

Hubs of European Solidarity

Info pack



WHO? Volunteers between 18 and 30 years old from an EU country

WHERE? Borås, Sweden

WHEN? Starting in February 2020 and going on for 12 months

WHAT? Youth work, community work, creativity, leisure, non-formal learning



BORÅS STAD



EUROPEISKA
SOLIDARITETSKÅREN

1. WHO WE ARE



The Hosting Organisation is the **Department of Leisure and Public Health** in the municipality of Borås. Our mission is to provide the inhabitants of the city with opportunities promoting a good and equal public health in form of parks, sports facilities, associations, leisure activities and meeting places for different target groups.

Our international work is primarily based in the working unit of **Meeting Places and Open Youth Centres**. Our mission is to provide our community with meaningful leisure time which takes place in our youth centres and meeting places located in different areas of the city. In Borås there are nine youth centres for young people between 10 and 18 years old, an activity house for young adults (16-29 years old), three meeting places and two activity houses open to everyone.

All these places have the mission to strengthen the visitors' participation and engagement, encourage cooperation with civil society (sports and cultural organisations, housing associations, schools and other municipal departments) and be social hubs where people meet, exchange ideas and experiences and do things together. We also work actively with violence prevention by training our staff in identifying different forms of violence, in norm criticism and intervention strategies. Our approach is based on a "salutogenic" perspective, which means that we focus on positive resources rather than problems, and since we are a public (tax-funded) organisation we provide most of our activities free of charge.

Our organisation has worked with Erasmus+ and now the European Solidarity Corps since 2015. Since then we have hosted 45 volunteers from both EU and non-EU countries, hosted and sent groups of young people on youth exchanges and participated in international trainings for youth workers together with other organisations in Europe.

We host 10 volunteers in total every year, with a group coming in February and one in September. All our volunteers work in pairs on ESC projects based in our several youth centres and meeting places. Even though the workplaces might differ in terms of target group, location and focus area, they all share the same goal of providing visitors with a meaningful and safe free time, encouraging active engagement in society and promoting non-formal learning.

2. THE PROJECT AND VOLUNTEER'S TASKS

The aim of the project “Hubs of European Solidarity” is to spread good examples and populate our youth centres and activity houses with good-quality free time activities with the help of the volunteers. We believe that this will inspire our young visitors to learn new things, step out of their comfort zone and make own activities in a non-formal way, thus exercising their right to leisure, boosting their health and strengthening their position in society. Moreover, meeting volunteers from different countries can awaken their interest in mobility opportunities in Europe, which is part of our strategy as a local Eurodesk office.

The project is in line with the European Solidarity Corps’ objectives of promoting social inclusion, solidarity and non-formal learning in our organisation. The volunteers will involve visitors in taking part and organising free time activities for their own sake but also for the community. They will inspire young visitors to engage in society and be active citizens, by creating own events, discussing social matters or volunteering locally or abroad.

The volunteers will improve their employability as we will equip them with value-based methods of working in a community and with youth which will possibly spread to future working places. Finally, by being ambassadors of European programmes and working with young people every day, they will learn the importance of non-formal learning and understand how it works in practice.

The project consists of 3 Activities located in 3 different units of **Meeting Places and Open Youth Centres** in Borås Municipality:

- Activity 1: “Hässlehuset 3.0” (2 volunteers)
- Activity 2: “Mötesplats Kristineberg” (2 volunteers)
- Activity 3: “Sjöbo & Parasport” (2 volunteers).

2.1 HÄSSLEHUSET 3.0



Hässlehuset is an activity house located in a neighbourhood of Borås open to all ages, from children to adults. It contains a library, a café, some rooms for after school activities and the local culture school (dancing, singing, playing instruments, arts and crafts). In the house you will find activities such as citizen service, language café, homework help and activities for youth.

The volunteers' tasks will be to support the staff in the daily activities of Hässlehuset, by interacting with the visitors, leading activities for and with the visitors, taking part in relevant trainings and meetings, and contributing to develop the house with ideas, projects and events. It is good that the volunteers are into art, music, or any other creative passion so they can take part in the cultural activities or create their own.

