



## GENERAL PRESENTATION

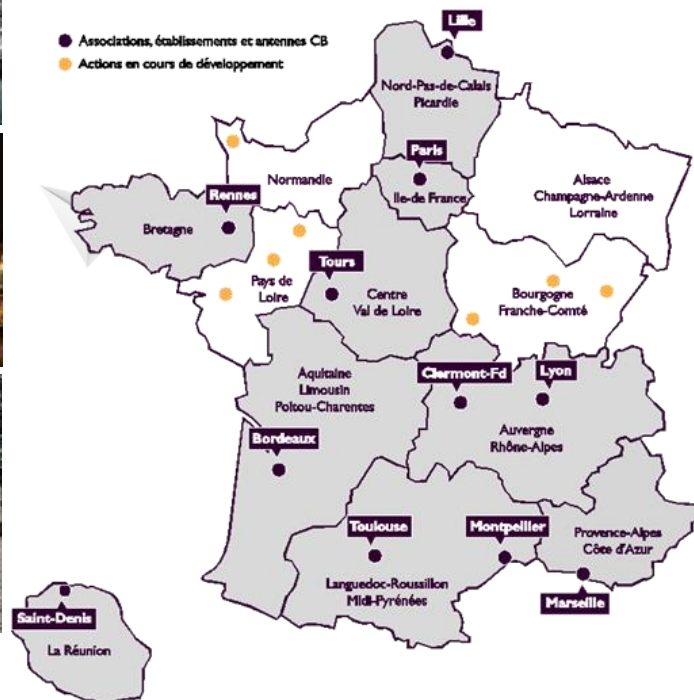
"*Compagnons Bâtitseurs*" (CBF) is an NGO founded in 1957. Its aim was to help people after the World War II to rebuild and renovate homes. From the very beginning, CBF has been putting the principle of **solidarity** into practice by building and learning together, as well as promoting **peace** and **better understanding** between people from all over the world and regardless their situation.

Today CBF is a **network** composed of one national organization and **10 regional organizations** in France.



**Rennes** in Brittany.  
**Bordeaux** in Aquitaine.  
**Clermont-Ferrand** in Auvergne.  
**Montpellier** in Languedoc Roussillon.  
**Toulouse** in Midi-Pyrénées  
**Marseille** in Provence.  
**Lille** in Hauts-de-France

**Lyon** in Rhône-Alpes.  
**Paris** in Ile-de-France.  
**Saint Denis** in Reunion island (Indian Ocean).  
**Tours** in the Centre.





## PROJECT DESCRIPTION



The teams are working **with** families who are facing social and economical difficulties to **improve** their own living conditions.

The main objective is to give them the means to **reinvest their home** and be involved in a **new and positive dynamic**. We are **working along** with the owner or the tenant of the house or flat, and sometimes with neighbours, friends or relatives.

Volunteers work in **one** of the ten local organizations in France, and can share a **collective life**.



- The organisation is encouraging the participation of everybody to develop specific actions and workshops, linked with **non formal education methods**.
- The organisation is **encouraging mobility** among the network and abroad through many projects, trainings and meetings.
- Some local teams are organising **international workcamps** (for 2 or 3 weeks) to construct and renovate buildings such as social centres, community buildings or heritage buildings (old fountains, washhouses, wells, old stone bread ovens...). The volunteers can be involved as participant or as pedagogical leaders.



## VOLUNTEERS' PROFIL



The project is opened to everyone interested by manual and social work. We can host men and women between **18 and 30 years** old from different nationalities and backgrounds with or without preliminary knowledge in renovation or social work.

We are hosting volunteers under 2 programs : the **European Voluntary Service** financed by European Union and the **Civic Service** financed by the French government.

In each team, there are also **french volunteers**, and sometimes some of them are also facing personal difficulties and are trying to find out a new and positive dynamic and define their future project.



The volunteers must be **prepared to commit themselves** in the fulfilment of the objectives of the organisation and will be able to develop their awareness of:

- Working closely with families in need and with organisations involved in local projects,
- Participating in the association life,
- Working as a member of a team outside traditional organisation,
- Working and sharing with many different people,
- Sharing a different experience of life.

These commitments are demanding but also offer a **great experience** and awareness of **responsibility**. On the project, volunteers will also find many ways to learn new acquaintances and live cultural exchanges.



## WORK DESCRIPTION



Volunteers are working with the **professional** and the **habitants** to renovate homes.

The volunteers can be involved in all the different projects, they can participate in the association life, they can share a different experience of life and live in a sharing flat, little by little they can undertake responsibility, and they can set up personal and collective projects.

Be ready to learn new things, share your skills, passion and knowledges and live intercultural exchanges !

Although the main purpose is the renovation works, the activity has therefore an important **social and human aspect** that makes our intervention different from a professional one. **The family participate in the technical works and also in choosing** the works that will to be done, the materials used, the new decoration...

Sometimes the volunteers can share the **lunch** with the family which provides a valuable time to get to know each other and may create stronger links based on **trust and sharing**.





Volunteers are also fully involved in the **organisation life**, especially through their participation in the national and local Executive committees, General Assemblies and through the national volunteers' group, which regroups all volunteers.

During the summer, the volunteers can work as **pedagogical co-leaders or facilitator** on **international workcamps** organised by Compagnons Bâisseurs.



## LIVING CONDITIONS



**Accommodation** is provided. The volunteers are **sharing a flat** with 2 or 3 other volunteers. The flat is already equipped and situated near by the public transport.

LTV receive a **monthly allowance** covering food expenses and pocket money (about 430€/month).



Because of their low budget, the volunteers have to **adapt** themselves during their long term experience to an alternative way of living, sharing a collective life.

Compagnons Bâisseurs pay the costs related to trainings, local transports, and the local or national activities in which the volunteers are involved in.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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