

Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl (2013-BEFR-37)

Theme 1: European awareness

Theme 2: Anti-discrimination

The Hosting Organisation :

The Association of Compagnons Bâtisseurs, aka CBB, is a non-profit, non-political youth organisation recognised by the French Community of Belgium. The organisation proposes different kinds of activities, mainly based on *volunteering* and *non-formal education*: local and international work camps, medium and long term voluntary service, leisure time activities for and with disabled people.

All these activities would not be possible without a network of 420 Belgian volunteers, almost 200 international volunteers during the summer and a team of 9 employees.

We are a Youth Organisation and most of our public is aged between 16 and 25 years, even if there is not upper age limit to integrate our groups of volunteers.



CBB especially promote an inclusive approach of the public; we strongly believe in the richness of diversity and we take action to favour the heterogeneous character of our groups of volunteers. Therefore, the members of the association (+- 420 people) are from diverse origins and capacities.

EVS experience

We participate in the EVS Programme both as sending and hosting Organisation since 1997. We are accredited as coordinating organisation since 2007.

We believe that this programme perfectly fits with our organisational goals and methods: non-formal education, active citizenship promotion, volunteering and interculturality are keywords in our daily action.

We also particularly appreciate the learning opportunities that the EVS offers to all young people, regardless to their origins, background and economical means.

CBB is member of the ALLIANCE of European Volunteer Service Organisations.

Location of the project:

Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl presents the specificity to develop of lot of international exchanges and to be located in a small town of the south -French speaking part of Belgium. From our office, by the church place of Marche-en-Famenne, a 17 000 inhabitants town of the province of Luxembourg, we organise projects all over the French Community of Belgium (Brussels and Wallonia) and maintain close partnerships with non-profit organisations from all over the world. 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 of the country as well as to be in contact with people from the other side of the earth.

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 know 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 project

The volunteer will be mainly involved in the **promotion, preparation and follow-up of our voluntary projects**. He/she will also work sometimes in partnership with other local youth and social organisations.

L'asbl Compagnons Bâtisseurs est un association de chantiers de jeunes reconnue et subventionnée, en tant qu'Organisation de jeunesse, par le Ministère de la Jeunesse de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, membre de la Confédération des Organisations de Jeunesse (COJ) et de l'Alliance européenne des associations de service volontaire (ALLIANCE).

1) Promotion of CBB activities:



- To prepare and to hold information stands in the universities and high school or in fairs in order to present our activities and to increase young people awareness about volunteering, non-formal education and intercultural exchanges.
- According to his/her knowledge, to take care of the virtual promotion of the organisation activities (Facebook, Flickr, website updating).

2) Preparation of the weekend projects and of the international work camps:

- To visit organisations that would like to host an international camp organized by CBB.
- To maintain the contact with our partner organisations through Internet communication and to send them regular updates about our projects.
- To receive and answer to the application requests of volunteers who'd like to participate in a voluntary projects and to follow-up their registration process (this is an important task in from April to July that permit to develop a lot of contacts, but can also be considered as very administrative).
- To give a support in the preparation of the activities: preparation of material, food...



3) Co-animation of weekend and international work camps

International work camps are short-term voluntary projects, with duration of two or three weeks. They gather young people from different countries that work on a voluntary basis for a non-profit organisation or a local community. The tasks can be very varied: renovation, construction, environment protection, and child animation...

In collaboration with the camp leader, the EVS volunteer will help to maintain a good group dynamic and to favour the learning experiences within the participants.



IMPORTANT: CBB works for the correct inclusion of disabled people. When a person with disability will participate in a camp, the EVS volunteer will be especially in charge to help him/her to integrate the group.

4) Activities according to the personality of the volunteer and to his/her desires:

We really hope that the volunteer will bring us innovation and creativity. Depending of his/her preferences, of his/her desires and his/her capacities, he/she may make a short film or a photo report presenting the organisation, create posters or write texts about its activities, to take part in

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the development and the promotion of an ecological charter that will have to be respected on all the activities of association...

5) **Collective activities** with other EVS volunteers:

The EVS activity within Compagnons Bâtisseurs 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 that reason, some activities will be run with other EVS volunteers (hosted by two other local youth organisations).

The volunteers will work together especially during special 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. They will have the opportunity to organize a "European night" in the local youth house and to present therefore their country and traditions.

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, believes, diploma, professional experience. We expect the volunteer to be interested in international volunteering projects, be ready to build an atmosphere of confidence; ready to involve him/herself in the several activities we do; be able to work together with the staff; agree with our philosophy of equality and openness to the difference.

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 youth workers of CBB. S/He will have the autonomy s/he'll need to develop his/her own initiatives and personal projects, but s/he won't be responsible of an activity on its own.

S/he will always get the advice and support of a youth worker.

The activities s/he will take part in will always 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

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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 held in order to solve it.

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

As we are the hosting and coordinating organisation in this project we are in charge, together with our national agency, to provide the resources that can help in case of any serious casual problems.

Project period

EVS activity will start on 01/02/2015 for a duration of 12 months

Contacts

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