

# Volunteering in KEKSz programme (long-term EVS)

Duration 12 months (October 2012 - September 2013)

Location: Budapest, Hungary - High schools and Egyesek office

Places: 6 volunteers

**If you are interested in this project send back your CV and the attached application form until 22th of January!  
Without any of the documents we can't consider your application!**

## Project environment

The project will mostly take place in Budapest.

The volunteers will work with our association and with other NGOs and schools which are allocated in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. The main places of the project are 5 high-schools in Budapest where we run a freetime programme for the students which is focused on volunteering activities and community development.

The volunteers will also live in Budapest. Budapest has 2 million inhabitants, it is the economical and cultural centre of the country, with plenty, and always growing opportunities. 5 big universities are located in the city, so there are a lot of young people, too. The transportation within the city is excellent and it is also the main junction of the national bus and train lines.

There is an option for the volunteers to carry out activities in our trainings and youth exchanges which we organise mostly in the summer period, from May to September. These projects take place in Hollóký.

Hollóký is a village of 300 inhabitants at the North-East of the country, approximately 90 kilometres from Budapest. The village is part of the UNESCO's world heritage, it hosts thousands of tourists every summer. We have been running our international exchanges and trainings in a pension of the village for the past 3 years, so the active people in the village are familiar with our organisation and with the presence of foreigners. We started to establish contacts with the surrounding, really poor and geographically disadvantaged small villages, so for the interested ones there is also a possibility to get to know the lifestyle of the Hungarian countryside. There are two bigger towns with 10-20 thousand inhabitants (Pásztó and Salgótarján), one of them is the capital of the region. There are some cultural possibilities – cinema and theatre.

Since we are an organisation mainly focusing on personal development projects what we can offer is support for the volunteer in designing his/her own personal development goals and learning plan (e.g. what professional and personal skills, competences he/she wants to acquire or develop, what she/he wants to know about youth work, fundraising, running an NGO etc.), and later on the tutor and the mentor would support him/her to find the best ways how to achieve the goals. We also give trainings on the topic and the volunteer will be more than welcome to join the trainings both as participant and team member.

Our goal with EVS is to give an opportunity for the young volunteers to see more clearly what they want to do in life through the method of “learning by doing” and while this to be able to help others as well. This means that we will give support in defining what these goals mean exactly for each volunteer and how he/she wants to achieve them.

With this we would like to inspire the volunteer to take responsibility of his/her own life, to understand that he/she can realise a lot if she/he is determinant and has enough help from the experienced Hungarian volunteers of our association. This is the way how all of the volunteers work in our association, and in past 13 years it is proved to be a really powerful and successful method.

The volunteer will be part of our organisation, he/she will have the right to participate and help in our projects and programmes and also to introduce and realise new projects involving the members of the association.

**Role of EVS volunteers in the Host Organisation:** The volunteers will mainly work in high schools in couples. In the high school they will have a tutor who is the coordinator of the volunteering activities, and this person will be responsible to include them in the daily life of the school. It will be up to the volunteers to have more intensive contact with the teachers or with the students. The EVS volunteers will have a full membership in our organisation if he/she wants to have it. This means rights and responsibilities: he/she can join one of the “managers” of our organisation, and help in carrying out the tasks (the tasks are divided as: finances, PR/marketing/fund raising, coordination of evs and other volunteers, promotion of youth exchanges and preparation of participants for youth exchanges, evaluation of youth exchanges with the participants, local projects in the North-East of Hungary, professional supervision and development of new projects and trainings). He/she will attend to our regular staff meetings. If he/she doesn't want to be included in one of the already running projects, we will encourage him/her to come up with his/her own project.

#### Activities:

We have some on-going or planned regular activities where we will include the volunteer: Since 2006 we collaborate with a high school where teaching is carried out mostly in English. We run a programme called KEKSZ, within this programme the students practice a lot of skills with the method of non-formal education (volunteer work, sport and theatre activities). Here the volunteers will join our team and first help in organising the various regular volunteering, sport and cultural programmes and evaluation classes. Later on he/she can do it alone if he/she is willing to. This activity will take 10-15 hours per week.