Besides that they will have the mission of promoting ESC and Erasmus+ to young people in Borås through organising events and activities (European Youth Week, Time to Move campaign, Europe Day, etc.), visiting schools and writing on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr).

The volunteers will also take part in on-arrival and mid-term trainings as well as staff meetings and trainings organised by our organisation (violence prevention, non-formal leaning, staff trainings, etc.).



Do you want to know more about Hässlehuset? Click on the logos below!



2.2 MÖTESPLATS KRISTINEBERG



Kristineberg youth centre is open to children and young people between 10 and 18 years old and is part of a bigger building containing a library, meeting place and open preschool.

The volunteers will work together with the staff in the everyday activities of the youth centre, by interacting with the visitors, taking part in relevant trainings and meetings, and leading activities for and with the visitors, such as dancing, gaming, arts and crafts, board games, outdoor activities, etc.

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The volunteers will also take part in on-arrival and mid-term trainings as well as staff meetings and trainings organised by our organisation (violence prevention, non-formal learning, staff trainings, etc.).

Do you want to know more about Kristineberg youth centre? Click on the logos below!



2.3 SJÖBO & PARASPORT



Sjöbo youth centre is located by the local square together with some shops, restaurants, a library and a meeting place. It offers activities for children and young people aged 10-18, such as pool, board games, arts and crafts, gaming, etc. The youth leaders also work with groups (only boys, only girls or mixed) to strengthen young people's leadership and participation.

The youth centre has a cooperation with a local parasport association in form of activities in a gym hall such as football, table tennis, basket, badminton, etc. The youth leader also cooperate with the local school by ensuring the wellbeing of pupils in the cafeteria, classrooms, corridors, etc.

Sjöbo meeting place is open to all ages and is the result of the cooperation with the social care department and the housing association. It functions as a social hub for the neighbourhood and arranges activity days, Christmas market, health week, children's rights day, etc.

The volunteers will work together with the staff in the everyday activities of the youth centre, by interacting with the visitors and leading activities for and with the visitors, such as dancing, gaming, arts and crafts, board games, outdoor activities, etc. The volunteers will also work in the meeting place to get a broader understanding of the work we do in the neighbourhood.

Besides that they will have the mission of promoting ESC and Erasmus+ to young people in Borås through organising events and activities (European Youth Week, Time to Move campaign, Europe Day, etc.), visiting schools and writing on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr).

The volunteers will also take part in on-arrival and mid-term trainings as well as staff meetings and trainings organised by our organisation (violence prevention, non-formal learning, staff trainings, etc.).

Do you want to know more about Sjöbo youth centre? Click on the logos below!



3. VOLUNTEER'S PROFILE



What do we look for in a volunteer?

- Volunteers that can (or want to learn to) lead activities for children and young people.
- Genuine interest in working with children and young people.
- Creativity.
- Sociable and outgoing.
- Sense of initiative.
- Willing to build relationships with the visitors.
- Willing to work with people from different backgrounds (colleagues and other ESC volunteers).
- Willing to learn Swedish.
- Thriving in a dynamic environment where there are many things going on.
- Interest in ESC and Erasmus+.
- Interest in promoting ESC face to face, on social media, on arranged events.

4. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

- Return trip arranged by the hosting organisation.
- Working hours: 35 hours a week (a mixture of day, evening and weekend shifts), including 6 hours dedicated to learning Swedish (the course might be online, IRL at discretion of the organisation). Since our organisation works with the inhabitants' free time, our meeting places and youth centres are open and mostly visited during afternoon and evening time.
- 25 vacation days a year.
- Shared accommodation: every volunteer has their own room and shares public spaces with others (kitchen, toilets, shower rooms, dining room, living room, terrace and laundry room). The volunteers are responsible for keeping their rooms and common areas clean and tidy.
- Food and pocket money: 3550 SEK a month (around 350 €).
- Transport: bus card provided by the organisation.
- Work mentorship is provided by a member of the staff in the workplace, who has the extra responsibility to make sure the volunteers feel included in the workplace, organise mentor meetings, monitor learning, organise schedule, etc.
- Social mentorship is provided by older volunteers, summer and winter get-togethers, Facebook group.
- Free access to public swimming pools and library card.

Do you want to know more about ESC volunteering in Borås? Click on the logos below!

