

EVS Project Description → Legambiente Prato

Activity period: 01-10-2016 until 01-10-2017 (12 months)

Number of Volunteers: 2

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Activities of the EVS project

→ **Environmental Education** : Every year Legambiente Prato runs out projects on environmental education for schools and citizenship. More than 50 students' classes of Prato (age 10-14 y.o.) will attend a course consisting in 2 seminars and a final workshop about ENERGY. EVS volunteers will support the staff of educators of Legambiente Prato in specific tasks: preparing equipment for schools seminars, preparing pictures & presentations, support staff during the lessons, support students during activities and games on energy. EVS volunteers will have also the opportunity to design and create their own personal activities, according to their personal skills and knowledge and, eventually, will manage these activities using english language (in order to make a language exchange in the classes where it's required by teachers).

During the year, Legambiente Prato is also involved in other educational activities for schools. In case of activation of the following projects, EVS volunteers will be involved with the same tasks described above, including all the aspects related to promotion- advertisement (social network-mailing list- local press) of the environmental education activities that schools and groups may join in.

- 1) Laboratories for young students on Animal and Biodiversity contents: Nesting and Homing of Animals, Animal's footprints, Water and Energy Experiments. This action of environmental education is in collaboration with the local natural sciences center/museum of Prato
- 2) Outdoor activities: Hiking in the natural protected areas of Prato. Our province has one of the largest extension of green areas in Italy. Legambiente Prato wants to promote the culture of environment by involving students and citizenship to visit these heritage that are under their eyes.
- 3) Projects on WATER-CLIMATE CHANGE-MOBILITY
- 4) Environmental Education in the provincial Natural Reserve of Acquerino Cantagallo where Legambiente Prato manage the Mountain Hut Rifugio Le Cave

→ **European and International Volunteering**: Legambiente Prato promotes among youngsters the opportunity of the new ERASMUS+ program as well as those ones related to international environmental workcamps ran out by Legambiente national department of Volunteerism.

EVS volunteers will be involved in the action related to:

1) Organization of at least 3-4 info-days/seminar during the year, on Erasmus+ opportunities for young people of Prato. These events will be organized in several contexts: local youth centers, high schools, local center for youth employment and in collaboration with other local realities that are engaged in volunteering and social inclusion.

2) Organization of regular meetings on Erasmus+-Volunteering opportunities in the office of Legambiente Prato where young participants can ask to our EVS volunteers suggestions and useful details about EVS abroad, how to prepare a good candidacy, how to find hosting organizations. These informal meeting will favour also the local integration of evs volunteers with people from Prato. This integration process can be enhanced by coupling these meetings to recreational activities which are available in our office: TennisTable - Tea point – Language exchange (tandem) or any other recreational activities proposed by EVS volunteers!

Before the organization and general planning of the above mentioned activities, EVS volunteers will be involved in the preparation of leaflets, advertisement on social network, mailing lists, website, local press and so on.

→ **International Workcamps:** Legambiente Prato is one of the local group that hosts international workcamps in several structures of the Province of Prato. The workcamps are set-up thanks to the collaboration with local municipalities of Prato (**Vaiano-Montemurlo-Carmignano ect..**) During the summer in the last decade, Legambiente Prato hosted several international workcamps where youngsters coming from all over the world joined local communities of the Province of Prato for 2 weeks. The main objectives of a workcamp consist in recovering natural areas or green urban places (public gardens-cycling pathways ect..) while living in a local community favoring integration, cultural exchange and knowledge of cultural heritage of less-known places of Italy. The concrete tasks of working usually consists in cleaning pathways or naturalistic areas, wood collecting, grass cutting. During afternoon and evenings there will be the opportunity to visit places in the surroundings, organizing dinners, games and happenings with the local community. EVS volunteers , after having gained experience of italian culture and the local communities of Prato will act as campleader during these workcamps and they will be supervised by the legambiente prato's coordinator of workcamps. 2-3 EVS volunteers will attend a workcamp (usually 3 workcamps every summer) with the following task:

- working in natural areas and organize the work shifts of the participants,
- organize the shifts and the work related to clean and cook in the hosting structure.
- Planning free-time activities inside the local community or in the close town

→ **Rifugio "Cascina Le Cave"** Rifugio Le Cave is a mountain hut in the middle of natural reserve Acquerino Cantagallo in the Province of Prato. From April to November Rifugio Cave hosts tourists and trekkers as well as families, students groups who want to eat or sleep inside a wonderful green area. Evs volunteers are involved in hostelling and housekeeping activities giving their support to Legambiente Prato's staff. Main activities of the Rifugio are:

- cleaning rooms
- preparing and washing linens
- help in the kitchen (managing simple food items, clean&wash dishes, clean the kitchen)
- preparing tables and deliver meals to hosts
- preparing and collecting wood from the surrounding hood
- mantain the temperature of the heater
- help costumers with their needs

The activities related to hosting tourist inside Rifugio will be mainly during the week-ends from April to mid November according to metereological conditions that has to be evaluated case by case.

Rifugio "Cascina Le Cave" hosts also these activities where EVS volunteers will be involved:

1) Environmental Education projects: Young students of Prato together with their teachers can spend their stay in Rifugio Le Cave and adding also some environmental education activities: hiking – workshops on: Gardening, Honeybees, Deer's love call, animals of the reserve and so on

EVS Volunteers' tasks is to support Legambiente's trainers in the group working, in the preparation for didactical supports and games, advertisement and promotion of environmental education activities through social network – local press – website and creation of leaflets and brochures. They will learn non-formal education activities from the staff of Legambiente and they will improve their personal "life skills", using the approach of "learning by doing". Moreover, EVS volunteers will have the possibility to propose new activities about environmental education and to use them during these projects.

2) Hiking in Natural reserve: Natural reserve of Acquerino Cantagallo (where the Rifugio Le Cave is displaced) is a popular destination for hikers and tourists of Prato. Legambiente Prato' thanks to its environmental guides can arrange day or night hiking to gather people and showing them the importance of this natural heritage. EVS volunteers tasks' is to support local guide during the hiking, monitoring the group of people while they are walking and support for any needs. Before the excursions, EVS volunteers will support all the advertisement actions to promote these initiatives and increasing the numbers of visitors.

3) Summer Camps and Youth Exchange: During the summer period Legambiente Prato hosts 5 children summer camps in Rifugio Le Cave. Every camp lasts 1 week and hosts 20-25 children (8-14 y.o). EVS volunteers are actively involved in the 2 main tasks of the summer camp: support for housekeeping (see up for description) of Rifugio Le Cave and support to environmental education – outdoor and hiking activities that has to be run out everyday for the group of children. Together with EVS volunteers there will be 2-3 responsible of camps. EVS volunteers may be involved also in the administrative tasks: such as collection of Inscription to summer camps, activation of Legambiente's cards for children.

In case of activation, during summer period Youth Exchanges will take places in Rifugio Le Cave. Youth exchanges will involve 20-25 participants all over Europe (age 16-25) focused on specific topics . EVS volunteers will be involved in the general organization of Youth Exchange and, in accord to their personal skills, in the management of the Youth Exchanges, including the phase of making contact with local communities and the dissemination of the results after the end of the project.

→ **Legambiente Campaigns and Festivals:** “Clean up the world”- “Energy Festival”- “Volunteering Festival”- “Festa dell'albero”. These are local happenings lasting 2 or 3 days in different period of the year, directed to citizenship, students, families and youngsters in order to actively participate in wardship of common environmental/social values.

EVS volunteers will support local staff of Legambiente in all the promotion, advertisement, development of the campaigns

→ **The Garden in the Theatre:** Prato has had a very strong tradition in textile industry. In a small ex-industrial district close to city center raises “Fabbrichino” a theater that was born by an old industry. In the last 2 years “Fabbrichino” saw its second transformation...In fact this theater is now connected to a renewed garden where children, families and students can enjoy environmental workshop such as “Bamboo ... the changing Garden”. “Bamboo” is a theater show followed by a workshop in the outside garden where old shoes boxes will gain a “second life” thanks to humus and paper flower that children can build from re-used items! The garden boxes will enrich the biodiversity of the little outside garden. EVS volunteers will be involved in the environmental workshop supporting little children in building their own “garden box”. This is one of the first up-cycling experiment involving theater and environment in town!

