



EVS project: InterNAP

2017-08-01 – 2019-07-31

Organisation and Project information

Municipality of Östersund/Navigatorcentrum

We are a unit in the municipality of Östersund, located in the middle of Sweden, organised under the municipality administration, development/growth area. The main task is to find, meet and coach young people aged 16-30 en route into adult life, with a particular focus on those who need extra support to find their way. To clarify; unemployed youth and a special focus is kept on long-term unemployed youth, youth receiving social service, disadvantaged youth, youth not in the school-system but also youth in general thinking about their future. All young people get a personal coach that give support through programs of introduction to a working life, various motivation-actions and guidance-counselling. We offer activities in forms of practical experience and work training, group activities, orientation courses and mobility actions. We act as an arena for cooperation for society's various initiatives for the group. We have the mission to highlight the needs of the target group and find collaborative solutions that generate synergy effects.

Navigatorcentrum is coordinating, sending and hosting EVS volunteers. We are now applying with an other hosting organisation, *Integrationservice*, for the **EVS project - InterNAP (Navigate Participate Activate)**. The overall goal for the project is for young adults and refugees to get the chance to get more involved in the local society and together join a social context. The young adults we work with is often lacking a social context and its the same situation for our newly arrived.

Navigatorcentrum have since last 4 years received volunteers every year to work with our target group - young adults 16-25 years old, they have worked as a part of our team and have been involved in daily activities for our participants, they have promoted EVS and various mobility actions and have taking part in arranging different workshops and events related to this, there main tasks have been to independently arrange social activities for young adults both individual and in groups. This consist of getting to know participants interests, planning different activities and connect youth to local associations and informal groups that offer different free time activities.

In this years EVS project we want to continue in the same path but also add a new dimension - Intergration. This is why we host 2 more volunteers that will mainly work with refugees and to support them on their way to get to know theirs new society.



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Navigatorcentrum will host 2 volunteers with start in September 2017 and 2 volunteers that starts in June 2018, all 4 volunteers will stay for 1 year and Integrationservice will host 1 volunteer that starts in September 2017 and stay for 9 months and 2 volunteers starting in September 2018 and stay for 9 months. The volunteers will also arrange activities together - this activities has a focus on free time activities and every month they will meet to arrange some activities and they will also be responsible to arrange 2 bigger public events for these target groups during their EVS.

We find the volunteers learning process as the most important thing when we host and we know our projects offers a wide range of learning and the youth that we host get very well prepared for future jobs related to youth work.

So what we find **most important for the volunteers to bring with them**, is their motivation and interest for youth work, they don't need any formal education or experience, but they definitely need to have a huge interest for social work and have the ability to be creative and social. Above this the volunteer for Integrationservice need to be motivated and interested to work with refugees and questions that relates to this work. It is positive if they have a refugee background, but not necessary of course. We do not host any one that just finished upper secondary school, we know from experience that they need to be a bit more experienced in life to enjoy being here. We have had 4 years of success with EVS projects and the volunteers we host are very positive towards their experience here. Previous year we have been selected as one of the best practise EVS in Sweden.

We need a **sending organisation** that have the possibility to reach out to interested candidates about our EVS project and send one volunteer to us in June or September this year or next year depending on the volunteers interest in youth work or refugee related work. The sending organisation need to have the possibility to prepare the volunteer and keep in contact with the volunteers during their stay. We will start to interview candidates in May-June for the start in September 2017.

If you have any questions about the project please contact Liv Robén / EVS coordinator at Municipality of Östersund/Navigatorcentrum.

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