

ALPY is looking for 2 volunteers (one Spanish, one Italian) for an EVS project for 10 months starting in september 2016.

Description of the organisation:

ALPY vzw (Alps & Pyrenees, Discovering & Sustaining) is an association without lucrative purpose contributing to a sustainable development of traditional communities in the Alps and Pyrenees. Every year Belgian people travel to mountain areas for tourist activities, but without any knowledge of the culture and the social economy of these regions. That is why a group of young people created the association ALPY: 1) to raise awareness about the value of the nature and culture of European mountain regions and to develop competences to contribute to these values 2) to offer a social platform that informs and inspires people to build a sustainable society based on research and exchange of good practices

We are convinced that the European mountain regions have an innovative role in the area of sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, sustainable tourism and alternative mobility. The diversity and specificity in these natural livelihoods together with the independence and entrepreneurship of mountain people that the mountain regions have in common inspires us to cooperate with these regions and to share good practices in both ways. On the other hand we are also convinced that these regions need our support, because these natural livelihoods are rare in Europe and they are actually threatened by globalization and mass production. Our localization in Belgium, close to the EU offices, makes ALPY the ideal link between EU rural policy, Belgian mountain travelers/citizens and the rural mountain communities.

ALPY has the following goals:

- informing and sensitize non-mountain dwellers about rural culture and nature in the Alps and Pyrenees
- spreading elements of the traditional mountain culture, especially biological, artistic and craft products
- sustaining organizations which contribute to the collection, protection and valorisation of the rural culture and nature of the Alps and Pyrenees
- sustaining and developing partnerships, information-exchange, research and training about sustainable and rural development in mountain communities

To reach its goals, the association takes the following measures:

- organization of yearly activities: expositions, movie nights, culinary evenings, non-formal education workshops and seminars
- design and distribution of publications and audio-visual products
- development and gesture of thematic projects
- development of a library of books and audio-visual material- advise and coaching of individuals about traveling and working in the mountains

Project context:

The ALPY office is located close to the city center and local transport. A lot of attention is paid to ecological food and living. So the volunteers are motivated to wear a pull-over instead of over-heating the room and to use the bike or public transport. By bus it takes 15 minutes to go to the main railway station of Ghent and 30 minutes to get into the ancient city center of Ghent. The volunteers will also be able to use our bikes. Since it is only 8 kilometers to the ancient city center it is faster to go by bike and in summer it is even very nice. From Ghent it takes only 30 minutes by train to go to Brussels, 20 minutes to Brugge and 50 minutes to the coast. For every outside activity that a bus or train is needed, ALPY will provide access to the timetables and will arrange the necessary tickets.

Food will be provided by one of the volunteers in the ALPY kitchen during the working hours. In the free time the volunteers will be able to cook their own dinner. Food from home gardening or small local farmers is recommended. ALPY has a network of vegetarian restaurants and some professional cooks that cooperate with ALPY for the organization of events and workshops. ALPY has a kitchen, but events are organized in other accommodations that are officially meeting centers. The volunteers will be hosted in a student flat in the village or in Ghent city center for long term EVS and in a student hostel or hosting family for short term EVS.

ALPY has only one office with one large meeting table, a working desk and a big bookshelf. The kitchen and toilet, as well as the beautiful garden and terrace, are shared with the owner of the building, who is only there in the evenings and weekends. The volunteers will only be working at the office for preparations and administration, most of the time the volunteers will be outside in the street or in rented spaces in the city center.

Project summary:

“Moving mountains for a sustainable society!” is a long term EVS project that will take place in Belgium, and involves 1 volunteer of Spain and 1 volunteer of Italy.

The common motivation is to increase awareness and knowledge about sustainable development practices and policies of the several European societies, to develop new platforms for exchange of good practices, to explore the possibilities of involving youngsters in green entrepreneurship, and to train and motivate youngsters into ambassadors of green lifestyles.

Activities for the EVS volunteer:

The volunteer will work maximum 36 hours, maximum 5 days a week. Work at the office will be between 8h and 18h. Work on events will be in the evenings or in the weekends, compensation for this weekend and evening-work is provided. Each Friday a schedule will be made for the next week, in consultation with the other team members. This EVS project consists of many various activities and different learning approaches and is very flexible for volunteers' learning needs so that is why each volunteer can gain many competences. There will also be a good balance between outdoor activities and office work, and between individual work and team-building.

