**ESC Infopack**

**Little Seeds of Solidarity II.**

Through this long-term project (October 2020 – September 2021), we would like to contribute to the personal development of ESC participant, to the development of services of DC Hlavicka and the strengthening of the local community which is in contact with the participant.

The participant activities are the following:

- preparation and realization of educational activities for children,

- English language support for children and staff,

- involvement in the activities organized for children and their parents by DC Hlavicka

- help and support with organization of the DC Hlavicka activities based on own preferences and participate in the preparation of new activities,

- creation of the own project and activities based on their own preferences in the connection with child work,

- involvement in the activities based on volunteer strengths.

The project objectives are the following:

1. To contribute to building up a relationship between the organization and clients by providing educational activities.

2. To tutor children and provide support for obtaining new knowledge and skills.

3. To help DC Hlavicka with the organization of various activities and events for clients.

4. To support administration tasks of DC Hlavicka.

5. To create her/his own activities connected to the child care topic.

6. To come up with the new ideas about work with children.

7. To support growth, progress, and maturity of children.

The aims of the project are:

- to contribute to the personal development of the ESC participant, give her/him an opportunity to obtain new knowledge, skills, and experience

- to contribute to the development of services of DC Hlavicka

- to help DC Hlavicka with the organization of various activities for their kids and for their parents

- to give kids of DC Hlavicka the opportunity to meet real foreign volunteer, increase inter-cultural sensitivity, increase curiosity about other countries and cultures, learn about European cooperation and solidarity

- to support direct work with DC Hlavicka kids by new points of view from ESC participant his/her culture, history, ideas, creativity

- improve the English skills of children clients by talking to a foreigner but also improve the Slovak language skills of the participant by talking to children

- to promote volunteering and ESC within secondary school students, inform them about opportunities and this way give them a chance to find out that they can make a difference, what they can learn and how they can help

- spread our experiences and know-how to other people who are from the field or are interested in our work

In kindergarten, a multi-cultural approach is promoted and supported. There are children that do not have only Slovak nationality. It is a mixture of Slovak children and children of foreigners from different countries who currently live in Slovakia. They try to promote and support tolerance, mutual respect, and acceptance between children. They believe that these are very important values for the future. For these reasons, they welcome the opportunity to host a foreign volunteer who can bring a new dimension in their small kindergarten, increase diversity and will help them in their mission. They are also looking forward to the intercultural exchange when it comes to raising the small children and their education and which could contribute also to incorporation of new effective and meaningful educational activities.

For the volunteer, it will be an invaluable opportunity to explore the life and culture of a new country, learn and get experience with the educational process of small children, child care, contribute to their growth, represent his/her culture and country.

ESC participant can gain unforgettable experience, an opportunity to know a lot of new people, take a part in various informal educational courses and supervisions. Furthermore, we will present him/her programs for children. Work and regular meetings with the children will help the participant to learn about their needs. Participants are highly valued and respected in our organization thus we always try to provide them with the best conditions for work. Our organization is interested in their opinions, personal motivations, and satisfaction. We want all the activities to be organized professionally so the long-term work is very important for us too. For this reason, DC Hlavicka is accepting volunteers for a longer period of time.

Participant´s profile:

In this project, we are looking for someone ready to take up new challenges, who like to work with children. He or she should be enthusiastic about growing their personal and professional skills and prepared for unexpected experiences. Participant must be 18 years old or older. Training in childcare or experience in work with children is an advantage, but it is not a necessary condition. Required qualities include:

- flexibility (work with children requires good adaptability to changes),

- creativity (thinking of new activities for children, careful planning),

- open-mind,

- empathy (to be able to understand children´s life situations and feelings),

- self-reliance, responsibility for assigned tasks,

- communication skills

The participant should be prepared to help with:

- preparation of educational activities and games for the children

- outside and inside activities

- teaching kids English through various activities and games

- playing with the children

- assisting with hygiene, putting kids to sleep

- preparation of materials for parents

- assist with cooking

The selection process includes:

- publishing the offer in the database

- research in the European Solidarity Corps database,

- collecting CV and motivation letters

- interview Skype with each candidate

Accommodation:

The participant will be accommodated in the private flat which will be shared with other ESC participants or students.

Food and pocket money:

Participant will be provided monthly amount needed to ensure food and public transport expenses. Pocket money will be given to participant each month, along with money for food, in accordance with the project standards of practice.

Preparation:

Before the arrival participant will get a Participant guide for Bratislava with all information related to the stay. It will consist of materials about Bratislava, sight-seeing/cultural/sport options in Bratislava and Bratislava region, accommodation, suggestions for restaurants and various events schedules for the time of the service. It will also consist of a map of Bratislava and Slovakia, basic Slovak vocabulary, information about the volunteering in Slovakia, the goals and activities of hosting and coordinating organization, and all the relevant contact information (coordinator in BDC, coordinator in DC Hlavicka, mentor).

Orientation and inclusion training:

Once participant arrives to Bratislava, he/she will get the orientation and inclusion training in order to integrate them into the DC Hlavicka and its activities. BDC coordinator will organize the orientation session that will provide the participant with detailed info about the organization and especially about the project he/she will be involved into.

Participant will be provided by basic slovak language course. The language course will make the participant more open and available to activities that need the knowledge of the local language.

Mentoring and Support:

In addition to take care of participant, there will be a mentor, coordinators and supervisor assigned who will take care of participant, communicate with him/her, and spend time (sometimes even weekends).

For more information:

<https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/placement/24876_en>

<https://www.dchlavicka.sk/domov/>

<https://www.dobrovolnictvoba.sk/en/>

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