aim is to provide Youth and Sport services for young people. By to Youth work Act of Finland municipalities have to serve all children and young people from 0 to 29 years old. The youth department maintains the youth house for children and youngsters It is a place where young people can play different games, look videos, listen music and play billiard. There is also rehearsal rooms for bands Further tasks to the youth department are after-school clubs and –activities and close co-operation with the local secondary school and kindergarten.

Hosting two volunteers’ 1.1-31.12.2018

Proposed activities:

The basic workplace is the youth house and youth office at school. The visits in schools will be a part of the volunteers’ work, however, up to now this was rather an eventual task. The right volunteer might be able to develop this cooperation. It is also possible that the volunteer helps in the language-lessons in the schools if the language skills match with the schedule and the level of the schools (this could be several lessons per week). There is also the possibility that the volunteer teaches his/her language(s) in an own course in the youth house.

Volunteer's normal tasks are working with young people in Youth Activity Center, organizing evening happenings for young people in local surrounding villages. Visit in schools, afterschool club for children. The week schedule changes between school, youth center and with other happenings. Sometimes the volunteer may have to work on weekends, holidays: eastern holiday, Christmas holiday, summer holiday.

Profile of the volunteer:

The volunteer is wished to be motivated to meet new people and work together with young people and children. Previous experience in working with youngsters and children is regarded as a benefit. Kaskinen is small town surrounded by countryside. We wish that volunteer have flexibility for living in the small community in the countryside. It would be great help for integration if young person is interested of sports and outdoor activities. We would like him/her to have basic knowledge English

Practical arrangements:
The board and lodging is arranged in a local family that is especially interested in hosting an international volunteer at their home. The volunteer is treated as a family member with same rights and responsibilities as other family members. The volunteer has an own room. During workdays, the volunteer get lunch in the local school. The volunteer get 50 €/ month food allowance to cover meals when for an example travelling.

**Kaustinen music school**

At Kaustinen Musiikki lukio the goal is that the student gets versatile music experiences. The student can accomplish music studies alongside his/her high school diploma. The goal is that the student embraces versatile learning methods and maintains his/her motivation. The goals are also that the student gets extensive general education and common knowledge, eligibility for further studies and grows into well-balanced, responsible, tolerant, initiative and goal oriented member of the society.

**Hosting one volunteer 1.10.2017-30.6.2018**

**Proposed activities:**

At Kaustinen Musiikkilukio, the volunteer work in cooperation with the student body of the school. The volunteer can, for example, arrange after school programs and other leisure activities, work together with local teachers, youth workers and young people and do activities with them, organize different happenings, work with workshops or clubs and projects for learning languages and cultures of Europe. The volunteer can also work in international projects and camps together with the Youth department Kaustinen, Folk music gymnasium and Youth Centre Villa Elba and their staff.

**Profile of the volunteer:**

The volunteer is wished to be motivated to meet new people and work together with young people and children. Previous experience in working with youngsters, children and folk music is regarded as a benefit. We would like him/her to have a basic knowledge on either English / French / German.

**Practical arrangements:**

Volunteers will be living in the student house with students of the high school. The volunteer will have own room and share kitchen and bathroom with other students.

The host organisation will arrange for the volunteer to eat at a canteen or in a host family or will give them money to buy their own food and ensure they have access to facilities to prepare it. The volunteer will have breakfast and supper at the student house and lunch/dinner at the school.
**Veteli 4H club**

4H in Finland arranges leisure activities for children and young people between ages 6 and 28. Six-year-olds easily find new interests in the 4H club, where children learn new skills together under the guidance of a club leader. We encourage young people aged 13 and older to start their own projects. We also teach them skills that will be useful in working life, give them the opportunity to get their first work experience and support their first steps as entrepreneurs.

4H is an international organisation through which young people can learn about the world for themselves, by taking part in an exchange programme or attending our international events and courses.