Incoming ideas and activities for 2016:

→ **A climate for youngsters:** A lot of young people of Prato and the surrounding places are not informed about the most enviromental topics and problems of present days. In order to make possible an active citizenship through a direct involvement of local youngsters, Legambiente Prato will create a platform (physical and web) where young people from Prato will have the opportunity to exchange proposals and ideas about their city and to develop possible strategies to improve their local environment. At the same time, Legambiente Prato will use this opportunity to inform young people about the problems related to climate change, loss of biodiversity, healthy way of life. With the new-coming approach of “Citizen Science”, Legambiente Prato want to show to local citizenship, youngsters, students and families how biodiversity can be studied and appreciated even without a specific educational background. EVS volunteers will have a strategic role buy searching specific sites in the urban context were to apply for the first Citizen Science Experience In Prato. The preliminary research for proper urban areas will be followed by organization and promotion of “BioBlitz” days were people may join to discover the “Beauty of Life”. Citizen Science actions will be supported also by already developed tools that are available on internet. Morevoer, EVS volunteers will meet local youngsters on the platform designed by the association in order to manage the meetings between youngsters, collect ideas and proposal and then...take action together! The results of the actions will be matched with similar initiatives in other countries of the programme Erasmus+, made by some partner organizations of Legambiente Prato, and EVS volunteers will help local youngsters to make contact with these European realities and take information about the Erasmus+ program and its opportunities and possibilities.

→ At any time of the year EVS volunteers are encouraged to create new events, recreational activities (for example: photo/video exhibition, vernissage, photo marathon, seminars and so on) to carry out in Legambiente's Prato office and/or Rifugio Le Cave and/or in collaboration with other local associations that cooperate with Legambiente Prato.

Arrangments for activities: To carry out all the activities described so far, especially those concerns projecting preparation and advertisement, evs volunteers will have open access to Legambiente's Prato office and pc. Shifts for opening the office will be organized together with the staff of Legambiente and also the volunteers of Italian civil service.

Who we are looking for?

Requirements needed are:

- Motivation and interest in environmental/educational/youth topics
- Availability for 12 months project
- Willing to live together and share with other evs volunteers
- Good proficiency in English language (both written and spoken)
- Good command of Microsoft Office (powerpoint-excel-word) -Internet- Social network

Requirements desired (but not needed) are:

- Knowledge of Italian language (basic level is ok)
- Knowledge of specific software (Adobe InDesign or Photoshop, Wordpress for Websites, GIS-GPS software)
- Video/Photo editing

Selection of potential volunteers will be based on

- Motivation Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Skype Interview that has to show interest and motivation for activities of Legambiente Prato

Participation of volunteers to this EVS project depends on ITALIAN NATIONAL AGENCY response (which is going to be proclaimed more or less after 3 months from the deadline for projects' submission)

What can we offer to volunteers?

Pratical arrangements

→ **Working time:** The number of working hours per day may vary according to different period of the year. The mean number of working time is 5-6 hours per day. During Summer, several engagements like summer camps for children, international workcamps, Rifugio Le cave hostelling will require a permanent stay up to 14 days in the place where those activities will occur.

During the week, except for summer period (especially june-july-september), 2 days will be provided to volunteers with previous accordance with the responsible of project. 2 days holiday every month will be also guaranteed with previous accordance with responsible of project. Days off and holidays are intended to be flexible and cumulative in accordance with volunteers.

→ **Accommodation:** The volunteers will live together in shared accommodation (apartment) in the historical center of Prato, close to the main kind of facilities and amusements. The apartment has 3 independent double bed - rooms with shared cooking, washing, laundry and bathroom. Every volunteer is expected to live together with other volunteers. Cleaning , basic hygienic conditions, energy saving strategies (gas, electricity and water) of the apartment are expected to accomplished by volunteers trough a

well defined plan of “living together” rules.

