

SAVA MTV DESCRIPTIONS 2013

1. GAIA KOSOVO
2. VCV SERBIA
3. CVS BULGARIA
4. VUK CROATIA

1. GAIA Kosovo - SCI recognized group

Country
Kosovo

Duration
2 months

Project theme
Peace promotion, ethnic minorities,
art activism

Project language(s)
English

Local language(s)
Romanes (Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian), Serbian, Albanian

Duration
1st of July – 31st of August 2013

Application info
Applications via SAVA working group, selection by SAVA and GAIA Kosovo

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Plemetina is a Serbian enclave, around 15 km away from Prishtina, the capital city of Kosovo. It is mostly inhabited by Serbs, but there are several parts where Roma people or Albanians live. The village is situated close to two major coal power plants, causing serious health and environmental damage. The volunteer will have opportunity to learn about the difficulties, but also about rich cultural heritage of the community.

The volunteer will help out on local projects; in July a Living together workcamp and in August the third edition of the Art in Action project, a youth exchange, involving youth from Kosovo (Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Serbian, Albanian) together with youth and experts from other European countries.

The volunteer should know English. Knowledge of Serbian, Albanian or Romanes is an advantage. IT experience (design), volunteer experience and the volunteer should be interested in Art activism (film, music, drawing, etc.).



FULL DESCRIPTION

About the organization

GAIA is a peace organization working in a field of peace promotion, understanding and solidarity between people, social justice, sustainable development and respect of environment. GAIA is also promoting cultural diversity and works on education and integration of marginalized and minority group in society, especially Roma, Askhali and Egyptian. The main activities of GAIA are coordination of volunteer exchange, organization of non-formal educational programs (trainings, workshops, seminars), cooperation with other local and international organizations, organization of festivals, promotion of volunteering and volunteer work, peace promotion specially peace with environment and peace with others, international understanding and solidarity in region of Balkans and promotion of freedom of movement and youth mobility.

The aims of GAIA are to promote peace, international understanding and solidarity among people, social justice, sustainable development, and respect for the environment.

GAIA believes that all people are capable of living together with mutual respect and without recourse to any form of violence to solve conflicts.

GAIA is carrying on the following types of activities:

- workcamps
- LTV (long term volunteering)
- youth exchanges
- local actions and campaigns
- non-formal education (trainings, seminars, workshops etc)

GAIA does not have a real structure. In the moment there are three active program coordinators and some volunteers working for GAIA.

MTV description



It would be nice to have a volunteer with some experience but we could also host a volunteer who doesn't have so much experience. If the volunteer already has experience in project work we could involve him in more tasks, but we can also do with an inexperienced volunteer and we will offer him more supervision.

For GAIA it is important to have a really motivated volunteer who is flexible and ready to work in a challenging environment!

GAIA would like to host one volunteer in the period from July until August, because in this period will happen the Living Together workcamp and also the Art in Action project.

The volunteer will be included in the workcamps and in the Art in Action project. Both projects will happen in a village called Plemetina.

Plemetina is a Serbian enclave, around 15 km away from Prishtina, the capital city of Kosovo. It is mostly inhabited by Serbs, but there are several parts where Roma people or Albanians live. The village has several convenient stores, a café, connection with next bigger town by taxi or bicycle (around 3 km) and an Educational Centre (founded by activists from Balkan Sunflowers Kosova and run by locals). The community is isolated in many respects – due to administrative, political, social, national, ethnic, economic problems. Living conditions are challenging, due to electricity and water cuts. Moreover the village is situated close to two

major coal power plants, causing serious health and environmental damage. The volunteer will have opportunity to learn about the difficulties, but also about rich cultural heritage of the community.

In July will happen a Living together workcamp. Local and international volunteers will work together on a community project. The topic is not yet decided on, but it will be in service of the community of Plemetina. Another aim of the workcamp is that volunteers will broaden their knowledge about culture of local Roma community. Open Air cinema will be organized during the evenings and will show movies made by and about Roma.

In august GAIA will organize the third edition of the Art in Action project:

The Art in Action project will last for two weeks. Youth participate in different artistic workshops focusing on problems faced by Plemetina community. Through music, film, step dance, photography, strip or environmental activism, they analyze problems together and explore solutions. They are step-by-step taking their future in their hands.