**Hosting one volunteer 1.10.2017-30.5.2018**

**Proposed activities:**

4H in Veteli and Kaustinen commonly host an EVS volunteer to work with our activities: clubs, courses, camps, happenings for children and young people. In the 4H organisation, children and adolescents grow to become responsible and enterprising adults. The activities take into account the different stages of children’s development, focusing on learning by doing.

The 4H Club instils practical skills and knowledge with the help of professional instructors. Training and courses provided by 4H further build on these competencies. The activities help children become active citizens, entrepreneurs and employees.

**Profile of the volunteer:**

The volunteer is wished to be motivated to meet new people and work together with young people and children. Previous experience in working with youngsters, children and folk music is regarded as a benefit. We would like him/her to have a basic knowledge on English.

**Practical arrangements:**

Volunteers will be living in the student house with students of the high school. The volunteer will have own room and share kitchen and bathroom with other students.

The host organisation will arrange for the volunteer to eat at a canteen or in a host family or will give them money to buy their own food and ensure they have access to facilities to prepare it. The volunteer will have breakfast and supper at the student house and lunch/dinner at the school.
Lucina Hagman School, Kälviä

Lucina Hagman School is located in Kälviä, which is a part of the town of Kokkola. There are both secondary school and high school at the same area. The school is active in organizing different kind of events and projects (both on local and international level). We work mainly with young people aged from 13-19 years. The school is central and very important for local young people. There is many social and cultural activities organized both during and after school time in Lucina Hagmans school. The school have sport hall what is used every day in sport, culture or music activities for local people. Our area is really big and the pupils comes from different parts to our school. They do not have many chances to meet after school and take part in free time activities because of the big distances and lack of public transportation, so the school is natural meeting place for the youngsters.

Hosting two volunteers’ 1.10.2017-30.6.2018

Proposed activities:

The volunteer has a good chance to become familiar with life in a small rural village in Finland and how the educational system works here. The volunteer will get a view how non-formal activities are organized in the school environment.

The volunteer works together with local teachers, youth workers and young people and do activities with them, organize different happenings, working with workshops or clubs and projects for learning languages and cultures of Europe. S/he can also work in international projects and camps together with Youth Centre Villa Elba and their staff, trainees and other volunteers.

The volunteer will be assisting teachers and students being in part of workshops of the local schools and activities with teachers and students. The volunteer can for an example help the youngsters to arrange workshops, excursions and exhibitions. The volunteer will help with all the practical work as well as give new ideas for the youngsters how to work with such subjects.

Profile of the volunteer:

The volunteer should motivated to meet new people and work together with young people and children. Previous working experience in working with youngsters and children is regarded as a benefit. We would like the volunteer to have basic knowledge of either English / French /German.
The volunteer will work and interact together with the youngsters and encourage them to take chance to get to know other cultures, to become more open-minded and tolerant and learn to see Europe from different perspectives.

**Practical arrangements:**

The volunteer will live in a student house in an own room, kitchen and other facilities are shared with other residents. The volunteer get lunch during working days, and a food allowance 125 € / month to prepare other meals.

**Youth department of Lapua**

The Youth Department of Lapua Town is a local authority and our aims are to assist the youth and develop youth conditions. We are liaising with Youth Associations. We work with the Youth House management. We are responsible for the maintenance of leisure places and camps. We organise free time activities, do consultations and work with international relations. The main group we work with is youth between 8 – 16 years, for international matters youth over 16 years.

One of the Youth office aims is also prevention of youth's smoking and usage of alcohol and drugs. This work includes close contacts with local schools and youth organisations. The implementation of the purpose is based on communality, solidarity, equity and equality, multiculturalism and internationalism, healthy life styles, and respect of life and the environment.

**Hosting two volunteers' 1.1-31.12.2018**

**Proposed activities:**

The aim of the project is to bring internationality for Lapua youth and youth work. This will exist by giving a chance for Lapua youth to meet a young person from other culture. The volunteer will also be a good representative of a young person who has taken his/her chance to visit other country and to learn about other culture and language. One of the aims is to courage and motivate young people to use their possibilities to take part in international activities and study languages.

