

## *Maison des Jeunes de Marche-en-Famenne* *(2013-BEFR-35)*

**Theme 1: Youth leisure**

**Theme 2: European awareness**

### The hosting organisation

**La Maison des Jeunes (MJ) / the Youth Club** is an association accredited by the French Community of Belgium. We work in Marche-en-Famenne, a 17.000 inhabitants' town which is located in the south of the country.

Our mission is to promote youth active citizenship, participation and empowerment. In all our activities – trainings, creative and artistic workshops, outings and visits, organisation of concerts and cultural events - we strive to work on the basis of "pedagogy of the project." Through negotiation, preparation, implementation and evaluation of activities, we hope to encourage young people to acquire new skills and support them in developing themselves as a person and as a citizen.

The young people who come in the youth house are in between 12 & 26 year old.

Our youth participate in activities such as: dance, African drumming, musical creation, fashion design workshops, organization of concerts, and participation in the local carnival.

### EVS experience

The MJ of Marche en Famenne is not new in hosting EVS volunteers.

We had volunteer from Italy, Spain, Lithuania, France and Russia.

We think that welcoming an EVS volunteer within our staff allows our public of young people to open themselves to other cultures and to develop a new relationship with somebody. EVS volunteers' presence at the MJ offers the opportunity to the staff to introduce their world to somebody foreigner to the department and to promote and value their work. Also, we think an EVS volunteer working at the MJ will have the opportunity to acquire many skills, to meet a lot of people and departments of the town of Marche-en-Famenne.

## Location of the project:

**La Maison des Jeunes** is located in **Marche-en-Famenne**, a 17 000 inhabitants town of the province of Luxembourg. This unique situation will permit the volunteer to share the semi-rural life style of the area, but also to meet young people from different places.

During his/her EVS, the volunteer will live and mostly work in Marche-en-Famenne. The town offers all modern facilities (shops, supermarkets, sport center, cinema....). For the urban-life-style-lover, it is however **IMPORTANT** to note that our town is located in a semi-rural area. Even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (57 km from Liège, 106 km from Brussels, 47 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look remote and very quiet. The volunteer will be in contact with other EVS volunteers being hosted in other projects in the municipality. If all of them are not living together, they'll live not far from each other and they will be daily in contact with each other as well as with the local youth.

## The project

The volunteer will have the possibility to participate in all our activities: artistic workshop, sports activities, organisation of cultural events and free time activities in the youth club.

S/he will also work sometimes in partnership with other local youth and social organisations.



## Free time at the youth club

With the help of a staff member, the volunteer will be at the youth house and welcome the young people who come there to spend some free time after school. During these moments, the youth house is open to everyone. The young people come to meet each other, play some games (dard, baby foot, board games...), they discuss and so on. The staff members are available to facilitate the activities but the youth are free to participate or not, as this space is more a space dedicated to socialization than participation to activities.

## Artistic or sport workshop

Up to his/her capacity and motivation, the volunteer could take part in some of the following activities: sport, dance, music, fashion design workshops...





## Cultural Visit

The volunteer could help in organising some visit out of the youth house (bowling, paintball, amusement park, museum...)

## The Senegal project

The MJ of Marche en Famenne recently organized a project which foreseen a deep collaboration between the MJ and another youth association in Senegal. The project aim is to compare animation methods and young people entertainment of both countries and to create a link between the two cultures.

During the year at least some event are organized to collect financings for the project and to support the Senegal youth centre we work with. Furthermore this year we are going to host our partners from Senegal here in Marche.



## **Collective activities with other EVS volunteers:**

The EVS activity within La Maison des Jeunes is part of an EVS group project that aims to increase European awareness among youth in the town of Marche-en-Famenne and to improve a closer collaboration between the local youth services. For this reason, some activities will be run with other EVS volunteers (hosted by three other local youth organisations).

The volunteers are encouraged to work together especially during specific youth events organized once a year in Marche-en-Famenne: Rock festival, Carnival, youth services open day, end of exams party. The volunteers will help to prepare and follow-up these events. In some occasions, they will hold an information stand presenting EVS program and youth exchange opportunities. We would like to organize a "European night" in the local youth house to give volunteers the possibility to present therefore their country and traditions.

## **The volunteer' language and culture training course ☺**

We always expect from the volunteer to share with us his/her culture and passions. Volunteers of La Maison des Jeunes are used to organize, in the second part of their EVS project, a course of their language or other aspects of their cultures: you are welcome to let us know more about your country cooking traditions, habits, language and so on.

## **Profile of the volunteer:**

Our project is open to anybody motivated by volunteering and who wishes to be involved in our organisation, regardless to their nationality, religion, beliefs, diploma, professional experience. Because the majority of the youngsters don't speak any other language than French, we appreciate if the volunteer has some basic skills in France before starting the service.

We expect the volunteer to be ready to build an atmosphere of confidence and complicity with the youngsters; be ready to involve him/herself in the several tasks we do with them; be able to work together with the staff; be interested in art, creativity and music and be ready to bring new ideas, new energy and enthusiasm!

We also expect someone very flexible as the biggest of the Maison des Jeunes' work runs during the week-ends. We don't have a fixed and determined job timetable and we organize our activities according to our young public necessities and free time (for example it's mainly during the week-ends that we organize parties and concerts and they last sometimes all the night long ☺ ).

## **Number of EVS volunteers hosted:**

One on this project but s/he will have regular contacts with the other EVS volunteers hosted in Marche-en-Famenne (around 4).



## Risks prevention, protection and safety:

Safety at work: The EVS volunteer will always works under the responsibility of the youth workers of la Maison des Jeunes. Anyway s/He will have the autonomy s/he'll need to develop his/her own initiatives and personal projects.

The activities s/he will take part in will mainly be prepared with the whole staff.

Preparation meetings will allow the staff to inform the EVS volunteer about the rules to respect, about all in risks prevention and safety.

**Safety at home:** The volunteer will be hosted in an accommodation with all the modern comforts and respecting the safety rules. When arrived, the volunteer will receive a list of phone numbers to call in case of emergency. S/he will also receive the phone numbers of his/her mentor and task-related supervisor.

**Risks and crisis prevention:** Risks prevention is firstly linked to a good preparation. We will provide the volunteer with complete and true information before s/he decides to join our project. The sending organisation will be in charge to follow the volunteer during the pre-departure process, to inform him/her about the EVS program, about the rights and responsibilities of the different actors involved, about the administrative obligations the volunteer has to respect before to leave his/her country, etc.

When arrived in Belgium, the volunteer will participate in the on-arrival seminar and the mid-term evaluation organized by the French speaking National Agency. At the starting of the project, we'll especially take care to welcome the volunteer, to show him/her interesting places of our town and Belgium and to present him/her to other young people. We'll also check that everything is in order with the insurance.

The EVS volunteer will participate in our weekly meeting in order to be integrated in the team and to have the chance to talk about the difficulties s/he lives. An evaluation of the EVS experience will be made on regular basis with his/her mentor. If there is a problem, a meeting with the project coordinator will be hold in order to solve it.

In case of crisis/emergency, we'll require the intervention of the specialize services required, according to the situation.

Our coordinating organization and our national agency in charge of the EVS programme are resources that can help in case of any serious casual problem

## Project period

**EVS activity will start on 01/03/2015 for duration of 12 months**

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