

Topic: Educational and promotional activities
Number of volunteers hosted at the same time: 4
Type of project: Long-term
Place: Pesaro, Italy

ASSOCIAZIONE VICOLOCORTO



English conversation workshops

School workshops

Summer Camps

The association

The association Vicolocorto is a cultural youth **association that specializes in youth work and international mobility**. It is based in Pesaro and works at a regional level (Regione Marche) cooperating with private and public institutions. The main activities of the association are connected with European projects since Vicolocorto works as coordinating organisation for different volunteering projects in the region and is part of several national and international networks.

The main activities of the association are connected with international mobility. The association mainly organises **intercultural and educational activities** and **English conversation workshops** and non formal activities aimed at improving the practice of foreign languages. Moreover, an important part of the activities is connected with the **promotion of the opportunities of international mobility** in schools, Youth Info Points and Job Centres. Finally, Vicolocorto is partner of different strategic partnerships with other European countries and writes **publications** on formal education and on youth work quality at a European level.



Talk together - English conversation activity



Vicolocorto staff and the volunteers



Summer camps



Volunteers during a training week in Vicolocorto



Send your **CV** and a **cover letter** related to the project you like (both in English) to candidatesvicolocorto.org we will let you know if we have any vacancy good for you!

Tasks of the volunteers

The volunteers will support the activities of the Association Vicolocorto, like for example:

- **Join the staff on promotional activities** about Erasmus+ mobility opportunities through leafleting, online communication and peer-to-peer interactions, meetings and events in Vicolocorto office, in Youth Information Centre, in High Schools and Universities.
- Take part to **English conversation workshops**, peer to peer language exchange with local youth in Pesaro and neighbouring cities;
- **School workshops** about intercultural issues and promotional activities about volunteering;
- Activities of **homework support** with children and youngsters;
- Support to children **summer camps**;
- **Use the media** (like making videos, blog articles, etc.) and the social networks to share their volunteering experience and to promote volunteering projects.

you can find us on social media!   

Curious about the association? Check the association's Youtube channel and the blog:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp1HcvgsOATDk_iSWPEYv8g/video

<https://vicolocortini.wordpress.com/>

Moreover, on the association website, you can find useful links:

www.vicolocorto.org

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE VOLUNTEERS



SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO EUROPEO (EVS), VICOLOCORTO

Back to school! Linguistic support by EVS volunteers

As volunteers at Vicolocorto, one of our tasks is to promote the learning of foreign languages and, more specifically, English as a *lingua franca*. For this purpose, one of the main activities we are currently undertaking is the linguistic support at schools. We assist in some English classes with kids aged between 12 and 18 where we talk to them, present our countries, talk about cultural similarities and differences, etc.

SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO EUROPEO (EVS), VICOLOCORTO

My EVS experience in Vicolocorto



Ciao a tutti, mi chiamo Lýdia, sono slovacca e ho trenta anni.

Not too shabby for one week in Italy, right? 😊

It is hard to believe that little over two weeks ago I was still in Slovakia, kind of lost and not knowing what lies in front of me and now I find myself in the midst

of what is quite possibly the biggest adventure of my life yet.

The first time I heard about European Voluntary Service (EVS) was when I was a student at the university, about to obtain my Master degree in European cultural studies.

When I saw, quite by chance, an urgent call for female EVS volunteer at Vicolocorto in Pesaro, Italy, I applied immediately. I knew I had nothing to lose. The next day I had a Skype interview and the day after I was selected. My life was about to change forever and for the better. I knew that much.

A week later I found myself at the Pesaro train station, equally terrified and excited, and almost sure that this was only a dream and not my new reality. I was immediately met with amazing kindness and welcoming I've never received in my whole life, not only by the staff of Vicolocorto, but especially by five fellow volunteers that were impatiently waiting to meet me, at our volunteer house in Santa Veneranda. What followed was an amazing series of events connected not only to volunteering but also free time spent with my new friends, my new family for the next 8 months.

I applied for this EVS project because I think that investing time and energy, support and knowledge into youth has a great meaning, being for them perhaps that someone we wish we had when we were growing up, and ultimately helping them realize their own potential.

I think EVS is the safest and quite possibly the most meaningful way of travelling abroad. It is an amazing opportunity to grow not only professionally but also personally, to better your language skills and it is definitely a huge leap out of your comfort zone.

Lýdia

ASSOCIAZIONE VICOLOCORTO



So far, during the last two weeks we have been in two schools of Pesaro, the Istituto Comprensivo G. Gaudiano and the Istituto di Istruzione Superiore F. Mengaroni. The school year has only begun so we will be giving much more presentations. In the first Istituto, we presented ourselves and we talked about why we decided to do the EVS. We also talked about the differences between our countries and Italy (e.g. at what time we have lunch and dinner, how does the life of a teenager look like, what are the differences between educational systems), about the city of Pesaro and the surroundings, and about the European Voluntary Service. At the second Istituto we prepared some presentations: the first about Portugal, its customs, food, etc. The second presentation was about the novel Don Quixote, written by a Spanish writer. Then it was the turn of The Netherlands, where we talked about Sinterklaas, their Christmas festivity. Finally, the last presentation was about Poland, also about its customs, cities, food and traditions.