Previous volunteers have been working mainly in Youth Department but also assisting in local kindergarten, visit in language lesson in schools, visit in global education activities, doing projects in swimming pool-, culture office, 4H- club, done different brochures and videos. We can offer many interesting activities and use volunteers own strengths and talents in the project in the future. This is the best way to have more promotion for EVS program in our town and region.

**Profile of the volunteer:**

We are looking for a social, open-minded, motivated and active young person. The volunteer should have a sense for initiative and be able to live independently. Volunteer should be interested to work with children and young people.

**Practical arrangements:**
The volunteer will live in a host family (having own room) or at a student home. The volunteer will have breakfast and supper in host family or s/he can make it him/herself, in which case the volunteer will be given an account to a local grocery store, which s/he can use to buy food. Lunch will be served at the local school or the volunteer will be given food vouchers by the organization to dine elsewhere. Dinner will be served either in family or in work placement or the volunteer will be preparing it him/herself.

**Kokkotyö Foundation**

Kokkotyö-foundation is an organisation specialized in activating persons with challenges in finding employment. It supports and trains individuals in their working skills and in coping in their everyday life. The aim is to encourage them forward into working life or studies and give them learning opportunities and work experience. The target group is adults. Kokkotyö-säätiö has 10 workshops with employed personnel working together with the trainees. The workshops offer products and services to their clients (individuals, associations and companies) and the workshops serve as a tool in training the working skills. Also all the trainees have an individual trainer helping them with different issues in their personal life.

**Several placements; start and length of project can be negotiated:**

**Proposed activities:**

**Sewing workshop:**

Most work is made with sewing machines, but also crafts by hand. The workshop is coaching and activating the participants, and the methods are: Sewing, repair sewing, patterns drawing on fabric, fabric cutting, foundation's own production, recycled crafts

**Media workshop:**

Work is done by hand, with small machines and on computers. The workshop is coaching and activating the participants, and the methods are: Signs and stickers, engraving, graphic design, textile printing, product packaging, foundation's FB-pages, web shop, recycled crafts

The workshop has two employees, work coach and production worker, and 10-15 trainees between 17-60 yrs. The trainees are with different backgrounds and abilities and therefore have individual working times.

**Woodcraft workshop**

Most work is made with machinery, but also crafts needed. There is also a painting department, where jobs are made with brushes, paint rollers and spray gun. The workshop is coaching and activating the participants and working along them. We make products for our customers, our own products and subcontracting: furniture refurbishment, painting, cabinets, cupboards, doors,
windows manufacturing, different construction working; terraces, sheds, recycle canopy’s, mailbox holders, wall painting, wall papering, flooring installations etc. our own products; lantern brackets, outdoor fire racks, recliners, many sizes of boxes, trays. The workshop has two employees, work coach and production worker, and 20-35 trainees’ ages varying between the range 17-60. There are also students from vocational school. The trainees and students are with different backgrounds and abilities. Therefore, trainees have individual working times. Students have regular working hours.

**Wanha Markku, Kaustinen**

The Wanha Markku workshop is located in Kaustinen, a community of 4300 people 45 km from Kokkola. Kokkotyö has a recycling shop and other activities for trainees. The daily activities include: work in the shop, sorting the recycled items for the shop woodcraft, restoration of furniture, looming and other handicraft. There are 3 employees in Wanha Markku and about 25 trainees ages varying between the range 17-60. The trainees are with different backgrounds and abilities. Therefore, trainees have individual working times.

**Profile of the volunteer:**

We are looking for a social, open-minded, motivated and active young person. The volunteer should have a sense for initiative and be able to live independently.

**Practical arrangements:**

The living arrangements for these projects can be a host family, private apartment or accommodation in Youth Centre Villa Elba. Most probable accommodation will be in shared rooms, and volunteers should understand that we cannot guarantee private rooms for anyone.