→ **Monthly Allowance and Food Budget:** Pocket money is 115 euro every month for volunteers. Every volunteers will have 145 euro monthly to spend in 2 supermarket (www.esselunga.it) of Prato with a credit card that will be provided by the association. During summer (summer camp and international workcamps) and hostelling activities in Rifugio Cave, evs volunteers will have meals for free)

→ **Local transport:** Every volunteer will receive a urban carnet for bus transportation (every 3 months bus carnet has to be renovated) + 2 bikes.

→ **Training and support of volunteers:** the host organization provides task related support through the responsible of project which are the people designated by Legambiente Prato. Every month there will be 2 meetings with the EVS volunteers to planning the calendar of activities on a daily basis together with the responsible of EVS project and when possible also with the specific educators for every single activities foreseen! For every activities foreseen in this EVS project, responsible and educators of Legambiente Prato will deliver to EVS volunteers all the useful information, training and tools to carry out their tasks. The host organization identifies a mentor responsible for providing personal support to the volunteers and for helping them to integrate into the association. Mentor can plan individual and group meeting with the evs volunteers. The mentor has also a role in discussing the learning achievements with the volunteer at the end of the Activity period. The volunteers can turn to the mentor in case of problems. The volunteers will be actively involved in all activities and decision making and will be supported and trained by Legambiente Prato staff.

→ **Language support:** ITALIAN Language course will be delivered by our NATIONAL AGENCY with the new ERASMUS+ tool “On-line Linguistic support” which is compulsory for every evs volunteers. Legambiente Prato may identifies potential opportunities to learn italian thanks to collaboration with other association of Prato that may provide for free italian lessons to evs volunteers and immigrant people living in prato.

→ **Travel costs:** Travel costs will be calculated in accordance with the European Calculator available at this webpage http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm

According to the range-distance, the amount indicated by the above-mentioned tool will include the eligible costs for round trip and return (the final destination of the Travel is the town of PRATO-TUSCANY) Travel costs will be paid to the sending organization or to the volunteer between the end date of the activity and the end date of the project.

Conditions and Requirements for Partners organizations

Legambiente Prato wants to establish a strong partnership on the basis of experience, reliability and motivation of sending organizations. **Therefore Sending organizations will:**

- Forward applications of potential volunteers to Legambiente Prato
- Be conscious that sometimes shortlisted volunteers may change ideas last minute and therefore they will not participate in the EVS project. In this case S.O have to be available in recruiting and finding new volunteers (for this point Legambiente Prato will be responsible anyway to choose motivated volunteers. Motivation of volunteers will be assessed during skype interview with potential candidates)

When the volunteer will be selected, Sending Organization:

- ensures EVS insurance (CIGNA procedure)
- provides adequate preparation for the volunteer(s) before departure, according to the individual needs of the volunteers
- keep in contact with the volunteer during the service period:

Upon volunteer's return:

- exchange and share experiences
- encourages the involvement of the volunteer(s) in dissemination and exploitation of results

→ NB: For this EVS project Legambiente Prato will first select Sending Organizations in order to build a good partnership. In a 2° moment we will accept the potential candidacies forwarded by Sending organizations. Since Legambiente Prato receives many candidacies during the year, out of the sending organizations that

will be implied in this partnership, It can be possible that a good candidate from the same country of Sending organization will be short-listed, In this case we kindly ask the availability to support these candidacies anyway (we will proceed like this only if sending organization agrees)

Legambiente Prato will correspond 480 euro as sending costs per volunteer to every sending organization.

The indicated amount is intended to cover 12 months activity project. In case of grant reduction by Italian National Agency, following interruption by volunteer, sending costs will be recalculated on a proportional basis considering the months and days off activity before the interruption occurred. Sending costs will be paid to the sending organization between the end date of the activity and the end date of the project.

Legambiente Prato wants also to improve his capacities in Erasmus+ by presenting to The italian National Agency Youth Exchange and Training Course projects. If the partnership will work as expected and if our contents may interest them, we will be glad to involve you also in these kind of projects!