The project Art in Action proposes to involve youth from Kosovo (Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Serbian, Albanian) together with youth and experts from other European countries that share a common concerns and interests in their own countries: using Art and Culture as a creative tool enhancing public expression abilities, establishing creative form of socialization and self-development.

With Art in Action we are searching for new tools to encourage and enable young people to become active citizens, and to influence changes in their communities, for their rights and rights of other people. During ten days participants will have a chance to experience building of creative campaign, raising awareness about human rights issues through different artistic workshops. GAIA didn't yet decide on the forms of art that will be used in this year's edition, but it will be held in the same spirit.

The volunteer will participate in the workcamps and support the preparation, the organizational work during the camp and also the work that is need to be done afterwards like the evaluation and the reporting.

The tasks of the volunteer are depending on their experience. Examples for the tasks are

- preparing the program of the workcamp
- preparing the material and food
- making pictures of the projects
- updating the website
- etc.

Further details will be discussed with the volunteer.

Before and in between the workcamps the volunteer will stay in Pristina where the office is. During the projects s/he will live in the village Plemetina like the other participants. S/he will stay in a host family and also eat in the family or with the team.

The volunteer will need to travel between Pristina and Plemetina sometimes. For this way you need to take a bus and a taxi. These costs can be covered through our budget.

Our volunteer Lotte will be the mentor for the MTV volunteer.

Expectations

The volunteer should know English.

Knowledge of Serbian, Albanian or Romanes is an advantage.

IT experience (design)

Volunteer experience

The volunteer should be interested in Art activism (film, music, drawing, etc.)

Challenges

The volunteer will spend the majority of his time in Plemetina. During the summer there are water cuts mostly during the day time and there are also frequent electricity cuts.

The volunteer might face a lack of privacy because s/he will not have a room for her/his own but will share it with other volunteers.

The volunteer will have to deal with cultural differences, challenging life conditions and a polluted environment. See the description of the place above.

Additional info

GAIA is a very small organization based on voluntary work. The coming volunteer should be flexible, ready to work without strict working time and in a diverse environment. The volunteer will get to know a lot of warm and welcoming people from the organization and the local community. Volunteering for GAIA offers a lot of possibilities for intercultural learning. The volunteer will get experienced in work on the field and s/he will have the possibility to bring in her creativity and ideas.

More information: www.gaiakosovo.wordpress.com

2. VCV Serbia - SCI branch

Country

Serbia

Duration

1 or 2 months

Open for volunteer with fewer opportunities,
One local mentor is available for daily support

Project theme

Office assistance in local volunteer activities

Project language(s)

English

Local language(s)

Serbian/ Hungarian

Application info

Applications via SAVA working group, selection by SAVA and VCV Serbia

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The VCV volunteer office is in the city center of Novi Sad, so, most of volunteer's activities will be there. If the volunteer is not so familiar with working on a computer, it will be the opportunity to develop computer skills with a help from her/his mentor, to participate in organizing workshops within our 'Volunteers' Club, or to help in creating a newsletter (assisting). More precise program will be made according to volunteer's needs.

The accommodation is in a flat with EVS volunteers, in urban area, not far away from our office and from the city center. This project provides daily support by mentor for volunteers with fewer opportunities



FULL DESCRIPTION

About the organisation

In January 2004, a group of young enthusiasts gathered by the idea of voluntarism has recognized a need for forming a volunteers' center as a possible solution of numerous problems of our community and society in general. Not long after that VCV was formed. As the time passed, number of active volunteers and activities grew larger and idea developed further. Finally, in 2005 VCV became an NGO. VCV cooperates with numerous organizations from Serbia and from abroad and since 2008, it became 33rd branch of Service Civil International – peace network gathering organizations all over the world.

Today VCV organizes international workcamps in Serbia, initiate and participate in numerous international youth exchanges, seminars, trainings, conferences, educational programs, humanitarian activities, festivals and different cultural events.

Volunteers' Centre of Vojvodina is striving to make voluntary work recognized and acknowledged as a tool for development of individual and society by organizing voluntary activities and spreading values of voluntarism among people. Our vision is stable society where we all can move freely, have equal possibilities for education and access to information, based on solidarity, peace, love, non-violent communication, accepting differences and life in harmony with nature.

We strongly believe that people are capable of living together with mutual respect without using any type of violence as a way to resolve conflicts. We also believe that through engaging together in different activities we can achieve better conditions for growth and development of an individual and society, healthier environment and social surrounding. We dedicated our complete work to achieving this.

