



Info pack Volunteering team: project number: 2018-1-NL02-ESC13-002306

“Not only you but also the forest has fewer opportunities if we don’t maintain it 😊”

Venue: Hessenweg 85, 6741 JP Lunteren, the Netherlands. <https://www.goudsberg.nl/>

Dates: Arrival 25-05-2020 - Departure 24-06-2020

40 volunteers + group leaders + Organizers - 4 weeks

Description and motivation of the project:

The new generation of youngsters are luckily involved, interested and active in the future of our planet! As we were doing research in articles also in the internet, we found this is a very big and good topic for this generation, that also is part of Erasmus+ and ESC.

Are they a generation guilty of self-entitlement and technology-addiction? Or are they an influential generation making waves and demanding sustainable change? How are they affected by the world in which they have grown up?

Millennials make up around 1/3 of the world’s population and are arguably the most concerned generation when it comes to environmental sustainability and social issues.

Millennials are the first generation to have grown up in a world where “climate change is part of the daily international dialogue”. Whilst every generation has certainly had their risks and threats, millennials have been forced to face the realities of extreme weather patterns, sea level rises, rapidly increasing GMO agriculture and species extinction (among others).

This reality has created a generation of people who desire sustainability in mainstream culture. A generation where many feels as though they have no choice but to be actively engaged to drive change.

Growing up around and with technology has allowed millennials to have access to almost any information at the press of a button. This has made the millennial generation far more knowledgeable and aware than their predecessors.

Using the internet to learn, many millennials have a better understanding of complex issues such as global warming and climate change. They are quick to discover when companies are not upholding the standard of sustainability and ethics.

Social media has also played a role in making millennials more socially conscious and allowing them to realize the power of their voice. However, it has also made it easier to consider oneself an “activist”. Therefore, from our Rock Solid we make a lot of use of this media, in order to reach the right persons.

It is clear that Millennials feel they have more at stake than any other previous generation when it comes to matters of health and the environment.” For many millennials, this means making big lifestyle changes. there is a gap between the actions of millennials and their beliefs and desires for environmental change.

When we put a call on Facebook about our idea for a volunteering team we got in a few days already 200 responses of people who would love to come, which indeed proves that this generation of millennials is really interested in this topic:

So, what is the idea?

We already made contact with several places in the Netherlands where people or foundations are screaming for help to clean up the forest. Not only from garbage, but also there are a lot of young trees and weeds that needs to be taken out, so the forest can develop better. Now we choose Lunteren, the geographical center of the Netherlands.

We want to gather around 40 youngsters for doing this job together, we aim for many participants with fewer opportunities and disabilities (for this not all are eligible, because everyone should be able to walk and work in the forest), because the impact for them is bigger because of their growth in self-esteem. Included in these 40 people are the support staff and helpers and assistants. They will also function as full participants and be a part of the team.

We will have some Dutch volunteers involved in this to work side by side on this job. We want the project to last for 4 weeks, because from our experience this is a good period, after these 4 weeks people are starting to get the first irritations and start arguing together. So, to have a bigger impact it is better to stop in time.

The volunteers will work approximately 30-35 hours a week, next to that we will start in the first days with some team building and getting to know each other activities, also then we will do a workshop about Erasmus+ and ESC and a workshop about the Youth Pass. In the last days we also will do several workshops to help them with youth pass and the final evaluation. During the project we will have daily reflection groups and evaluation to adapt the situation accordingly to the feeling of well-being of the volunteers.

A detailed program is added to this info-pack.

Very important issues before you apply:

- We will sleep and live in three big army tents (one for the ladies, one for the gents and one for cooking, eating, having activities etc.)
- We will sleep on field beds in sleeping bags (keep them clean, because they are hard to wash)
- In this period, we do not use heating anymore, but we will provide extra blankets in case you are cold 😊

