

ROTA JÓVEN!

ALLÉM

# Social bond



# The project and its context

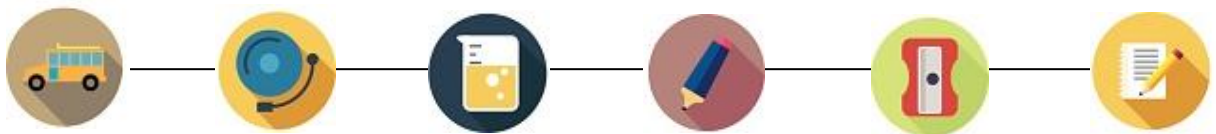
## NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Five countries (Portugal, Bulgaria, Romania, Tunisia and Lebanon), ten non-profit organizations (Rota Jovem, ALEM, GAT, CVS, Dominou, Association de Progression de Jeunes Tunisiens and MAP) and eight volunteers are involved in the project "Social Bond".

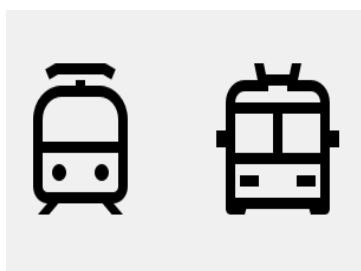
It is an EVS project focused on the promotion of social inclusion in the educational and health fields and it consists in a long-term EVS (9 months, from October 2018 to June 2019) with a booklet about good practices to work for social inclusion as the main result of the project.

In Portugal the volunteers will be hosted by ALEM, whose headquarters are located at Escola Secundária Marquês de Pombal in Belém, in the western side of Lisbon. Lisbon is the largest city in Portugal with a population of around 700.000 inhabitants, while the Lisbon Metropolitan Area has a total of more than 2 million inhabitants. The city is the wealthiest region of Portugal and its political centre.

The volunteers will be working in Belém and Ajuda, two districts marked by the economic difficulties and the illiteracy of many of its residents. Both neighbourhoods are a bit isolated from the rest of the city and even if the public transportation in the area has improved a lot in the last few years but it still takes around 35 minutes by bus and 15 minutes by tram to arrive from Belém to the city center. Belém has many famous museums (Contemporary Art Museum, Ethnographic Museum and Centro Cultural de Belém) and monuments (Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, Torre de Belém) so it is a highly touristic area. Ajuda, on the other side, is a working class neighbourhood and it serves mostly its own residents.

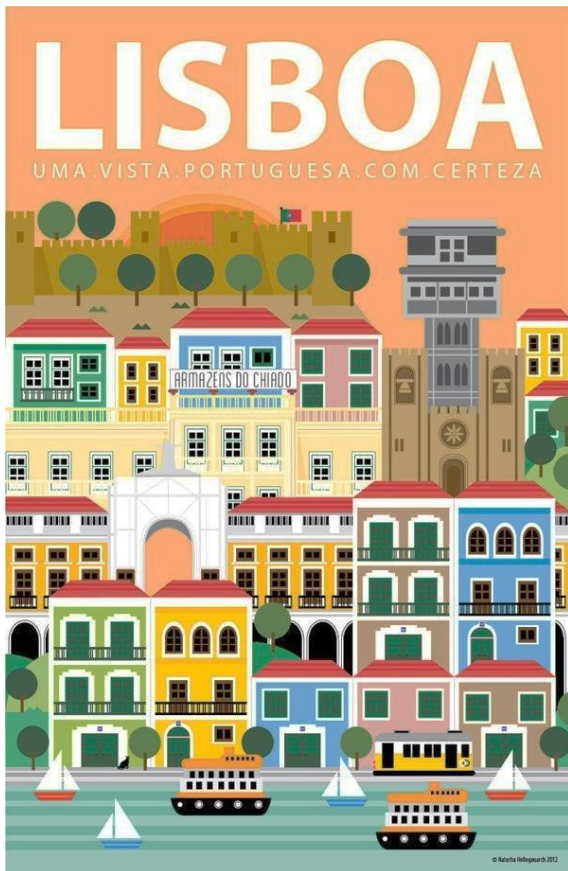


Most activities of this EVS project will be developed outside ALEM's headquarters, namely in the social neighbourhood of Casalinho da Ajuda, in Ajuda district. The apartment blocks were built by the city council in the 1960's, the 1980's and later in 1990's and the inhabitants are mainly emigrants from Africa and Portuguese Roma families, which were given a house here after the city council demolished the illegal slums in which they were living. The relocation of these families was problematic because the different groups didn't want to live together and there are still tensions between them and between these new families and the local community which had been living there before.



In Ajuda school rates are low and the population faces unemployment and precarious work. There are also some cases of unstructured families and children who are brought up by relatives because they were abandoned by their parents or those are in jail.





When it comes to education, most of these children and youngsters have serious difficulties at school, in terms of learning process but also on sociability and behaviour issues. Many of them are not motivated at all to be in school and their parents also do not see the benefit of education, which very commonly leads to disagreements between teachers and parents. Another trait of these children is that they are “closed” in their own home and ethnic environment and do not have much contact with different people, outside of their local neighbours.

