



equality

EQUALITY COOPERATIVA SOCIALE ONLUS

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European Voluntary Service

OUR PROFILE

EQUALITY is a social cooperative constituted in 2008 with the purpose of pursuing the general interest of the community for human promotion and the social integration of people living in conditions of social exclusion and marginalization with special attention to victims of human trafficking, Italian and foreign minors and young adults in specific conditions of vulnerability.

Equality avails itself of a Mobile Outreach Unit reaching out about 800 people a year involved in street prostitution, presumed or potential victims of sexual exploitation and offers them preventive and promotion health care services to bring the exploitation out into the open. Besides, Equality runs residential care house for non accompanied minors, minors victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, minors who committed juvenile penalties and are remanded in custody, and vulnerable minors.

The general objective is to support social, educational and work inclusion programs oriented to individual autonomy.

Equality is based in Padova, but has got a regional scope and operates in Treviso and Vicenza as well. The volunteers will carry out the project mainly at Equality headquarters and other locations where Equality runs its activities in Padova, but they could also have the opportunity to support the educational staff and social workers in other towns.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

In general the volunteers will be involved in the social inclusion programs of the beneficiaries. The proposed activities for the volunteers will mainly be directed to women asylum seekers and their children and to minors: unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking by supporting the residential care houses operators in their Health Accompanying services and other planned actions for them.



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Specific actions planned: primarily the creation of an environment where it is possible to build social ties and relationships based on respect, sharing and legality; supporting educators in Daytime accompaniment in the management and respect of rules within the houses. Supporting operators in the management of domestic activities; Supporting educators in the Accompaniment to autonomy of the beneficiaries and orientation to the services; Accompaniment to social-health services; Management and monitoring of domestic activities (where necessary) in accordance with the rules of organization / operation of the structure; Monitoring internal dynamics and receiving relationships to other people who are differently in the structure, respecting the rules of coexistence always supporting the educators; Organization of activities of animation, socialization and awareness raising for those who would like to participate in promoting and facilitating dialogue, the residential care context and the social context within which the houses fit; Orientation and support for research and placement in apprenticeship and in work related activity with their skills and affinities always supporting and strengthening the educators' job.

In all the activities that the volunteer is realizing, he/she will help the person in charge for it, moreover he/she can realize activities or small personal projects more related to his/her interests.

After the preparation period the volunteers will support the operators getting progressive autonomy that will take them to a first phase of observation-training until they can propose activities based on their experience, their culture and their specific skills.

ACTIVITIES AND AREAS

The services run by Equality Cooperativa Sociale Onlus are divided into four different areas of intervention: Contact Area, Residential House Area , Communication Area Specifically:

Contact Area: it addresses to woman, men and transgender involved in street prostitution with special attention to migrants and victims of sexual exploitation. The general objective



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is to promote accompany health care services to facilitate the access to the network of health care private and public system, with particular attention to the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases general health protection and prevention or emerging of exploitation situations. The tool used by the Contact Area is a mobile outreach unit that aims to facilitate the contact with the targeted people and to make a mapping of the phenomenon in the territory. The services cover the territories of Padova, Vicenza and Treviso (in Veneto Region – North East of Italy) in agreement with local authorities and local municipalities. The Contact Area has a staff of professionals and volunteers appropriately selected and trained for this job. Specific functions are assigned to all members of the staff. The Mobile Outreach Unit reached about 900 people every year.

Residential House Area: Equality manages educative residential hosting services for asylum seekers and for minors male and female teenagers between 13 and 18 for personalized educative programs run by a team of social operators in agreement with local social services. The General Objective is to promote programs of social, school and work inclusion aiming at personal autonomy or reunification with the minors' families. The service addresses to the following targeted groups:

- adult women with children asylum seekers;
- Unaccompanied foreign minors looking for social and work integration in Italy;
- Victims of human trafficking and sexual or labour exploitation in social protection programs;
- Minors with criminal and penal processes pending

The Residential House Area has a staff of professionals and volunteers appropriately selected and trained for this job. Specific functions are assigned to all members of the staff.

Communication Area: it addresses to institutions and citizenship, in particular to representatives of the local public administrations, training agencies, Police Forces authorities, teenagers, social representatives (Parties, Union Trades, networks, etc) and private social organizations.

The general objective is to promote an active participation of the citizens in understanding



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the migration phenomena, raising awareness on the education, social integration and solidarity, peaceful coexistence and human rights. The activities are:

- Raising awareness with students of secondary school;
- Training workshop on gender violence for socio-sanitary operators and Police Forces;
- Organization of public meetings;
- Conflict mediation service in the territory;
- Organization of conferences and seminars about the social phenomena of migrant prostitution, immigration of minors and human trafficking;
- Organization of cultural events aimed to promote a multicultural society model.

STAFF

Equality staff consists of eight employees with specific training and a big experience, divided per area: Area Accoglienza - Residential Care Service Area –the residential houses are managed by an educational team consisting of 3 educators in addition to 28 voluntary operators. Contact Area – The team of the Street Unit consists of 2 operators and 25 voluntary operators.

Communication area: one administrative reference implement social inclusion programs with asylum seekers and the un-advantaged minors hosted in the Residential Youth Care Centre. This means learning to build a helping relationship with the teenagers hosted, collaborating to the daily management of the Centre, and taking part to the organization of the sparing time activities of the minors hosted.

LOCATION

Padova is a middle size city, with about 300.000 inhabitants situated in Veneto, north east of Italy, about 30 km from Venice and 80 km from Verona. It has a big historical center with several famous places (S. Antonio's Church, Prato della Valle, Botanic Garden etc.) some of these are also typical meeting points for the young people.

