

INFOSHEET
for long term volunteering project
"Solidarity at Hand"
01.10. 2018– 30.09.2019.

Dear volunteers,

We are very happy that you are interested in joining our project!

With this info-sheet we want to give you more detailed information about what to expect from the project, when and how to arrive, how to contribute, what to bring with you etc.

We believe that not only the project but also each volunteer will benefit from the EVS project. Working together for a good cause, living in an international group, meeting new people, exchanging ideas and learning from each other is a special and unique experience.

We wish you a great experience!

About the organisation and the project

This European voluntary service (EVS) project is hosted by *Association for promotion of IT, culture and coexistence (IKS)*; (*Udruga za promicanje informatike, kulture i suživota (IKS)*).

Association IKS was established in 2003 and has as its mission empowerment of citizens by developing a sense of responsibility and taking the initiative for the progress of the entire community. Our vision is a more humane, democratic environment in which Association IKS acts as a generator of changes and a stronghold of positive ideas.

Our regular activities include: Civil society organisation capacity development; Democratic citizenship development and promotion of volunteering; Youth 'leisure time' activity organisation; Empowerment of socially vulnerable community members; Encouraging employment of women and youth, Non formal education and information for youth.

With the help of the staff and local volunteers at association IKS, EVS volunteers will participate in a long-term (12 month) project called "Solidarity at hand".

"Solidarity at hand"

European Voluntary Service (volunteering project) - 01/10/2018 - 30/09/2019 (1 volunteer from each country)

“Solidarity at hand” is directed to vulnerable groups of citizens with activities that are contributing to improvement of their life quality.

Organizing activities for elderly and mentally ill adults 2-3 sessions per week; Association IKS partners with Home for elderly and frail and Home for mentally ill adults in our community. Volunteers will organize and implement activities together with our local volunteers: playing bingo, bowling, social games, screening of movies, creative workshops and nature walks. Beneficiaries of the homes are more motivated to participate in activities, they socialize and learn new skills, personnel have help in organizing leisure time.

Working in Community centre with socially marginalized citizens and youth; Community centre is a place where people can receive administrative support, join in Job seekers club or use space for initiatives or citizens association meetings. Volunteers will participate in all mentioned activities, they can organise language courses, workshops or other activities of their own choice. Volunteers will also be involved in the work of our Youth initiative group "Aktivci" who plan and initiate their own projects or activities to address youth needs or solve youth problems in our community.

Volunteers will contribute to our services such as the local Volunteer centre and Information centre for Youth, organise different activities, educational, creative and social events that help young people acquire new information and skills. Through this, young people in Petrinja increase their awareness of different possibilities they have available and gain knowledge which prepares them for employment, studying or volunteering locally and internationally.

Civic education in rural primary schools up to 2 sessions per week; volunteers will assist in delivering interactive and fun workshops for children to teach them about the values of volunteering for school community development.

Total number of volunteers: 2

Partner countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Volunteer tasks:

- work with the most vulnerable groups of citizens in Petrinja, including senior citizens, institutionalized mentally ill individuals, unemployed, long term unemployed, youth with fewer opportunities, minorities, and school children
- organizing activities for elderly and mentally ill adults 2-3 sessions per week
- civic education in rural primary schools up to 2 sessions per week; volunteers will assist in delivering interactive and fun workshops for children to teach them about the values of volunteering for school community development
- volunteers will work in Info and Volunteer centre, organise different activities for youth, educational, creative and social events that help young people acquire new information and skills
- organize and implement activities together with our local volunteers: playing bingo, bowling, social games, screening of movies, creative workshops and nature walks
- working in Community centre with socially marginalized citizens and youth
- promoting volunteering and Erasmus+
- designing different promotional materials for volunteering, and for project activities
- developing materials for social networks to promote youth mobility projects for young people from 13 years of age
- assisting in developing and organising activities for the local community together with our youth initiative group "Aktivci" - these activities can be any kind of creative leisure time activities including workshops, art, music, street art, hip hop culture, alternative sports and hobbies, multicultural theme...etc.
- preparing a multicultural evening to present your country and culture in the community in a creative and fun way
- assisting in organising info points for youth in the area with our team from the Information centre for youth

With every EVS project we are promoting the values of volunteering, active citizenship, non-formal education and multiculturalism. Promoting human rights, solidarity, and tolerance is important for development of post war communities like Petrinja. Volunteers regularly go to preschools, primary schools, other NGO's and community events.



What can you expect?