The volunteers are therefore an important support to the work of the teachers and educators in these schools and kindergartens, because they bring a new input and can connect to the children in a different way. Would you like to become one of the four volunteers we are looking for? Are you ready to make the difference in Belém and Ajuda working with ALEM?



# A.L.E.M

A.L.E.M. (Associação, Literatura, Literacia e Mediação) is an association whose aims are to study the role of literature in the process of learning to read and to train reading mediators (families, teachers, volunteers) who will support the children in the process. Its work focuses on improving children's literacy levels through literature reading in order to promote the pleasure for reading, reading skills and reading habits. These aspects underlie school achievement and, consequently, help to prevent early school-drop out and improve social inclusion.



To achieve these goals, the Association develops actions for various schools and social-educational projects. The Eça de Queirós Literature and Literacy Study & Resource Centre, located in Escola Secundária Marquês de Pombal, was created in 2001 and it hosts the Biblioteca Matilde Rosa Araújo, a children's book library open to educators and teachers who wish to have access to children's books and where they can find resources and advices on how to approach literature with their pupils. They use arts as a tool for exploring books and texts, mainly traditional literature for children and poetry, through the translation of the stories and linguistic contents into different languages: plastic, musical and dramatic pieces more appealing for the children.

One of the ALEM's projects, Literature and Literacy Project, implemented with the cooperation of the Portuguese Education Ministry, participated in the program Schooling for Tomorrow promoted by OCDE. Part of the intervention of the Association is developed in the social neighborhood of Bairro do Casalinho da Ajuda, mainly inhabited by African emigrants and Roma families. Here, the association has been leading for many years the Project "Social Bond" with several partners:

- Associação de Actividades Culturais do Bairro 2 de Maio, a cultural association which works with preschool children.
- Associação para a Protecção da Infância da Ajuda (APIA), an association which works with preschool children.
- Fundação LIGA, a foundation which promotes social inclusion of young and adult people with disabilities, stimulating and developing the creative potential of every person, at any age and physical functional status, mental or social, in increasing their self-confidence and social recognition
- Escola Alto do Moinho, a primary school.
- Escola Secundária Marquês de Pombal, a secondary school with vocational training students.
- Quinta da Cabrinha, where ALEM is working with illiterate Roma women in the projects "Ao Sabor das Palavras", to promote healthy dietary habits, and "Contos e Pontos", to use sewing as a way to empower them.



ALEM has also the tutelage of a valuable patrimony of experience organizing meaningful educational activities such as Solidarity Parliaments (UNESCO model), Youth Councils for Citizenship, the edition of the newspapers "O Cidadão" and "O Casalinho" (done by children) or the organization of training sessions on entrepreneurship.

## Your role and your tasks as a volunteer



This project will offer you the chance to work with a multicultural group of children and to be involved in their education, as well as with the whole community. Volunteers will get to know more about the role of reading in the prevention of school and early-drop out and how school education can promote social inclusion and citizenship.

Accordingly, you will develop practical skills in engaging children with texts through creative, expressive and artistic means, thus developing your ability to handle children and their own creativity. You are also expected to introduce your culture by presenting your language, traditions, food, traditional games, music, dances and also children stories from your country to make pupils willing to read more about it and to know different realities. We would also like you to share the learning methods used in your country with the staff and educators in order to allow an enriching exchange and learning process for all the parts.



There will be different types of tasks and roles and each volunteer will be involved in two or three main project areas according to their profile and interests. You will be involved in the projects at the headquarters, at schools, in Fundação Liga and also in the community. You will be engaged with the children or youngsters, together with the teachers and with ALEM team doing this kind of activities:



## In the schools

- Helping the teachers with the after-school activities and leisure-educational activities at the schools. This means providing the students with lessons on music, dance, drama, plastic arts, English and sports. These activities are more informal than "regular" classes and you can provide the children with extra support to develop activities and give ideas. Of course, you can focus on the activities you prefer and on the needs of the teachers.
- Organizing activities to promote literature and reading. You will help the staff to represent book stories in different languages (through visual arts, performances, etc.), to build stories with the children, to accompany them in the visits to the local heritage and study visits and to prepare material for the reading activities (boxes of evocative objects, images, sound files, etc.).
- Helping in the Library and Resource Centre by assisting and giving information to visitors, lending books to teachers and educators, preparing material for the reading activities (boxes of evocative objects, image files, sound files, etc.), managing the archive (classify new books, make registrations, dispose books, etc.) and preparing sessions for educators on how to animate books and reading.

## In Fundação Liga



- Helping in all the activities carried out in Casa das Artes (House of Arts), accompanying groups with physical or mental disabilities who attend the art workshops, assisting and helping activities in the workshop of contemporary dance, attended by people with physical disabilities, giving support in meal time, helping in the implementation of art projects (exhibitions, dance performances, etc.) and supporting the cultural events (Christmas Party, Carnival, Santos Populares).