Work in the ALPY office: preparation of a personal project and support of the staff and other volunteers in the current sensitization campaigns, projects and daily work, communications and networking. Volunteers will increase their knowledge and practice skills like gathering and analyzing information, cooperating with organizations from several different countries, working in different languages, organizing events, developing publications, updating website, etc.

Work outside the office: realization of the personal project; support of the staff and other volunteers during workshops, lectures and information-markets; meetings with partners; observation of good practices; participation in trainings, workshops and seminars; active face to face actions in student areas. Volunteers will increase their learning methods, self-employment and entrepreneurial skills and practice communication skills, intercultural interactions and project-management.

These are daily activities that we will propose:

- Support of the staff and other volunteers in the current sensitization campaigns, projects and daily work: Assistance in the planned events, lectures and film evenings, Updating the library and theme-boxes, Support in the preparation of an Erasmus+ Training,...
- Communication in cooperation with the responsible person for communications (Séverine), with the responsible person for graphic design and ICT (Helen) and with the ALPY-translators: Following and summarizing news and research results, Translating news-articles, Writing newsletters, reports and agreements, Following-up Social Media, Updating and editing on social media and the ALPY website, Making promotional material such as leaflets and posters, Organization of meetings with the other (Erasmus+) volunteers
- Network building: Updating the address list, Sustaining the actual partnerships and the Erasmus+ network, Exploration and development of new partnerships, Sharing good practices, Assistance in fund raising and memberships
- Creation and Innovation: Development of a personal project, workshop or research choosing one of this topics: Ecological Farming, Sustainable Architecture, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Tourism, Alternative Mobility, Nature and Art/Culture/Heritage. Development of new actions in student areas. Development of new sensitization material, films and expositions. Improving information and good practices exchange with the partners. Development of new Erasmus+ actions
- Training and Language Classes: 1 week on-arrival training, 2 teambuilding weekends, 1 week mid-term evaluation and outside team-building activity, 1 week end-term evaluation, every week minimum 3 hours language classes and 3 hours citizenship/intercultural activity, every week minimum 3 hours practical workshops (art/sport/agriculture) and minimum 3 hours thematic training depending on the needs of the volunteer (project management, ICT, graphic design, writing, CV-training, technical or practical workshops, seminars related to sustainable development,..)
- Personal reflections, evaluations and meetings with the mentor and with other volunteers and partners

All these various activities will enable the volunteer in different ways to raise their environmental awareness and to inform other young people about sustainable development and the way we can all contribute to it.

Profile of the EVS volunteer:

- Interest in professional experience in an international context to complete his personality, his curriculum and his network
- Willingness to share ideas and experiences with the purpose of helping other people/contributing to the European society
- Knowledge of one of these languages: English, Dutch, French, Spanish, Italian or German
- Experience with research and/or event organization and/or youth-work
- Persistence, eagerness to learn and interest in social contact, cultures and/or languages
- Interest in social media, editing or marketing, or in communication technologies and networking
- Interest in sustainable development and/or art/heritage
- Interest in improving creativity, communication-skills, self-confidence and/or entrepreneurship
- Motivation for learning, developing and sharing
- A passion for nature, culture and/or social communities
- Age below 31 years

Selection process:

Please send us your personal motivation letter (max. 1A4), picture, curriculum vitae (max. 3A4) and a project idea that you would like to develop during your EVS (max. 1 A4) before 29/07/2016.

The first selection will be based on

- an evaluation of your motivation: what are your interests on short and long term?
- an evaluation of your curriculum vitae: education level is less important than experience with mountain areas, youth-work, eventmanagement or research
- an evaluation of your project proposal

In a second stage we will invite two youngsters for an interview by Skype, where we can discuss the project proposal and practical arrangements.

For the project proposal we want you to develop a concept that contributes to the objectives of this project and the general objectives of ALPY and to describe how you will ensure a follow-up in your country.

Your proposal has to fit in one of these topics: sustainable mountain (winter)tourism and/or mobility, biological agriculture and/or permaculture, ecological building and/or sustainable energy, co-existence between wild animals and human activities (shepperds, farmers and tourists), art/handcraft/heritage or green entrepreneurship.

You will have to develop the project for one of these groups in Belgian: young unemployed people, actif retired people, secondary school students, students of evening classes (tourist-guide, language), non profit organisations or big company's and enterprises.

You will have to be able to realise the project in Belgian together with the other volunteer in the second stage of the EVS (be realistic and concrete).