It is easy to reach all the city areas by bus, even if the night bus service is more limited, because of this, many people usually go around by bicycle, not just during the day, but



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also at night. It is very useful also for the volunteers to use the bike to move more freely for the city, and from home to Xena and the city center. For the volunteers that are not able to use it Xena, in collaboration with some organization active in promote the safety and correct use of the bicycle will give they some course in ride and maintenance it.

It is an important university center, in fact 60.000 of the inhabitants are students coming not just from Padua but from all over Italy and from several European and extra European countries, this is why it is a city that offers several possibilities of social meeting and a lot of cultural initiatives (exhibitions, concerts, theatre, cinema, etc.). The big amount of student living in Padova transform it in a quite young and open local community in which the volunteers have the opportunity to be in touch with a big amount of people, from Italy but also from other countries, and to promote and enhance intercultural exchange.

Padova have a very big tradition of active participation and voluntary work, with a very high number of association actives in different field and sector, It is a very nice situation also for the young participants both because they can have the opportunity to participate in several activities , normally for free, like courses, workshop, festival , conferences etc and also because they can be important contact to discover the local reality and realize activities.

Padova is easily reachable by plane arriving in Venice (the international airport Marco Polo in Venice is connected with a bus service), Treviso (Venezia-Treviso airport is mainly used by low cost companies and connected with several city in Europa) or Verona and Bologna (both at something more than 1 hour by train) is also possible reach Padova from many country traveling by bus or by train.

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEER AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Volunteers with different backgrounds such as age, gender, previous experience, study path, and so on will be welcome. And there will be no discrimination against gender, religion, political or sexual orientation. However the knowledge of Italian language will be appreciated.



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The choice of volunteers will be made on the basis of their motivation, interest in the scope of intervention of the host organization and the willingness to play an active role in their project, in this way it is granted that there will be a positive result both for the volunteer, and for the beneficiaries of the project, as well as for the host organization. We can host 3 volunteers for long term and 2 volunteers for short term.

PRATICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS

Hosting the volunteers will living in houses in Padova with young Italians or participants in other European projects, in this way, although having their total independence it will be encouraged the contact with the culture and the local community and learning of Italian or nevertheless knowledge of different cultures.

Will deliver monthly the amount of pocket money and food to the volunteers, explaining them the use and the different use of the money.

Will prepare and deliver at the beginning of the project the bus pass to get around the city, for those who wish will be able to borrow a bike and if they are not able to use it they will be taught to go by bike in a correct and safe way.

All volunteers in addition to language training on-line provided by the program Erasmus + will receive other language training. Whenever possible we will try to provide an intensive language and culture course in the initial phase of the project and if they wish after the intensive course they will receive personalized language support with individual meetings in one or two afternoons a week.

If the intensive language course won't be possible or needed we will try to support anyway the learning of the volunteer in this area providing personal class or tandem with Italian volunteers.

In case of need for volunteers we'll help with visa and residence permit. In cooperation with the sending organization we'll organize the travel of volunteer and insurance.



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HOW TO SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS

In addition to Language, bureaucratic for the permit to stay if needed, formative and logistic support the volunteer will receive also a personal support throughout all the project.

In fact the volunteer will have a reference person inside the hosting organization (tutor) to which may be aimed both for the problems related to the activities to run but also to deepening, to propose new ideas and projects, and another person for all that concerns the personal adaptation to the local community and other aspect of the project (mentor) that will also help in auto evaluate the learning and progress is doing in the project.

Moreover the volunteer will receive support from other Equality operators and volunteers which will interact during specific project or all the day activities.

The volunteer during the first project phase will be helped in identify and explain its objectives and eventually in redefine it in case won't be objectively possible to realize it.

This informal learning agreement with the volunteers won't be something fixed and unchangeable, conversely will be more a guide line and will be possible to change it during the whole project and to adapt it to new objectives that the volunteer can identify because discovered new competences or new activity's sector. This will permit to realize an informal monitoring during the project concerning the evs activities but also the achieving or not of the learning objectives. To do this there will be regular meetings in key moments of the project with the mentor and with the tutor.

We consider the feedback from the participants, and for the participants from mentor, tutor and colleagues, the best way to try to improve constantly the project adapting it from time to time the best possible to the personal characteristics and needs of different volunteers that at the same time will find the best way to be in the project.



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RISK PREVENTION

The project takes place in Equality's office and hosting community in Padua and for some activities in others Veneto area, always under supervision and in safe and guaranteed conditions, as well as for all the staff and users. The volunteer will receive explanation about safety rules and behaviors to have in case of emergency from the operators that are responsible for the worker safety and for the fire control and first aid;

In any case the volunteer will be in contact with his/her tutor, to whom he/she can address for any problem, in case of not adequate work conditions.

Concerning the prevention of cultural shock and adaptation crisis, we will plan the project as much as possible in collaboration with the volunteer in order to define the activities and the common objectives before his/her arrival. This allows the volunteer to know better the project and then have fewer problems of adaptation. This will happen also as far as it concerns all technical and logistic information, if possible we will try to offer the volunteer different options of accommodation, among which he/she can express his/her preference.

Throughout the whole evs period, during the activity's hours, the volunteer will be followed and helped by a coordinator in Equality on the work aspect. Moreover, for personal and different needs, the volunteer will be frequently in contact with his/her own tutor who will advise him/her also on safety in Padua (things to avoid, recommended behaviors etc.).

During the project we will monitor the situation of the volunteer also from the relations between the group of volunteers point of view and if there will be any kind of conflict or tense situation among them or between one or more volunteer and the organization we will face it personally with the people involved or in group using the methodologies that will be more effective in the specific case.