During the EVS project:

- volunteers will work approximately 6-7 hours per day
- Saturdays and Sunday's are free unless there are specific project events or important international days on the weekend in which case they will get weekdays off
- Volunteers will have a mentor, who will provide peer support and assist the volunteer in adjusting to their new environment and help the volunteer with the Youthpass
- Mentors are usually local youth volunteers at Association IKS
- Volunteers have a coordinator and supervisor who will be looking after the project and supporting the volunteers' development

Participation in an EVS project means:

- Commitment to a team experience
- Commitment to working out decisions and problems together
- Completing the entire project
- Being sensitive to problems in the community
- Being open to learning, sharing and developing new skills
- Contributing fully to the work
- Having lots of self motivation and self initiative
- And, of course, having fun! 😊

🚦 Where will we stay, food & free time?

Petrinja is a small town (24,858 inhabitants) in central Croatia, just under 60 km from the Croatian capital Zagreb. It is a microregional centre with good transport connection by bus, near the main railway which connects Zagreb with other parts of Croatia and the borders.

Petrinja is nestled on the banks of rivers Petrinjčica and Kupa, the home of the first salami factory, in the region of Banovina, situated in Sisak-Moslavina County. The people in this region are well known for their wonderful hospitality and gastronomic specialities. The region is known for its beautiful clean rivers, rolling hills, natural springs and rural scenery.



Your accommodation will be near the city centre (short walking distance) and you will share the apartment with other volunteers. The apartment will have bedrooms, a shared kitchen and dining room, bathrooms and everything else that is needed. Your living and food expenses will be paid for by the European Union project funding and you will also receive pocket money each month. With that, you can cook, share your delicious food with other volunteers, enjoy a cup of coffee in our local coffee shops and buy everything you need for your everyday life.

Like we said before, you will work around 6 hours a day, so you can enjoy your afternoons and weekends in some activities of your choice. We recommend taking a walk around river Petrinjčica or Kupa or visiting the nearby city of Sisak, the centre of Sisak-Moslavina County. The Capital City of Zagreb is also very close so if you have the need to get into a big metropolitan city mood, feel free to discover all the museums, cinemas, clubs and bars that Zagreb offers.

Language

The official language in our project will be **English** but you will have a mentor who can help you with learning some everyday phrases to communicate with the locals in shops and cafes or when asking for directions.





When and how to get here?

Your European voluntary service begins on the 1st of October. Please keep your boarding pass and all the tickets you use to get to Petrinja, so that your travel expenses can be reimbursed.

Petrinja is well connected with Zagreb, which is your place of arrival to Croatia.

If you arrive by airplane, there is a regular airport shuttle bus every half hour to the Zagreb main bus station. The bus stop is just outside the airport entrance. Fare is 30 kuna (4 euros) and the bus leads to the main bus station in Zagreb.

From the main bus station in Zagreb (Autobusni kolodvor Zagreb) you can take the bus Zagreb-Petrinja which is around 37 kuna (5 euros). The main bus station has a Tourist info point, so if you get lost or confused, don't hesitate to ask for help. Croatians are well known for their hospitality. 😊

You will find the airport bus timetable on the following link but anyway check again when you arrive at the airport. <http://www.plesoprijevoz.hr/en> (PLESO PRIJEVOZ is the PLESO (ZAGREB) AIRPORT BUS COMPANY)



Čazmatrans (<https://cazmatrans.hr/en/>) buses travel from the Zagreb bus station to Petrinja at the following times:

ZAGREB		➔	PETRINJA	
		Brest		
vrijeme polaska	dani		vrijeme dolaska	
06:15	rd		07:20	
16:15	rd		17:20	

ZAGREB		➔	PETRINJA	
		Sisak		
vrijeme polaska	dani		vrijeme dolaska	
05:30	rd		07:05	
07:30	rd,s		09:00	
08:00	rd,s		09:35	
08:30	n		10:10	
10:00	rd,s		11:30	
11:30	rd,s		13:05	
13:00	rd,s,n		14:30	
13:30	rd		15:10	
14:15	rd, s		15:45	
15:00	rd,s,n		16:30	
16:15	rd,s		17:45	
17:00	rd		18:30	
18:00	rd,s,n		19:35	
19:45	rd,s		21:15	
21:00	rd,s		22:30	
22:00	rd,s,n		23:30	
23:20	rd,n		01:00	

legenda: rd Work days (Monday - Friday)
s Saturday
n Sunday

Croatian Climate / What to wear around here

Croatian climate is moderately warm and continental. Meaning, monthly temperatures range between 12-28°C during summer and -10-15°C. Your service will start in October so it is useful to bring some variety of clothes for autumn weather and warm clothes for upcoming winter. We pretty much layer clothes around here because days can be warm but nights colder. Summers here are usually quite hot but you never know with this weather. Sometimes it can surprise you. We also have a River beach so bring your bikini's!