## In Quinta do Cabrinha and Casalinho da Ajuda



This project combines both the aims of the Association for the Defence of Diabetics (Associação de Defesa dos Diabéticos- ADD) and those of an association which promotes the right to literacy, as it is the case of ALEM. The project aims therefore at nutrition education and promotion of healthy life styles taking into consideration the protection of the diabetic people and the promotion of literacy among children and youngsters. Nutrition education is of utmost importance for people with lower levels of literacy because, as it has been

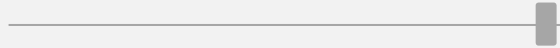
documented, this population is more prone to consume carbohydrates and caloric food, which increases the risks of obesity and also diabetes. By using written texts to approach the concept of food and the value of good nutrition it is expected that children will become more aware about health issues (mainly diabetes) and what can be done to prevent it. At the same time, children will also be in contact with literature, thus improving their relationship to reading.



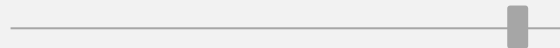
You will be working with the Roma population, helping in the textile workshop in Quinta do Cabrinha, helping organizing the Solidarity Councils (meetings for adults to discuss in a constructive way the problems the community faces and to actively look for creative solutions), helping to organize cultural events for the community that bring together different cultural expressions and different generations, helping to dynamize cooking activities for children and dynamizing outdoor activities for children.

# PROFILE

Motivation to participate



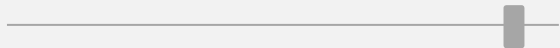
Interest in literature and reading



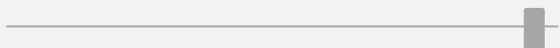
Interest in arts, music, dance



Willingness to work with children, youngsters with ≠ backgrounds and learning difficulties



Willingness to work with people with physical and/or mental disabilities



Dynamism and creativity to suggest, plan and develop activities with the community and the children to implement artistic projects



Appreciate cultural diversity and personal values of non-racism, equal value of cultures



Open mind and flexibility



Basic knowledge of Portuguese or strong motivation to learn



Artistic and/or musical skills (would be great)



We don't require any particular qualification however personal love for books and reading skills and habits could help you to better fit the idea of the project.

All candidates applying will be considered in the selection process regardless of their nationality, ethnical groups, religion, sexual orientation or political opinion.

We are open to volunteers with emigration background or from ethnic minorities.

# Your life in Portugal

You will have the chance to discover a great country with the new friends that you will make. You will also learn or improve Portuguese language and learn about Portuguese culture as well by visiting many heritage spots with the children and by getting involved with Portuguese literature and cultural references.

The first weeks of the project you will have a small online language course and a nice cultural programme which includes some visits to important historical places in the area of Lisbon. During this time you are free to discover the city and get used to your new EVS life. You will visit the project, get to know the people but will only start really working after the end of the language course.

The standard timetable for the volunteers is from 10 to 17, varying according to your placement and tasks. You will have days off on Saturday and Sunday and if there is an event during the weekend and you are working in it you can take 2 days-off to compensate.

Two holiday-days for each month of volunteering are entitled for each volunteer. However, as the schools have their own holidays we ask the volunteers to take their holidays during school holidays.



You will receive an individual monthly allowance for your food expenses and on weekdays you will have lunch in the canteen of the schools. Plus you will get transportation and pocket money. The money is given at the beginning of the month and it is your responsibility to manage it well. We will help you to open a Portuguese bank account to make the process easier.

All the volunteers participating in "Social Bond" will share an apartment in the centre of Lisbon. The house is fully equipped and the location is near to metro and bus station, supermarkets, pharmacy and shops. By metro it takes 7 minutes to the city centre, by walking 15 to 20 minutes. Most volunteers will share a double room.



If you think that you are the perfect volunteer for this project, just apply!

ROTA JOVEM ([www.rotajovem.com](http://www.rotajovem.com)) is the coordinating organization (CO) and ALEM (HO) the host organization. Volunteers applying for the project "Social Bond" will not work in Rota Jovem at all, but will always be able to join the activities of the coordinating organization whenever they want. As coordinating organization Rota Jovem is responsible for all the administrative process regarding your application, as well as the implementation of the project and its management. The final selection of the volunteers is done together by Rota Jovem and ALEM. Keep in mind that you must provide your up-to-date criminal register to be able to work in the schools if you are selected!

If you wish to apply for this project please be sure that you have read very carefully its description, the requested profile of the volunteers and why you would like to join it. Think critically why this project might interest you, what it can bring to you and what you give in return. Do not choose a project just because you like the country or the city where it takes place! And most of all be aware that you will be developing your activities in schools in complicated neighbourhoods and with particular characteristics. Unfortunately sometimes not everything goes as planned and this project will demand from you capacity of adaptation, managing frustration, lots of patience and re-assessment of expectations. But in the end it will show you a whole new world and new people and help you find out a bit more about yourself!

Are you ready for this challenge? Application deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

## IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR THE PROJECT YOU HAVE TO:

1. FILL IN AN APPLICATION FORM and send it to **[evs.host@rotajovem.com](mailto:evs.host@rotajovem.com)**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have never heard about EVS in your life, please check the following website from the European Commission for more information about it:

[http://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/46/73\\_en](http://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/46/73_en)

## CONTACTS

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