VCV consists of people who create a great team. It is not an organization, where members have no idea about the work of each other. Volunteering work in VCV is based on friendly relations and mutual help. The member can be involved in one field of activities, but s/he will be always welcomed to join other working group! Most of the ideas for future projects and local actions are developed together, during formal or non-formal meetings and performed together.

Needs and preferences

We would love to host a volunteer with less or little experience in order to help her/him to improve some of her/his skills, to learn something from a work in our organization and to strengthen her/him.

Yes, we agreed we could do it. Our preferences would be to host somebody for 3 months, but we are not sure whether it could be possible according to financial conditions. In a case it's not possible, we agreed that one month would be fine.

We would love to host a volunteer with fewer opportunities and to make a program that would fit the best into her/his possibilities, skills, needs and interests. There will be one person in charge to create a program and to take care about volunteer's work (a supervisor) and another one as a mentor, who will help to her/him to integrate into a society.

MTV description

Our office is in the city center of Novi Sad, so, most of volunteer's activities will be there. If the volunteer is not so familiar with working on a computer, it will be the opportunity to develop computer skills with a help from her/his mentor, to participate in organizing workshops within our Volunteers' Club, or to help in creating a newsletter (assisting). More precise program will be made according to volunteer's needs, when we find out about the profile.



The accommodation is in a flat with EVS volunteers, in urban area, not far away from our office and from the city center.

Challenges

If the volunteer comes from a remote region or a smaller place, living in a city itself can be quite a challenge. Also, it would be an opportunity for her/him to share the apartment with some EVS volunteers and to discover how is it to live with unknown people, to take care about her/his own budget and to speak foreign language. We would make tasks for a volunteer challenging enough, but, on the other hand, not too hard to achieve.

More information: www.volontiraj.rs

3. CVS Bulgaria - SCI branch

Country

Bulgaria

Long term type

2 or 3 months

Project theme

Volunteer work in nature school

Project language(s)

English

Local language(s)

Bulgarian



Duration

2 or 3 months between July and October 2013

Application info

Applications to SAVA working group and selection by SAVA and CVS Bulgaria

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

We can host a volunteer with less or little experience as long as they are highly INDEPENDENT, self-initiative, nature-friendly and ready to live in a very small village (less than 10 people) but close to nature. Moreover, the conditions are very basic (compost toilet, sun showers, sleeping on mattress on the floor, sleepings bags, etc.). Since part of the work will be to welcome school groups some experience or strong motivation to work with youngsters is also welcomed.

We will host the volunteer in the "Nature School" Vlahi. Right now CID Macedonia is applying for a project to send a group of disadvantaged youth for a period of 2-3 weeks in September in Vlahi. It will be nice if the SAVA MTV volunteer is in Vlahi in the same time to help coordinate the group.

The volunteer will help the "Nature School" coordinator in running the Centre, facilities maintenance, gardening and everyday work. He or she will be welcoming school groups or visitors in the Centre or in the area. Most probably during the MTV stay there will be a work

camp organized and he/she will be helping at organizing and coordinating it.

FULL DESCRIPTION



About the organization

CVS – Bulgaria is a non-profit organization aiming at promoting of intercultural understanding and voluntarism in Bulgaria. We achieve our aim through various voluntary and educational activities – work camps, volunteer exchanges, seminars, trainings, workshops, information campaigns, etc. The values that CVS respects are peace, awareness, tolerance, responsibility, solidarity, initiative, democracy, equality, respect, positivism. We are the Bulgarian branch of Service Civil International.

Vlahi is a small village in Pirin Mountain near Macedonia and Greece, which offers great biodiversity and beautiful nature. CVS Bulgaria started there an environmental centre “Nature School” few years ago. The centre is built mostly with volunteer contribution and with eco friendly materials and technology. Its main aim is to serve as an educational and visitor centre where people can learn more about ecological constructions, biodiversity, saving energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, etc.

Needs and preferences

we can host a volunteer with less or little experience as long as they are highly INDEPENDENT, self-initiative, nature-friendly and ready to live in a very small village (less than 10 people) but close to nature. Moreover, the conditions are very basic (compost toilet, sun showers, sleeping on mattress on the floor, sleeping bags, etc.)

