ESC PROJECT INFOPACK

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HOST ORGANISATION

The association Libera Scuola Waldorf di Palermo, is a non-profit organisation, founded in 1986 with the aim to promote the Waldorf pedagogy and to implement other educational and cultural activities.

The Association manages a kindergarten and an officially recognized school up to class grade 10th.
It is part of an international movement with more than 1000 Waldorf schools, inspired by the principles of Steiner pedagogy.

The main objective of the association is to promote and spread Steiner education according to which the human being is not only the bearer of ideas and thoughts, but also and above all of feelings and spirituality. In order to be complete, the education must include the body, the soul and the spirit by taking care of the acts of thinking, feeling and willing.

The Waldorf pedagogy, intended as art, concentrates on the balanced development of children in accordance with their phases of growth. The teaching of intellectual subjects is always accompanied by artistic and manual-work subjects which alternate according to a well-defined rhythm. By growing up together, children live their class as a social entity in which anyone can develop abilities, overcome difficulties and grow in one's own individuality.
The association promotes other activities aimed at integrating children in a wider path of
development of which teaching is part of it. Such activities include:

- Excursions connected with the seasons and specific holidays, organised in order to have children and families live the atmosphere of the seasons and cultivate the social aspects. These activities play a very important role as they involve the families in the didactic life making them feel part of a social body.

- Christmas and Easter bazars and pedagogical exhibitions during which the pedagogy and its outcomes are shown to the families and anybody who is external to the association.

- Musical activities; the association has its own orchestra to which the older pupils belong.

- Courses and seminars for adults about pedagogical anthroposophical and artistic matters (singing, eurythmy, painting etc.)

- An educational vegetable garden to promote among students and families the know-how of farming techniques and the principles of organic and biodynamic agriculture.

CONTEST AND ENVIRONMENT

Volunteers will be actively embedded in the stimulating and living environment of the School and of the city of Palermo, so they can act as protagonists thus making the most of the unique opportunity of the ESC.

This close contact with the local community and their active participation in volunteering, informative and formative activities, will widely enhance the growing possibility for the volunteers. The volunteer will be involved in an Educational environment with other young people and will have the chance to learn many topics and practical activities.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PROJECTS

An ESC project carried out within our association has great potential for human, emotional, and developmental growth, both transversal and specific. In keeping with the spirit of Waldorf education, particular attention will be paid to stimulating and enhancing each individual volunteer, including their potential and abilities, their desires, and their time.

The volunteers will carry out an important support action with respect to all aspects of association life, in educational activities as well as those of socio-cultural promotion.
In this path they will be able to develop specific skills and knowledge related to Steiner's inclusive pedagogy, both transversal, linked to non-formal education paths.

The volunteers will support the teachers and members of the association in their daily activities mainly to school children. In particular, volunteers, based on their aptitudes and preferences, will take part in the following activities:

- support to teachers in the kindergarden (1-3 years babies) ;
- support to teachers in inclusion of children with psycho-physical or physical disabilities in the classroom or during playtime learning;
- support in artistic workshops (music, drawing...) and recreational activities for children (excursions, outdoor games, parties class);
- preparation and participation in cultural events organized by the school during the year and open to the local community;
- accompaniment of children and support in running the educational garden, also as a moment of learning knowledge of sustainable agriculture as well as traditional uses of herbs and vegetables;
- support in managing the kitchen and lunch time of alumni.

VOLUNTEER'S PROFILE

Educated young people with a high school diploma. Interested in pedagogy, passionate about children and their development. Independent, creative, and proactive.

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN

The volunteer will improve his/her teamwork abilities by managing time, logistics and organisation of activities together with the other actors involved. Being able to take part in this kind of experience is formative and educational from a personal point of view too. It increases the volunteers' awareness of their capacities and boosts their self-esteem. These aspects will be highlighted and exploited by the mentor.
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GENERAL CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers will live in an apartment, inside a residence where a shared swimming pool is available. The apartment is restored, very is bright and with a nice view. It is equipped with double bedrooms, living room, kitchen and two bathrooms, and necessary services and equipment (washing machine, dishwasher, hoven, internet connection).
Same-sex volunteers will live in a double room. The apartment can be shared with other international volunteers or with members of the association (with the possibility that it could also be families).

Volunteers will have both private and common spaces in order to facilitate sharing but also guarantee privacy. In in any case, the volunteers will be directly responsible for the management of the spaces assigned to them as well as the sharing decisions relating to the apartment as a whole, in particular the common areas.

All costs relating to the apartment are supported by the project, but rules will be established to facilitate the acquisition of management skills and abilities. They will learn, for example, the responsible use of water resources or they will learn the good practices in energy saving and responsible use of polluting products in the home.

- **Local transport:** an annual bus pass will be provided;
- **Pocket money:** €6 per day;
- **Food allowance:** €170 per month;
- **Travel costs:** travel expenses (round trip) will be reimbursed to the volunteer according to the distance band;
- **Free days:**
  Saturday and Sunday,
  School holidays (for example Christmas and Easter),
  Other holidays should be negotiated with the organisation to guarantee its proper functioning.