



INFOLETTER for volunteers

“NOVEMBER OF POSSIBILITIES!”

8th of November - 2nd of December 2017, Youth Centre Marttinen, Virrat, Finland

FIRST STEPS FOR EVERY SELECTED VOLUNTEER!!

1. **READ THIS INFOLETTER CAREFULLY!**
2. **JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/121868355181304/>
3. **FILL REGISTRATION FORM AT:** <https://goo.gl/forms/RGaz7o2EfbgTWv9z1>

Summary of the project

The project will bring together 12 volunteers from 5 countries (Slovenia, Spain, Slovakia, Ireland & Estonia) to Marttinen Youth Centre, Virrat, Finland (www.marttinen.fi). During the one 25-day long EVS project the volunteers are going to work and interact with the local people in the region, organising international activities and workshops in the rural area surrounding Marttinen Youth Centre. The volunteers will have an active role in setting up workshops both in the surrounding municipalities and their young people, as well as creating an “international possibilities day” in Marttinen youth centre in the end of the 3-week period.



Why are we doing this project?

The aim of the Group EVS project is to promote and inform young people and youth workers about international possibilities, especially EVS as an opportunity for learning and furthermore support local actors and communities to start benefitting from international projects. In order to support the aim, we foresee the following concrete objectives:

- Volunteers will create non-formal workshops and visits as a team to the regions (Pirkanmaa) municipalities, where young people and youth workers can learn about EVS opportunities
- Volunteers will create materials using their own stories to share through the workshops organized, and informing / encouraging local young people to become more international



- Volunteers will create promotional tools and methods to support the engagement of local level actors towards international activities
- Volunteers will create an activity day (open doors day in the end of the activity) in the end of the project for the region's young people and people interested about international possibilities.
- Volunteers will be trained by professionals, and have an opportunity to learn about:
 - Planning, implementing and evaluating workshops, along with initiative taking skills
 - Working in an intercultural team, communication skills
 - Finnish youth work structures and methodologies, including rural youth work, youth policy
 - Leadership and project management skills, along with social and competences

We hope that as a result of this EVS project there will be....

- More young people and youth workers will be interested to cooperate (together with Marttinen) in international activities, from the area of Pirkanmaa
- Increased awareness of international possibilities as an "alternative route" for learning
- Increase of positive attitude towards internationality and different cultures in the rural area surrounding Youth Centre Marttinen.

Where does the project take you?

Youth Centre Marttinen, located in Virrat, Finland, is one of the 10 youth centres in Finland approved and supervised by the Ministry of culture and education. The Finnish Youth Centres are international course, camp and tourist centres that are specialised in youth activities. The youth centres offer special knowledge of youth work, camps and camp schools, adventure activities and international events.

Virrat is a countryside town with approximately 7500 inhabitants, situated in the middle beautiful Finnish lakeside nature, about 280 km north of Helsinki. The town of Virrat offers all the essential services for working and living leisure time activities, including sports and music activities for young people. Youth Centre Marttinen is located about 5 km from the Virrat town centre. Marttinen surroundings offer a lot of cultural value through its history. The centre main building used to be an old rectory, built in 1892 and a traditional village (with old Finnish countryside) architecture has been built around it, now being used for the youth centres purposes. From Virrat one can find bus connections daily to the nearest cities (Tampere, Jyväskylä, Pori, Kokkola) and even directly to the capital city Helsinki.

To get some impressions from the place, you can have a look at this video from last year's similar EVS project: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/201284479>

Tavelling to us & Budget?

The arrival date is 8th of November 2017

The departure date is 2nd of December 2017



We ask the volunteers (with the support of their sending organisation) to book travels to and from city of **Tampere, Finland** so that they would arrive by 7pm on the arrival date. We will organize a common transport for the group of volunteers from there to our Youth Centre. **Meeting point in Tampere will be the in front of the railway station at 7pm on the 8th of November.**

Easiest way to get to Tampere is to fly to Helsinki, and catch a train (you can check schedules here: www.vr.fi) to Tampere directly from the airport. As soon as you have booked your travels, we ask you to confirm your arrival and departure times with us - PLEASE SEND THE INFO TO ANTTI at: kv@marttinen.fi

Your travel budget total is calculated based on the rules and guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme:

Travelling from:

- Spain - 530 € / volunteer
- Slovenia, Slovakia, Ireland - 360 € / volunteer
- Estonia - 275 € / volunteer

The reimbursements are made within 2 weeks after receiving all the original tickets relating to the travel expenses (including boarding passes).

Practicalities and how to prepare?

The schedule of tasks of the volunteer will be fixed to 6-8 hours per day for 5 days a week. The activities will be taking place mainly from Monday till Fridays – leaving Saturday and Sunday free days for you to enjoy either alone or with the group together. All the facilities and activities in the youth centre are then possible for the group to use! You can go for hiking in the nature, play sports, arrange movie nights, visit local places or try out some of the custom made activities for young people in your free time with the other volunteers. It is pretty impossible to get bored in our youth centre!

The volunteers will get guidance and support in all the work and leisure time activities from the staff of Marttinen, and especially from your mentor **Ossi Makkonen**, who will be with you with all the activities supporting and helping when needed!

You will live in a Youth Hostel, located in the same building where will the Marttinen youth centre. Volunteers will be sharing rooms with 2-3 people together, boys and girls will have separate rooms and bathrooms. Each room has its own bathroom and showers. The youth centre has wifi connection all around it's premises, and there is a living room with and kitchen, where volunteers will cook together and spend their free time.

Normal day in Finland includes, breakfast, lunch, coffee break and evening meal. You will eat your breakfast and lunch in the youth centre's restaurant, and for the dinners volunteers cooking together (with all the ingredients you need and wish provided) by the youth centre. So it's an opportunity for a bit of international cooking together, in case you want to bring some special ingredients with you!

During the first days we will create together a task division, together with the group (with the support of the staff and mentor), for the practicalities running smoothly, and to make the living and spending time together as comfortable as possible! If you have any special wishes, don't hesitate to contact them with us!



The volunteers will have basic Finnish lessons amended to be a part of the first weeks schedule.

You will receive an of pocket money in the first days of the EVS, of the amount of amount of 100 € which is calculated as for 25 days. Maybe you want to take the bus to the nearest city during the weekend, or just do some sightseeing in the area otherwise! We will help you with organising this kind of things in your leisure time too!

We are expecting the first snow to come down around the time you will be here! So important is that you have warm enough clothes for staying outdoors for some of the activities! Otherwise you don't need any fancy clothes, just ones you feel comfortable in. Good idea is also to bring good shoes, in case you want to go for hikes etc. We will also send a final list of "what to bring" to you later on.

If you have any questions, you can post the on our Facebook page, or through sending an email to your Mentor / instructor Ossi and our project coordinator Antti. You can find us from the facebook group (PLEASE JOIN!!!) or via email at kv@marttinen.fi

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

Ossi



Sanna



Antti

