

# “Europe through the eyes of children”

## PROJECT ROADBOOK



Erasmus+  
KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals  
KA125 - Volunteering Projects  
Individual Volunteering Activities

**Project title:**

“Europe through the eyes of children”

**Duration:**

Ago 2018 – Jul 2020

Phase 1: Set 2018 – Ago 2019 (12 months)

Phase 2: Ago – 2019 – Jul 2020 (12 months)

**Project description and goals:**

The project "Europe through the eyes of children" aims to work the intercultural dimension currently lived in Europe. Developing a global citizenship identity and promoting tolerance are increasingly underlined issues these days, pointed out as essential key competences for a conscious, inclusive and collaborating society. Such competences must be addressed on an early stage in children and teenagers social and emotional development. The region where the project takes place still has visible signs of rurality and many children lack opportunities to take part in intercultural and innovative experiences. The project will fulfill this need.

We will host 4 volunteers in 2 different phases (1 from Italy and 1 from Slovakia in each phase), who will work for 12 months with around 120 children aged 4-6 years old on the theme of Europe and its multiculturalism. The main goal is to provide a truly intercultural long-term relationship to both volunteers and children, which will surely be remarkable and will help shaping their personal and social development.

**Volunteer's profile:**

The project targets young people (17-30 years old), including participants with fewer opportunities (refugees, migrants and facing economic, social or cultural obstacles). We are looking for volunteers who enjoy working with children and are interested in the project's main topics. We welcome young people who are curious and motivated to learn and share knowledge and skills in an intercultural environment.

## **Volunteers' tasks and activities:**

### Daily based activities:

- create and implement playful pedagogical activities on interculturalism
- help during the transport of children
- support the team of animators in the development of other activities

### Other activities:

- organize the exhibition "Europe through the eyes of a child"
- prepare and facilitate the workshop for children "I am Europe"
- organize study visits related to the project's theme
- create and edit a video about the project theme
- create a manual of intercultural activities targeting children
- participate in dissemination sessions on Erasmus + and voluntary programs
- participate in the local youth fair
- participate in other regional or local events, as long as they relate to the topics or target audiences of the project
- develop a personal project

Complementary activity: international film festival where the volunteers will be able to screen movies from their home countries and mobilize the community for intercultural dialogue and sharing.

## **Expected impact:**

The project will have impact on volunteers' learning and their personal and social development, enabling them to be more active and participative citizens in their local communities and on an international level. The skills developed throughout the project will help them to take the lead in boosting their personal and professional development, seeking lifelong opportunities of self-improvement. They will become role models on building up trustworthy relationships, based on respect, tolerance and cooperation between people and communities. The project will also contribute to increase children's and local people's awareness regarding cultural diversity and the integration of immigrants and foreigners. Ultimately, the project will strengthen the skills and competences of all organizations involved on international cooperation and for their future work on the project topics.

## **Receiving and coordinating organisation:**

Activar - Associação de Cooperação da Lousã (Portugal) - [www.activar.org](http://www.activar.org)

Activar is a non-profit association for local development located in Lousã. Its work on the community is based on the development of social and cultural projects in several fields of action, namely: childhood, youth, sports, active ageing, nature tourism and vocational training.

Activar has strong links with the community and solid partnerships on local, national and international levels. In Activar we believe that sharing and cooperation are key drivers for improved learning, development and increased value.

The main Activities carried out by Activar are:

- Center for vocational training
- Youth office
- Childhood activities and family support (around 120 children aged 3-6)
- Nature tourism activities, including the daily open “Casa da Eira” in the schist village of Talasnal (tourism office, local products shop and exhibition center)
- Active ageing activities
- Sports (Karaté, Krav Maga, amongst others)

### **The hosting town of Lousã:**

Located right in the centre of Portugal, Lousã is a town with much of interest even though many of its visitors are sports enthusiasts seeking it out for the nearby Serra da Lousã, the true highlight of this region.

Since an image is worth a thousand words, just click on the image below and see for yourself!