Since part of the work will be to welcome school groups some experience or strong motivation to work with youngsters is also welcomed.

We can host a volunteer in the "Nature School" Vlahi for up to 3 months in the period July - October. Right now CID Macedonia is applying for a project to send a group of disadvantaged youth for a period of 2-3 weeks in September in Vlahi. It will be nice if the SAVA MTV volunteer is in Vlahi in the same time to help coordinate the group.

MTV description

The volunteer will help the “Nature School” coordinator in running the Centre, facilities maintenance, gardening and everyday work. He or she will be welcoming school groups or visitors in the Centre or in the area. Most probably during the MTV stay there will be a work camp organized and he/she will be helping at organizing and coordinating it.

Expectations

It is essential that the volunteer is well prepared for very basic life conditions (sun shower and compost toilets, sleeping in a sleeping bag on a mattress). The nearest town is Kresna and there is no public transport to the village (transportation will be organized by car or by bike). The volunteer is expected to be very independent and ready to spend 2-3 months in a very small village close to nature.

Volunteers are also required to be flexible, independent and responsible, with good social and organizational skills.

Challenges

Frustration with the basic living conditions and in a small village.

Challenges working with the Nature School people since they are really dedicated to the Centre and are expecting hard working people.

More information: www.cvs-bg.org

4. VUK Croatia - SCI partner

Country

Croatia

Long term type

- 1) 2 months
- 2) 3 months

Project theme

- 1) Coordination of summer groups and workcamps
- 2) Assistance around the bear refuge



Project language(s)

English

Local language(s)

Balkan

Duration

- 1) June-August
- 2) Any time up to 3 months

Application info

Applications to SAVA Working Group, selection by SAVA and VUK

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Velebit Association Kuterevo is a local non-governmental organization that was founded in 1995. The vision of the organization is the sustainability of the natural ecosystem and the local mountain community.

Volunteers will live in the village of Kuterevo in the mountain of Velebit, where it borders the Nature Park. The volunteers will be accommodated in the Volunteers' Station, an old house with basic conditions where all volunteers gather. There is an outdoor bathroom with a solar heating system and composting toilets.

Food is provided and prepared together with other volunteers. Mostly vegetarian food. Work consists in building enclosures, making paths, building facilities, gardening, welcoming visitors etc.

In addition, we are looking for a volunteer who can help us in the coordination of summer groups, including workcamps.

FULL DESCRIPTION

About the organisation

Velebit Association Kuterevo is a local non-governmental organization that was founded in 1995. The vision of the organization is the sustainability of the natural ecosystem and the local mountain community. The main aims of the organization are preservation of natural and cultural heritage in the region. The main activities of the organization are the care of resident bears and the bear facilities within the Bear Refuge, informative and educational work with visitors and running the Volunteers' Station. Besides that the organization works on preserving cultural, traditional and natural heritage.

Since the year 2001 it has been running a project of the bear refuge located in the village of Kuterevo: *Refugium Ursorum*. During spring and summer the Refuge hosts many local and international short-term and long-term volunteers.

The organization has no full time staff; all the activities are coordinated and carried out by voluntary activities of the members.

We can host someone who can help in camp coordination and someone who has no experience. We would like to host one volunteer for summer camps, who would join our coordination team from June till August. Also, we would be happy to host another volunteer who can join us at any time, up to 3 months.

MTV description

Accommodation:

Volunteers will live in the village of Kuterevo in the mountain of Velebit, where it borders the Nature Park. The volunteers will be accommodated in the Volunteers' Station, an old house with basic conditions where all volunteers gather. There is outdoor bathroom with solar hitting system and composting toilets.

Food is provided and prepared together with other volunteers. Mostly vegetarian food.

Travel costs covered by the hosting organization. Only envi-friendly means of transport.

Mentor will be provided in order to support integration, adaptation and work of the volunteer.

General tasks:

building enclosures, making paths, building facilities, gardening, welcoming visitors etc.

In addition, we are looking for a volunteer who can help us in coordination of summer groups, including workcamps.

Expectations

We are expecting that the volunteer is:

- ready to work in a team
- willing to work at least 6 hours per day/6 days per week
- flexible
- good in improvising
- ready to work outside and to use tools

Challenges

- a big working team/many different people
- sharing living space with other people
- lack of privacy
- basic living facilities (composting toilers, outdoor shower...)

More information: www.kuterevo.wordpress.com