

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS  
PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Open Youth Work

# **BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES: VOLUNTEER IN YOUTH WORK**



# Looking for long term ESC volunteers!

The NGO Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres (AEYC) is a nationwide umbrella organisation which was founded on November 9th, 2001 with the aim to connect Estonian youth centres from all over the country. Currently, the association has 88 members with 246 youth centres. AEYC has been coordinating volunteers since 2015.

The ESC Volunteering Partnership project "Open Youth Work" aims to promote opportunities and improve the quality of international youth work, to develop respect and tolerance, to support social and cultural diversity, and to improve competencies for international and multicultural activities and societal life among young people, youth workers, and community members.



# 10

## FACTS ABOUT ESTONIA

- 1 Estonia, officially the Republic of Estonia (Estonian: Eesti Vabariik), is a country on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea in Northern Europe.
- 2 The territory of Estonia consists of the mainland and of 2.222 islands in the Baltic Sea, covering a total area of 45.227 km<sup>2</sup>.
- 3 One of the world's most digitally- advanced societies.
- 4 With a population of 1.3 million Estonia is one of the least populous members of the EU, the OECD, the Schengen Area, NATO, and from 2020, the United Nations Security Council.
- 5 It is bordered to the north by Finland, to the west by Sweden, to the south by Latvia, and to the east by Russia.
- 6 The official language of the country, Estonian, is the second-most- spoken Finnic language.
- 7 2005 - the first state to hold elections over the Internet
- 8 2014 - the first state to provide e-residency.
- 9 Estonian citizens receive universal health care, free education, and the longest paid maternity leave in the OECD.
- 10 The sovereign state of Estonia is a democratic unitary parliamentary republic divided into fifteen counties.

# What is open youth work?

Open youth centres are professional non-formal educational environments providing a diverse variety of services and activities to local young people aged 7-26. Youth centres follow the principles of open youth work. Youth centres are accessible for diverse opportunities such as socialising, leisure time and hackathon space for young people to support their ideas.

Youth centres have the capacity to work with youth from different backgrounds and be socially inclusive. They are flexible in their activities, introduce different perspectives, and develop critical thinking and tolerance. Youth participation starting from the grassroots level is a key to social inclusion and to mutual dialogue to support the youth.

# Volunteering

During the volunteering service, the participant will be involved in the daily activities of the youth centre and will be provided opportunities for initiatives and collaboration with associated partners in the hosting community. The participant will be able to co-create their own volunteering journey and contribute with their own ideas and skills.

## Volunteering conditions

Our hosting organisations are in search of volunteers who can present some experience in working with children and young people or have high motivation and a sense of initiative to contribute to youth work activities.



# General conditions

## Volunteer will be granted

- International transportation reimbursement (to the max. amount) CIGNA insurance
- 4€ pocket money per day
- 6€ food allowance per day Accommodation
- Work-related transportation, if needed
- OLS Estonian language course (English optional)
- On-arrival and mid-term training with the National Agency
- Annual meetings with other international volunteers
- Work-related training and preparation at the youth centre
- Tutor to instruct you at work
- A life full of new experiences!

## Working language

English and Estonian\*

\*Estonian language lessons provided by OLS platform

## Selection process

Interviews will be carried out with all of the candidates after they have applied.

Vacancies will be filled as a result of the on-going calls as soon as the hosting organisations have selected a suitable candidate.

The sooner you apply the better your chances!

**Tell us about yourself and your motivation to be part of the project HERE.**

# General conditions

You are likely to have the best volunteering experience in this project if you're motivated towards social and youth work. For the roles you must be sociable, proactive, open-minded, tolerant, creative and self-reliant. Through a strong commitment to the tasks, you're ready to challenge your interpersonal skills, resilience and other features according to the specific tasks you'll be assigned to.

- Able to support and stimulate different types of leisure activity, from indoor to outdoor activities.
- Ready to take some initiative over time to contribute to the activities of the youth centre.
- Competences in artistic expression and/or experience in sports or music field are very welcomed.
- The true will to overcome the possible language barrier with the children and to learn Estonian.
- Willing to live in Estonia, to experience the local life, culture, and Nordic climate.
- It's fundamental you can take a 12 month engagement, for all the length of the project.
- Able to communicate in English.
- Aged 18 - 30 years.

In order to participate, you must be legally resident in the EU Member States or the Partner Countries listed in European Solidarity Corps FAQs, accessible [HERE](#).



# Placements looking for a volunteer

## Pärnu Noorte Vabaajakeskus

Fully equipped band room and studio for making podcasts.

[more information](#)



## Sauga Avatud Noortekeskus

Sauga Avatud Noortekeskus has DJ classes for youngsters!

[more information](#)

## Jõgeva valla Noortekeskus

Jõgeva valla noortekeskus is also a Eurodesk point so great opportunities to expand your Erasmus+ world knowledge.

[more information](#)





## Põltsamaa Noortekeskus

It's not just a youth centre, it's also a community centre for great minds in the community.

[more information](#)



## Viimsi Noortekeskus

Viimsi Noortekeskus has a workshop room to fulfil the most creative minds.

[more information](#)

## Toila Noortekeskus

Within few minutes from the centre you are at the seaside.

[more information](#)



## Harku valla noortekeskused

Great opportunities to organise field trips every school break and every year in June there's a youth festival.

[more information](#)



## Viljandi Avatud Noortekeskus

Youth centre has an indoor skatepark for all the extreme sports fans.

[more information](#)

## Keila Noortekeskus

Highly supported social enterprise for student companies.

[more information](#)



## Kehtna Noortekeskus

Has very welcoming and strong community spirit!

[more information](#)



## Rae Noortekeskus

Rae Noortekeskus has 5 youth centres, so you could choose your place of work based on your interest.

*\* looking for 2 volunteers*

[more information](#)

## Kohila Noortekeskus

Kohila gives opportunities to realise your musical and crafty minds with all the needed equipment.

*\* looking for 2 volunteers*

[more information](#)



To be a volunteer in Estonia, tell us  
about yourself and your  
motivation to be part of the  
project HERE.

*See you  
in Estonia!*



EUROPEAN  
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Association of  
Estonian Open  
Youth Centers