**Partners / Sending organisations:**

- Mlandiinfo Slovensko (Slovakia) - [www.mladiinfo.sk](http://www.mladiinfo.sk)
- Associazione Culturale Link (Italy) - [www.linkyouth.org](http://www.linkyouth.org)

**Associated partners:**

- 3 kindergartens from Lousã's Schools Group
- Municipality of Lousã - [www.cm-lousa.pt](http://www.cm-lousa.pt)

**Practical arrangements:****PRE-DEPARTURE****Sending organisation will:**

- provide all relevant information about Erasmus+ volunteering program (EVS Info kit, EVS Charter, Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support)
- make all the arrangements to ensure volunteer's participation in pre-departure training and promote interaction with other volunteers and ex-volunteers
- support volunteers in the flight reservation
- provide information about insurance and administrative aspects and ensure its activation
- help volunteers to apply for European Health Insurance Card (and explain its features)
- diagnose eventual difficulties and anticipate special needs and risks to ensure volunteer's safety in the project
- define communication and monitoring strategies for the course of the project together with volunteer, considering the volunteers needs and preferences, as well and the project outcomes

**Receiving organisation will:**

- ensure good preparation of all professionals involved in the project to welcome, integrate and collaborate with volunteers, promoting their participation and learning
- nominate a qualified tutor and mentor
- provide all relevant information about the project and the country of venue and clarify the volunteers if they have any further questions

## DURING THE PROJECT

### Sending organisation will:

- keep regular contact with volunteer and receiving organization and follow and the project development
- be available to mediate communication if conflict takes place

### Receiving organisation will:

- provide secure and comfortable accommodation - flat features detailed below:
  - ✓ shared flat (4 international volunteers)
  - ✓ location in the center of the town, with a beautiful landscape of the surrounding mountains
  - ✓ ease of access to a wide range of services (pharmacy, health care center, private medical clinics, post office, bakery, supermarket, city hall, restaurants, cafes, pubs and cultural venues)
  - ✓ ease of access to public transport means (local routes and to the city of Coimbra)
  - ✓ free wireless internet connection
  - ✓ bike
- ensure volunteer's transportation to Lousã on the arrival day as well as to and from the workplace(s)
- give pocket money and food allowance to the volunteer as settled in the Activity Agreement
- support volunteer's language learning process by giving information and assistance on the Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support and, if they wish to, support them in taking a certification exam on Portuguese as a Foreign Language
- make all the arrangements to allow volunteer's enrollment in the On-arrival training and Mid-term training organised by the National Agency
- team up with volunteers, tutor mentor and all professionals and associated partners involved in order to solve any problems arising

## UPON RETURN

### Sending organisation will:

- support volunteer's reintegration in their community and promote meetings and further relationship development with other volunteers and ex-volunteers
- ensure volunteer's participation in the Evaluation Training organised by the National Agency

- encourage and support volunteer to share their experience and disseminate Erasmus+

Receiving organisation will:

- share project's final results and impact
- be available for future cooperation

**Ex-volunteers' feedback:**

*"My time in Portugal was very good. During the project I had the possibility to try different kinds of work, for example work with children in the kindergarten, work with teenagers or organize my own activities like language courses, etc. The work was very multifaceted and I enjoyed this."*

*"I would totally recommend EVS for others. It's a unique experience and you can learn a lot. As a volunteer you have the possibility to get to know a country very well, not just as a guest. Furthermore, it helps you a lot with your personal development and you can try some work different to the one at home. During this year I decided what to study after."*

**(Johanna, Germany)**

*"My main subject was art and activities related with art. I started with several activities for children and youth. The work with children from very different social and cultural background changed my seeing of myself and my world."*

*"I didn't expect much and I was very surprised. This experience gave me many non-academical knowledges which are very useful in everyday life and communication. I also left my footprint here and I am glad I had the chance to do that. Life in a small town was also an interesting experience. Overall, I was very lucky with my hosting organisation. I want to thank them for a very nice year!"*

**(Kateřina, Czech Republic)**

*"I'm very happy with Activar, they were very kind. I enjoyed my project working with children and loved giving english lessons to adults."*

*"I got to meet so many volunteers from all over Europe and learn about their cultures, which was great. The local people were very welcoming and friendly. I plan on returning to Portugal very soon. I made some great friends."*

**(Holly, France)**