The volunteer will choose between two options for the rest of the time: he/she can develop an own project with the members of Egyesek, or he/she can join an already existing one; or she/he can provide more intercultural learning opportunities in the high school – within the framework of afternoon classes, language classes and camps. Starting from the school year 2010/2011 we start KEKSZ projects in other 4 high schools in Budapest, therefore we will host 2 volunteers in each high school which chooses this option.

#### Role for the volunteer:

Accompany a school class to the volunteer work place (animal hosting place, hospital etc.), helping in the volunteer work. Developing and carrying out 1 or 2 school lectures with the same class based on their experience during the volunteer work. Help the students to organise a big volunteering event in the spring time, and document it. Joining one of the school camps and organise freetime activities together with the teachers. Writing materials for our website which promote the information giving carried out in our office. All

these activities can be done in English. The volunteers will regularly come to the Egyesek office, also to share their experiences, to have Internet connection, and to meet their mentors.

**Volunteer profiles and recruitment process:**

We will host volunteers who have a strong sending organisation as a background – meaning that they are a sending organisation for at least 3 years and they have sent at least 10 volunteers abroad already/they are long-term partners of Egyesek in other projects. This is important because our project has a long preparatory phase where we count on the participation of the sending organisation, including support in the selection of the volunteers.

**Profile of the volunteers:** has experience in youth work, or planning to be engaged in it after going home; at least 22 years old (it is important because they will be in a teacher's role in a lot of cases and the oldest students of the high schools are 19 years old). Any volunteer is welcome with difficulties or with less opportunity background if he/she fulfils the above mentioned conditions, we have experience in providing reinforced mentorship.

**Number of volunteers:**

Maximum 10 volunteers – in each high school we will place 2 volunteers.

**Special needs :**

With the help of professional trainers and youth workers we will be able to host youngsters with fewer economical, geographical or social opportunities. They will get extra mentoring and tutoring from this professionals and their tasks will be adopted to their needs. We are not planning to host youngsters with physically fewer opportunities therefore extra infrastructure is not needed.

**Risk prevention, protection and safety:**

In case we host 6 or more volunteers at the same time (meaning that 3 or more schools running the KEKSZ project will want to have volunteers helping them) we will provide a specified on-arrival training. The volunteers will get an initial “practical training”, (e.g. how to use the public transport, where to do shopping, which are the safe areas of the city, how to behave in a small village like Hollókő, basic Hungarian). The volunteers will have a mobile phone so he/she can call and be called at any time. We will guarantee that she/he lives in a shared flat with other youngsters (EVS volunteers or students) in Budapest and that she/he will have a room according to his/her needs. Initially we will organise free time activities for the volunteer in order to give him/her a possibility to get out from the daily routine. We will encourage him/her to go home at least once in every 5-6 months to avoid crisis caused by culture shock.

We are planning to host volunteers of an age minimum 22.

## Motivation and EVS experience

We would like to continue our participation in the EVS because the general motivation of our organisation is that through the methodology of informal and non-formal learning we inspire and empower youth to be responsible for their lives. The EVS is a perfect learning field for the youth – while going abroad and taking part in the activities of a socially responsible NGO they learn how to live independently and how to contribute in the creation of a better world.

We are an EVS sending organisation since 2005, in these five years we have sent 20 EVS volunteers abroad,

and all of them are really content of their experience.

We are a hosting organisation since 2008, and in the past 1,5 years have hosted 3 EVS volunteers in Budapest.

Besides the EVS we are also active in the other Actions of the Youth in Action and we were active in the previous Youth Programme as well. Since 2004 we have organised several exchanges and trainings in Hungary (average 3 per year) and we have cooperated with a dozen of NGOs from all over Europe with sending participants and organisers to their exchanges and trainings.

We became a European NGO supported and recognised by EACEA in 2010.

## Description of the organisation

The mission of Egyesek is to empower youth to successfully take responsibility in their lives.

The organisation was founded by 10 volunteers, in 1997 in the 17th district of Budapest where as an informal group, later as registered organisation we support youth activities of local schools, NGOs, informal groups in Hungary and through our partners also abroad.

We run trainings for peer educator volunteers, theme days, summer camps, cultural and outdoor activities and international youth exchanges and trainings for youth leaders. We are members of the International Synergy Network, a European network of more than 20 youth leaders and organisations.

In the past 13 years we have reached more than 600 youngsters from Hungary and abroad mainly with our youth exchanges and school programmes. Currently we have 15 members mostly from Budapest