

#### **Project 4 : ESC volunteer position in IKKO Folk High School in Punkaharju**

**Period of volunteering:** February - August 2019

**Number of volunteers:** 1

**How to apply:** Application forms + CVs ( motivation letter optional) by email to hakemukset@alli.fi by 26.11.2019.

The host organization Ikko is a modern, non-political and non-religious folk high school offering both general and vocational education for Finnish and immigrant students and groups throughout the year. We also host special target groups such as students with special needs as well as young asylum seekers.

Punkaharju folk high school is located in rural area in eastern Finland, so the volunteer should feel comfortable with living in a small community far from city lights, preferably being young people who enjoy environment and outdoor activities. The project is suitable for young person without much experience of international exchanges, but he/she needs to be able to communicate in English in sufficient level. The volunteer should be motivated to learn, to adapt, to propose ideas, take initiative and open to discover other cultures and work in a multicultural environment.

The ESC volunteer will plan and organise activities such as various workshops related to for example arts, culture, languages, computers, cooking, sports, music, games and other topics depending on the skills and interests of the volunteer and the students. About half of the students in the folk high schools are from immigrant origin. The students attend different courses and degrees, some join for short term courses, some stay a full year. Most of the students are young adults, 18-30 years old.

In general, the volunteer will work in co-operation and under guidance of folk high school staff:

- Preparing, organizing and assisting in various afternoon and evening activities for the residential students such as different workshops, events, cooking clubs, arts and crafts, sports activities, volunteer actions etc.
- Activating the students to take part in leisure time program.
- Supporting in practical and maintenance tasks in the folk high school when needed
- Disseminating information on European Union, especially European Solidarity Corps and encouraging students to try out European mobility programs and co-leading international volunteer camps and groups especially in summer and vacation periods
- Acting as intercultural messenger encouraging the students with different ethnic backgrounds to co-operate together and make everyone feel welcome to join all the activities.

The volunteer is encouraged to carry out own ideas, own projects such as running a workshop on some topic

of her /his hobby or expertise ( sport, language, handicraft, music, for example). The volunteer will spend time with the folk high school students, to socialize with them and co-organize leisure time activities during the working hours.

Volunteer will stay at the student dormitory in a double room. There are about 150 residents at the school. The school offers breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week, so the ESC volunteer has all the meals prepared. The volunteer is expected to do activities with young people so it would be useful to be a sociable and positive person, who loves outdoor and nature. The school is multicultural so volunteer should be interested and able to work with people from different cultures. More information on the hosting organisation [www.ikko.fi](http://www.ikko.fi)