

Looking for volunteers

4 MONTHS: PROJECT PERIOD:
TO BE DISCUSSED WITH COORDINATOR

with possibility to prolong for 4 months



Lava Legato

ACTIVITIES

The project offers a variety of activities. Each volunteer will work with a minimum of three organisations or locations, all of which are partner organisations with different goals, target groups, and activities. While all volunteers engage with people who have limitations, not all activities involve direct support for them. For example, volunteers may assist with general garden work in an urban garden or supervise children during lunch breaks at a primary school. Additionally, we collaborate with two boxing gyms where volunteers help with lessons and have the opportunity to train themselves.

Many activities take place in collaboration with a large care organisation that provides care and day activities for people with disabilities or elderly people with limitations. Volunteers contribute by cooking meals for residents, supporting leisure or work-related activities, or engaging in one-to-one sessions. These one-to-one activities involve spending a few hours each week with a specific client, assisting with daily errands, or participating in small ventures such as going for a walk. Other one-to-one activities can be more mentally demanding, such as supporting people with specific physical activities, including assistance with walking exercises.

Around 90% of the work involves engaging with people with different types of limitations, including those with severe physical and mental disabilities. Volunteers must be prepared for this, even if they do not have prior experience in the field. While experience is not required, volunteers must be willing to support this group of people, which can sometimes be challenging or even confrontational for those unfamiliar with such work.

Volunteers commit to a working module of approximately 34 hours per week. Together with a Lava Legato representative and other volunteers, work activities are distributed. There are four volunteers in Rotterdam and a maximum of eight in Zoetermeer. Once a volunteer selects their activities, they will continue working with the same organisations until the project ends. However, minor adjustments may be necessary based on scheduling needs. For example, as primary schools are closed during the summer break, those activities will be replaced by alternative tasks during that period.

DURATION

The duration is 8 months, with a trial period of 4 months. The project can be extended after 4 months, as a result of a positive evaluation with all partners involved (volunteer, Lava Legato, and local partner organisations).

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

The number of volunteers that we host is maximum 12 in the area of Rotterdam and Zoetermeer. Four volunteers live in Rotterdam, seven to eight volunteers live in Zoetermeer. Please note that you can express your preference for Zoetermeer or Rotterdam, but Lava Legato will select which volunteers will be placed where: Rotterdam or Zoetermeer. Please note that only volunteers with a European passport or a permanent residency can apply for the project. This limitation is related to legal procedures that are valid in the Netherlands





FACILITIES

Each volunteer has one's own separate bedroom.

The volunteers in Rotterdam share bathroom, kitchen and toilet. The apartment also includes a living room and a balcony. Smoking is prohibited both inside the apartment and on the balcony.

The volunteers in Zoetermeer share kitchen, three toilets, and three showers. A large living room adjoins a small garden at the back. The accommodations are each equipped with the following: cushion and matras protector, duvet, kitchen and cleaning utensils.

Towels, bed sheets and duvet and cushion covers are provided, but you can always bring your own if you prefer.

FINANCES

The volunteer will receive € 400 pocket money/food allowance per month. The money is transferred on the first day of the month to the volunteer's bank account. For the first payment, the volunteer will receive the money by bank transfer, upon arrival.

A cleaning guarantee of € 150 is paid upon arrival by the volunteer. This amount is returned when the volunteer leaves the apartment/house in a clean status.

The volunteer will receive a lease bicycle for which a lease contract is signed by the volunteer. It is important that the volunteer knows how to ride a bicycle, because this is the way of transportation that the volunteer will mainly use to go to the volunteer activities.

International travel costs are reimbursed based on fixed lump sum amounts that are based on the number of kilometers between the volunteer's home address and the living address in the Netherlands. Green travel is highly promoted and a higher but fixed lump sum amounts are available.

SUPPORT & TRAINING

Volunteers are supported throughout the duration of the project and have the opportunity to evaluate the project during biweekly meetings with the volunteer coordinator. In the first week after arrival the Lava Legato foundation organises introduction meetings. Different topics (such as house rules and working schedules) will be discussed and the volunteers are also requested to present themselves for the group. The Dutch National Agency organises an on arrival training and a midterm training. The midterm training is only for volunteers who stay longer than 4 months. A mentor is appointed to the volunteers in Zoetermeer, another mentor is appointed to the volunteers in Rotterdam. The role of the mentor is to support volunteers, mainly with practical questions and issues that might arise. Group meetings are organised in collaboration between the mentor and the volunteers. Individual meetings with the mentor can take place upon request. Language lessons can be discussed.

OTHER SPECIFICATIONS

In preparation for the project (before arrival) various papers must be applied for. Since, among other things, work is done with children and people with limitations, it is necessary to obtain an official certificate of good conduct. Also, a Volunteering Agreement is created and signed by the volunteer, the supporting organisation and the hosting organisation. A supporting organisation has to be chosen by the volunteer. This organization supports the volunteer during the preparation and is also available during the project as an additional contact. It is located in the volunteer's home country, ideally close to where the volunteer lives. In addition, the volunteer is covered for health costs by the insurance company Henner. The volunteer must register with the insurance company and create an account for the stay abroad. A volunteer needs to obtain an EHC card before arrival.

Stay overs by visitors and days off must be announced in time to co-volunteers and the appointed Lava Legato representative. The volunteer gets two days off per month. It is allowed to take five days off in a row and visitors are also allowed to stay over for a total of five nights for the period of the project.

Volunteers use a bicycle to get to and from work. It is therefore important that they are able to ride a bicycle, also in not ideal weather circumstances.

In addition to the already diverse work, the volunteer has the possibility to do a personal project. Besides the fact that it should be related to the general aim of ESC and one of the criteria: sustainability, visibility of ESC, art & creative expression, and/or active citizenship.

HOW TO APPLY?

We only accept applications via the ESC database. Please go to https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/projects_en, search for Lava Legato and apply for the project.



The Lava Legato foundation was founded in 2001. The foundation is working on activities to support local communities and social enterprises. For more than 23 years, the foundation supports young people who volunteer abroad.

Group of volunteers living in Zoetermeer (2021)

