



## European Voluntary Service

# Key Action 1

## EVS for Volunteers

### European Voluntary Service (EVS) - What's in it for me?



Are you between 18 and 30? Would you like to:

- see more of the world?
- experience different cultures?
- meet new people?
- do meaningful and valuable work as a volunteer?
- develop your confidence and gain new skills?

If so, European Voluntary Service (EVS) is just the thing for you!

The European Union provides funding for young people to volunteer in another country for between two and 12 months, or shorter in certain cases. Accommodation and food are provided, along with some monthly pocket money. The funding also covers the majority of your travel costs.

### Can I do EVS?



Are you:

- ENTHUSIASTIC? RELIABLE? WILLING TO LEARN?

You don't need to have gone to college or have worked previously to do EVS - just the right attitude! Organisations are seeking young people who are interested in the work they do and who will work well with others.

### Where can I go?



There are a wide range of organisations available to host volunteers across the EU as well as in many bordering countries, for instance:

- a youth organisation in Finland
- a street theatre in Austria
- supporting people with disabilities in Spain
- working with street children in Russia
- advocating for Human Rights in Moldova



Project Duration  
2 - 12 months

18\* - 30 year old  
volunteers



'Sending organisation'  
applies via online  
e-form by 11:00am  
Irish time

**Next Deadline  
March 2016**

*\* 17 year olds can participate in EVS only if the partner organisations can demonstrate that they have suitable child protection procedures in place*

### How can I get involved?



EVS is a partnership between:

- a Sending Organisation in your home country
- a Receiving Organisation in your destination country
- and you, the Volunteer.

The sending and receiving organisations work together to

- plan and prepare your placement,
- support you during your EVS,
- and help you make the most of your experience when you return

Both organisations have to be authorised ('accredited') by the EVS National Agency in their country. In Ireland, this is Léargas.





## STEP 1: FIND A SENDING ORGANISATION

You may already be involved with an organisation that is EVS-accredited e.g. a youth/sports club, college or university, charity etc. If not, contact Léargas for advice on how to find a Sending Organisation.



## STEP 2: FIND A RECEIVING ORGANISATION

Your Sending Organisation can help you to find a Receiving Organisation in different ways:

- through their existing international partners
- using the OTLAS partner-finding tool at [www.otlas.eu](http://www.otlas.eu)
- responding to EVS vacancies on [www.youthnetworks.eu](http://www.youthnetworks.eu)
- finding partners on the **Discover the EVS - European Voluntary Service** Facebook page
- through the EVS Database listing all accredited EVS organisations in every country at [http://europa.eu/youth/evs\\_database](http://europa.eu/youth/evs_database).



Usually, a Receiving Organisation will want to see your CV as well as a motivation letter. Make yourself stand out from the crowd by describing:

- yourself - your strengths, likes, interests etc.
- what you think you could learn from EVS
- why you want to volunteer with this particular organisation.



Remember being accepted by a Receiving Organisation does not guarantee your EVS place.

## STEP 3: PREPARE

Your Sending Organisation will carry out pre-departure preparation or training with you. This will cover practicalities such as travel arrangements, insurance, finance and accommodation. They will also help you to make the most of your EVS e.g. by setting learning goals; preparing you for living in a different culture; and helping you face the challenges you might experience. Make sure to ask your Sending Organisation about Youthpass, a certificate you can receive after your EVS project that describes what you have done and what you have learned.



It can take many months to plan and prepare for an EVS project – so get started early! Your Sending Organisation will explain the process to you. Remember, either your Sending or Receiving Organisation must submit an application for funding your placement to their National Agency. This is done through the Erasmus+ programme and there are three deadlines a year for applications, usually in February, April and October.

**For more  
information  
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