It was very gratifying to see how kids paid attention to our stories and learnt from the different cultures that we brought them. They were a little bit shy at the beginning, but soon they started to ask some questions and to talk with us. It is also gratifying to see that, at the same time, they were learning English in a very dynamic and entertaining way, without even being conscious that they were learning. But, furthermore, not only did the children learn from this, we ourselves learned from each other. This is, from my point of view, the best thing about EVS: the opportunity to learn from other's experiences and lives.

Isabel



check our youtube channel!



EVS in Vicolocorto, Part I: It's not about the project, it's about you!



EVS in Vicolocorto, Part II: Set your personal goals and...



EVS in Vicolocorto, Part III: Learn and travel as much as...



VIDEOS DIRECTED BY THE VOLUNTEERS



WHERE?

PESARO



Pesaro is a city and Municipality in the Italian region of Marche, capital of the Province of Pesaro e Urbino, on the Adriatic Sea, with a population of around 95.011 inhabitants, making it the second most populous city in the region, after Ancona.

Pesaro is recognised as "Cycling City" (Città della Bicicletta) in recognition of its **extensive network of bicycle paths** and promotion of cycling. It is also known as "**City of Music**" as it is the birthplace of the composer **Gioacchino Rossini**. The historical centre of Pesaro is rich of points of interest like Palla di Pomodoro, the Conservatorio, the theatre, the museums, the fountain in the main square and casa Rossini.

It is located between **two coastal hills**, the San Bartolo and the Ardzio, so you can **enjoy both the seaside and hiking in the hills**. The San Bartolo, in particular, is a Natural Park so you can also discover its beauty and the small towns near it.

Thanks to Rossini, **Pesaro is famous for Pizza Rossini**: a pizza garnished with tomato sauce , mozzarella, boiled eggs and mayonase. It can sound weird at the beginning, but you have to try!





THE SELECTION PROCESS

1. Send your **CV** and a **cover letter** related to the project to candidates@vicolocorto.org
2. Then you **will be contacted for a Skype interview**. There is no need of speaking good English, in case you can ask your sending organization to help you. **Don't worry, it will not be a job interview or an English test** but it will be an opportunity to know your personal motivation and expectation and to discuss about the project, the city and the opportunities.

THE PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEERS

The volunteer's profile our organization is looking for is based on the following criteria:

- **Personal motivations.** We value the volunteers' interest in the programme proposed and the expectation towards this experience more than specific skills: everything you need to do your service will be learnt here!
- **English and Italian level.** Italian or English are not needed, of course, a survival level will be helpful to get by in everyday needs, especially because you will be probably in touch with people who don't generally speak foreign languages. This experience is also your opportunity to improve your communication skills!
- **Interest in working with people.** Working with people is essential to our work. We also value creative, proactive and self-motivated people.



MORE ABOUT THE SELECTION PROCESS

VICOLOCORTO is the **Coordinating Organisation** taking care of the practical, follow-up, support and training arrangements **during your volunteering project**.

On the other side, **you will participate as volunteer within a Hosting Organisation** who will be in charge of all the issues referring your volunteering activities (holidays, tasks, schedule, follow-up, support, etc...).

As a very quick view, **Vicolocorto has more than 10 years experiences in the field of Mobility projects and Volunteering** and we have been coordinating more than 200 host volunteering mobilities so far. It is very important for us that you enjoy this opportunity to live an immense and intense learning journey. **We really need to underline some important points and really need you to know and agree with all the logistical points to avoid any misunderstanding once here.**

CAROLINA, will take care of the selection process.

Nice to meet you!

I will be the one writing to you on candidates@vicolocorto.org and we will get to know each other during a Skype interview. I am waiting to know your motivation and I am ready to answer to all your question!





MORE INFO BEFORE LEAVING

ACCOMODATION

You have the opportunity to enjoy the volunteering life **in a flat with other volunteers**. Cleanliness is everyone's job. Volunteers are expected to reach an agreement on planning house cleaning. If you have problems finding an agreement, we help you and support you in finding a solution.

Sharing, we know, is not easy, it is even harder when you do not know the other people you are living with, who have decided as you, to start this experience. But **flexibility, understanding** and most of all **communication** are the keys for having a positive experience, even if everything won't be perfect!

The lodging of anyone outside our project (friends, family, etc ...) is not allowed.

ATTITUDE

You will spend most of the time with different people (target groups, professionals, local volunteers, etc...) who are anxious to know you, to show you who they are and what they can do, to teach you at different levels, to give you warmth and their confidence. **The impact that you can bring as a volunteer is greater than you can expect.** You need to receive but also to give back. **Participation, initiative, sense of responsibility and flexibility** are important and welcome. From both parts (Coordinating and Hosting organisations), we hope to make you feel comfortable, empowered and proactive.

All the persons involved in the project are always trying their best to reach your expectations, if you show the willingness to do so.