- For the food we will cook together, every day a few of the group will have the task to clean and cook and do the dishes etc., of course we will make a nice schedule. The organization will provide the food and coffee and tea and water and milk. We will cook recipes from different countries in order to give it a lot of variety.
- Drugs are absolutely not allowed and will be a reason to send you back home!
- We will do everything by foot, for the working part: we are inside the forest, so some days we work very close by the venue, some days we first have to walk a distance of course, the maximum distance will be 5 km from the venue.
- The distance to the center of the village (and the train station) is 2.6 km
- We can use all the facilities of the venue, including restaurants, shops, mini-market, table tennis, sports fields, swimming pools (inside and outside probably)
- There are nice and clean toilets and showers, enough and on a distance of 100 meter from the tents. There are of course lights on the terrain, but it might be handy to bring a flashlight.
- There are washing machines and drying machines on the venue, but you have to pay between 2 and 4 euro for a full machine. (if you combine with others it is not much)
- You will receive according to ESC standards every week 35-euro pocket money in cash.
- Because we are in tents it is smart not to bring valuable stuff like laptops or tablets.
- There is a place where it is allowed to make a campfire in the evening.
- We will of course provide the tools, but you have to bring your own working clothes and raincoat, umbrella, swimsuit and towels.
- Age limits: 18-30 (if you are not 31 on the day the projects start you can fit in, so if your birthday is after 25-05 you still can fit)
- We will try to make a selection of many different countries.
- In the Netherlands we normally eat two times bread, for breakfast and for lunch, and a hot meal for dinner. During working days, you will make your own lunch package and fill your water bottle (in the Netherlands you can drink tap water everywhere) to bring with you to the forest. In the weekends and camp days we can also make some soup or snacks for the lunch as extra.
- We hate throwing away food, so always we will try to use the leftovers for the next day.
- Outside the program you are free to visit places of course but be aware that public transport in the Netherlands is very expensive! A good option is to book a group ticket with 4 or more people (we can help you with that) because then you pay 8 euro for each person for a single trip.
- We will make smaller groups with one group leader; we will mix these groups several times in order to get to know each other better. The group leaders will be some of the Netherlands, but also some of the participants.
- In the eating tent there we will organize wi-fi, in the forest and probably the sleeping tents there will be not.
- There are also some organized activities in the venue if you want to join (like a fair, tennis tournament and a lady's night bingo)

How will be the procedure?

- Before you Apply you should register in PASS, to save time: **this will go according to the procedure here described:**
- 1) volunteers: connect yourself at <https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity> and you will get a participant reference number
 - 2) send this number to me, and i will connect you!
 - 3) Volunteers: accept the connection!
 - 4) after the connection i also will send you an offer
 - 5) the offer you also have to accept, and after that check in your PASS profile if the connection has been made correctly.

- Then send me a C.V. and a motivation letter, include your PASS-number
- You do NOT need a sending organization!
- After you would be selected i will send you a volunteering agreement and add you in the mobility tool
- Also, i will arrange your CIGNA insurance.
- Also, I will send you an invitation letter to fill in with your data, so you can use it for applying for your visa
- After your visa you have two choices:
 1. you can book yourself your tickets, then I will refund you in the last week of the project
 2. We can book the tickets for you, then also we have more risk so we will search for the cheapest option, not the most convenient one, but i am sure you understand!
- The rest of the travel we will explain later, depends on the combinations we can make ☺

Proposed program:

25-05	Arrivals and getting settled
26-05	team building activities and explanation of Youth Pass and ESC
27-05	team building activities and discovering surroundings
28-05	meeting the foundation of the forest and having a walk and checking the work.
29-05	first working day in teams
30/31-05	weekend / planning some leisure activities and contests
01-06	regular working day
02-06	regular working day
03-06	regular working day
04-06	regular working day
05-06	regular working day
06/07-06	weekend / planning some leisure activities and contests
08-06	regular working day
09-06	regular working day
10-06	regular working day
11-06	regular working day
12-06	regular working day
13/14-06	weekend / planning some leisure activities and contests
15-06	mid term evaluation, spending some time at filling the youth pass
16-06	team building activities, small excursion
17-06	regular working day
18-06	regular working day
19-06	regular working day
20/21-06	weekend / planning some leisure activities and contests
22-06	regular working day
23-06	regular working day
24-06	half working day, starting to clean the place, final CU soon party
25-06	sleep long, cleaning the rest of the place, filling the youth pass
26-06	departure day.