Other useful and practical information

Croatian public telephones work on telephone cards, which have their worth expressed in kuna: 15 HRK, 30 HRK, 50 HRK or 100 HRK.

During the conversation, the credit will decrease every minute if you've dialed a national fixed network number or every 30 secs if you've dialed an international or mobile phone.

Money

It makes the world go round, must be funny, it's the rich man's world. Needed by all, appreciated by many, despised by some. Nevertheless, here's something about Croatian money and prices.

Croatian currency is called KUNA, shortened KN (more common) or HRK. 1 kuna is 100 LIPAs.

- 1 EUR is app. 7.4 kn
- 1 USD is app. 6.1 kn
- 1 GBP is app. 8.5 kn
- 1 CHF is app. 6.2 kn

(the exchange rate can be in favour of kuna during summer months because of lots of foreign tourists, more information on Croatian National Bank web-site)

<http://www.hnb.hr/tecajn/htecajn.htm>)

To give you an idea, a small bottle of water costs 6 Kn (in supermarket); the typical price of a small bottle (1/2 l) of juice costs 7-9 Kn (in supermarket).

Money can be changed at any bank or exchange office; there are lots of them at Zagreb Airport, Autobusni kolodvor (Bus station) or Glavni kolodvor (Train station), at the main square in Zagreb etc. But we suggest you not to exchange large amounts of cash or withdraw from ATM during your trip because in Petrinja there are plenty of ATMs and banks, as well as a couple of exchange offices.

A small DICTIONARY:

In Croatian language every written letter is pronounced. You should remember this useful rule. It will help you to read nameplates and street signs in the cities, read the following dictionary of the most common and the most necessary words and phrases in Croatian, but also communicate with local people and find your way to the right address. The pronunciation of particular letters is very close to Italian. The letters that are not common in other languages are “š” (pronounced “sh”), “č” (“ch”), “ž” (like French “j”), “đ” (Italian “gi”) and “dž” (“j” as in “join”). That will help you for the start.

And yeah, we know, it sounds overwhelming but you will get used to it, believe us. All of our previous volunteers can proudly say that they can speak 'a little' Croatian. You will get help from Croatian volunteers so at the end of your service, you will also know the basics. ☺

Basic Croatian

English	Croatian
How much is a ticket?	<u>Koliko košta karta?</u>
Good morning	<u>Dobro jutro</u>
Good evening	<u>Dobra večer</u>
Thank you	<u>Hvala</u>
Hi	<u>Bok</u>
My name is...	<u>Zovem se...</u>
Yes / no	<u>Da / ne</u>
Do you speak English?	<u>Govorite li engleski?</u>
I don't understand.	<u>Ne razumijem.</u>
Where is the street?	<u>Gdje je ulica ...?</u>
Shall we go for a beer?	<u>Hoćemo li na pivo?</u>
I like you	<u>Sviđaš mi se!</u>
You look really good, honey!	<u>Dobro izgledaš, dušo!</u>
I'm sorry	<u>Žao mi je</u>
I don't understand	<u>Ne razumijem.</u>
How are you?	<u>Kako ste?</u>
Left / right	<u>Lijevo / desno</u>
Good / bad	<u>Dobro / loše</u>
Can I use the telephone please?	<u>Mogu li, molim Vas, telefonirati?</u>
How far is...?	<u>Koliko je daleko...?</u>
How long?	<u>Koliko dugo?</u>
Two hours	<u>Dva sata</u>
Can you stop here, please?	<u>Možete li stati ovdje, molim?</u>
What time is it?	<u>Koliko je sati?</u>
Where is bus / train station?	<u>Gdje je autobusni / željeznički kolodvor?</u>

Other useful sites:

<http://croatia.hr/en-GB/Homepage>

<http://petrinjaturizam.hr/>

<http://www.visit-croatia.co.uk/gettingthere/>

<http://www.croatiatraveller.com/Getting%20toCroatia.htm>

<http://www.world66.com/europe/croatia/gettingthere>

http://meteo.hr/index_en.php

<http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/Croatia.htm>

<http://www.crolinks.com/tourism.htm>

Last but not least...

- It's strongly forbidden using drugs or exaggerating in drinking alcohol during your stay here
- Smoking is forbidden in IKS's place of work (in the buildings)
- Take into consideration that being in a project in Croatia doesn't mean being by the seaside so please check the map ☺
- But we do have rivers around here and we're only 2 hours drive from the beautiful Adriatic coast and that's amazing, you'll see ☺

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<https://web.facebook.com/VCPetrinja/>
<https://web.facebook.com/InfoCentar53/>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/udrugaiKS>

**Do not hesitate to call us or
mail us if you have any
questions, some problems or
misunderstandings!**