

Topic: Activities in a Youth Centre with children and youngsters

Number of volunteers hosted at the same time: 4

Type of project: Long-term

Place: Pesaro, Italy

YOUTH CENTRE TOTEM



The main building of the Youth Centre



The outside garden



Pottery workshop

The Centre

The Youth Centre TOTEM is located in a **suburban area of Pesaro** and it involves **youngsters and children with disabilities** aiming at reinforcing the sense of inclusion and community.

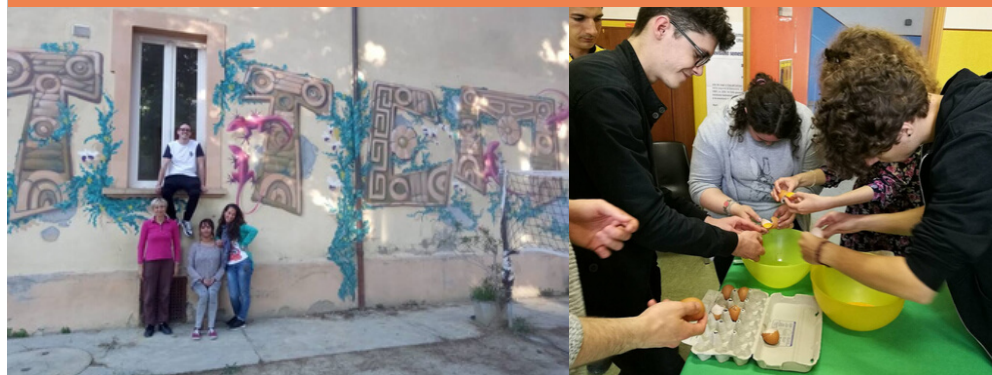
The Centre is open every afternoon from 3 to 8 o'clock. Since the Centre has a kitchen, every Wednesday they have dinner together and the staff is there also in the evening. The **target groups are both children and youngsters until 30**: Monday and Wednesday are the days where there are more activities dedicated to youngsters, whereas the other days are dedicated to children. There is a great sense of cooperation that breaks down the age barrier anyway.

The main objectives of the youth center are to **promote active citizenship** through activities and debates and to **promote inclusive and integration process among youngsters** through socialization activities without barriers.



Carnival party

The kitchen of the centre



The staff and the volunteers

Cooking workshop





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

Tasks of the volunteers

The TOTEM Youth Centre organizes **daily activities for children and young people**. The activities also involve children and young people with disabilities and aims to strengthen the sense of community in the suburban area of Pesaro by providing social services aimed to reinforce the action towards inclusion.

The volunteers will be involved in the daily activities of the Youth Centre, such as:

- **Homework support** for youngsters and kids;
- **Games** and **sport** inside and outside the Centre;
- **Creative** and **artistic workshops**;
- **Linguistic** and **intercultural activities**;
- **Events** in cooperation with other Youth Centres of Pesaro.

you can find us on social media!  

Curious about the Centre? Check the video and the articles created by the volunteers:

<https://vicolocortini.wordpress.com/2019/02/25/totem-youth-centre/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoU9znFLwH8>

ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE VOLUNTEERS

all
welcome

UNCATEGORIZED, VICOLOCORTO

Youth Centre Totem

TOTEM – a **youth center** located in **Villa S.Martino, Pesaro** – shows another way of education. In opposite to the formal way in schools „**learning by doing**“ is the motto. That means there are no teacher-like leaders or trainers, who strictly aims to teach you different topics. Moreover this „**learning-effect**“ **takes places more subconsciously**. For example if youngsters are playing a boardgame in the centre and one of them is explaining the rules to the others – you gain values, skills and knowledge from the daily experience from your environment (family, neighbours, school or the youth centre) without even really noticing it.

That's why informal institutions as like as the TOTEM youth centre has such a big impact on – especially young – people. You don't have that feeling of pressure to immediatly learn something, but moreover gain knowledge through daily discussions, talks and games.



Another important point which differs informal education as like as the youth centre to formal school is that you can or better to say **you are very welcome to do mistakes**. You don't get punished for failure (f.e. bad marks in school) – moreover you will learn through your mistakes. Simple example: The youngsters in TOTEM explain each other the rules in a board game – one of them didn't really understand them and lost one round. Next time he will for sure get better, because he subconsciously learn from his mistakes.

To conclude – the youth centre TOTEM for example can be a very good and helpful addition to formal schools, because **youngsters will automatically gain knowledge and skills through human interaction and games without worrying that they are forced to learn something in a specific period of time**. That's why **teamwork, emotional benefits and practical gained knowledge are more focused here than pure education**.

Linh

YOUTH CENTRE TOTEM



CENTRO D'AGGREGAZIONE TOTEM, SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO EUROPEO (EVS)

Totem Youth Centre

Totem aims at promoting aggregation, socialization and the inclusion of all young people, although it also promotes healthy leadership and encourages processes of integration and inclusion of people with disability.

The center avails of outdoor facilities for playing volleyball, basketball, football and all kinds of activities promoting the true values of sport and to make it a school of life and an example for our youngest generations.


The youth workers of the Centre organize and implement many different activities, adapted to requirements of children and depending on the time of the year. For example, in Christmas we prepared the typical dishes with a cooking workshop and for the last Halloween, we created a terrifying escape room and a game called Cluedo, where the children had to find the Dracula's killer.



On Wednesdays, we organize a dinner and the center opens its doors to the people who want to eat with us. This is a moment of exchange between the educators and the local community. We are aware that the local residents are conscious of the importance of this kind of center: they usually contribute by bringing food or school materials to Totem.

Our work like volunteers is collaborating and helping with the activities of center but also with school-based support programmes for children at risk. The children receive training through workshops in languages, craft, painting and social issues like Human Rights, Feminism and Tolerance among other things.

Fernando and Océane

 *check vicolocorto's youtube channel!*



Il Centro di Aggregazione Totem, Pesaro (Italy)

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.