

RECRUITING NOW

KIDS IN ACTION 8

UNITED IN SOLIDARITY

AUGUST 2021 - AUGUST 2022

Call for volun- teers.



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



FAMILIJA

IZOBRAŽEVALNI IN
TERAPEVTSKI CENTER



LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING
PROJECT IN ŠKOFJA LOKA
SLOVENIA

HEY!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO:

Dedicate your energy, knowledge and time to improve the life of children, youth and different vulnerable social groups?

Would you like to spend 12 months in a lovely, picturesque, medieval town in one of the smallest, but greenest, European countries?

Would you enjoy the opportunity to become an active part of the local community?

Then apply now,

or before 1st March 2021, by sending your CV and motivation letter to

matjaz@familija.eu.

We are looking for 5 candidates from different programme countries to join our long-term volunteering project, which will connect different organizations from the Škofja Loka area, Slovenia, by incorporating the international volunteers into their everyday work for the period between

**August
2021
and
August
2022.**

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The long-term ESC volunteering project “Kids in Action 8 – United in Solidarity” will connect 10 organizations or their units in the area of Škofja Loka:

- Familija (Youth Day Care Center Blok and Project Learning of Young Adults PUM-O),
- Center for Social Work Škofja Loka (DCΩ and DCM Podlubnik),
- Center for Social Work Kranj (Day Care Center DC Škrlovec),
- Kranj Educational Institution (Residential Home for Children at Risk Črnava),
- Šent Škofja Loka,
- Three local elementary schools (Jelo Janežič primary school, Cvetko Golar primary school, Škofja Loka - Mesto primary school).

The main target of the project is to continue a well-established tradition of connecting related local organizations, which carry out educational, social and preventive programs for children and youth, and for other

vulnerable social groups



Project overview

Project partners offer their users space where they feel comfortable and safe, where they can develop their social skills and where they can get quality support in their behavioral, emotional, learning and other needs. The aim of the programmes is to provide support to the widest circle of users, as well as to those with special needs and other problems.

Support is provided at individual level (work with each individual), as well as in cooperation with their families.

All the partner organizations of the project are similar to each other, they have a similar practice of work and similar target population. That is the reason why we came to the conclusion that the cooperation between them should be strengthened by hosting a joint volunteering project with volunteers from different countries. Each of them will be included in the everyday work in the above mentioned organizations for the period of one year, from August 2021 until August 2022.



The program includes group work and activities with colleagues, cooperation between various institutions, training, counseling, holiday camps, day trips, workshops, etc.





The project is not limited just to the basic partner organizations, but it is also complemented by the involvement of volunteers in the work of different local organizations, which will take place once a week. More people will come into contact with the project, and consequently, through the **exchange of knowledge**, a small place like Škofja Loka will gain a much needed European dimension of viewing the world.

Our volunteers will be involved in **classes**, various **workshops**, **excursions** and **camps**, as well as providing educational and **therapeutic assistance**, organizing leisure activities, assisting certain **administrative tasks**, and **promotion**, etc. They will get to know the theory and practice of **preventive work** with children, youth and people fewer opportunities within the education and social system in Slovenia.

All the included institutions represent a the very perspective environment for international volunteers, who are interested in working with youth or with other vulnerable social groups. The goal of all the organizations involved in the project is to gain new skills and experiences in order to increase the degree of tolerance, mutual acceptance, understanding and respect. Not only will volunteers gain from the project, but also from the **entire local community**.

Connect with us!

Here is our Facebook Group to add some visuals to your impressions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/389667864441065>

At the same time, we will present and promote the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus + programmes among local youth and motivate them for participating in any of the existing programs in the future.

This way, through the examples of good practice, we will have a significant impact on the increase of mobility of young people.

In addition, the project aims to positively influence and spread the values of the EU among other residents of the

local
community.



Opportunities for volunteers

We offer the following available placements for volunteers. They will have their own basic working organization(s), where most of their work will be done, but they will also have an opportunity to get to know the work of the other organizations involved in the project.

Vacancy 1 – MDC Blok

MDC BLOK (working hours 13:00-19:00) is a daily youth center which is a part of the Familija foundation. The daily center offers diverse programs for youngsters between 10 and 18 years of age.

The daily youth center is aimed at providing more equal opportunities for underprivileged children through facilitating activities. BLOK plays a significant role for the youngsters as it functions as a “second home” for them. Here the youngsters can truly be themselves, they are included in the planning and creation of activities and additionally have the possibility to develop themselves through these non-formal (educational) activities. They typically develop interests in new areas, improve their **social** and soft skills and increase their **self-esteem**.

“ BLOK plays a significant role for the youngsters as it functions as a “second home” for them. ”

The youth center is a place where they go to hang out with their friends, play board- or card games, do their homework, receive study assistance and participate in daily workshops. These workshops vary widely from creative to practical and from practical to sporty (e.g. co-creating a magazine, debate club, weekly sports, multi-cultural lectures, nutrition, dance competition, etc).

MDC Blok

Lastly, MDC BLOK occasionally collaborates with other organizations, institutions, citizens and artists of the broader local community (such as schools, PUM-o, library, municipality, a refugee or craftsmen). This is done to increase the youngsters' understanding of what is happening in society and thus to **widen their horizons** and potentially to **activate them** beyond what is happening at the daily center.

CLICK HERE!

<https://www.facebook.com/mladinskicenterBlok>

Vacancy 2 – PUM-O

Through the program, we want to:

motivate young people to resume their interrupted education;
help them reach a decision on further education within the framework of existing possibilities and forms;
encourage personal growth; fight social exclusion;
and foster professional, social and cultural identity.

Promo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLKlsvqDDi4>

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pum.familijaskofjaloka>

PUM-O (working hours 8:30 – 14:30) stands for “Project learning for young adults”. It is an informal educational program that serves youngsters between the ages of 15 and 25 years who dropped out of the educational system.

The main goal of the program is to **motivate the young people** to either continue education or pursue and obtain employment. The program enables the participants to gain different competences and skills through many **informal forms of learning.**

The program includes three trained expert

mentors and numerous external collaborators who join the program in accordance with the current project activities, individual work and international projects.

The usual characteristics of youngsters involved in the program

are lack of motivation, conflict behavior in the school system, health issues, backgrounds of traumatic family experiences and escapism.

The PUM-O program is holistic, and the training is tailor made for each participant according to their needs and desires. The methods we use include project work, activities of interest, individual work and international projects.

Vacancy 3 –

DC Škrlovec

The program is realized by two full-time workers and around 20 volunteers, who are involved in the activities based in their own desires, wishes, knowledge and needs.

First and foremost in Škrlovec, we want to include kids who face difficulties in the growing up process and who are deprived of normal family life.

“In Škrlovec, we want to include kids with fewer life opportunities who face difficulties in the growing up process and who are deprived of normal family life.”

The target population of Škrlovec are children, adolescents and young people between 10 and 20 years of age, who live in the area of the municipality of Kranj.

CLICK HERE!

<https://www.facebook.com/Skrlovec>

Vacancy 4 – Šent

Our volunteer will attend the daily program, organize workshops and assist individuals and staff.

Šent is a day care centre, intended for adults with minor mental disabilities.

Arts and crafts are especially welcomed in this daily centre, so the volunteers should be prepared to be active in the fields of dancing, music, and/or doing art.



Vacancy 5 – Primary Schools

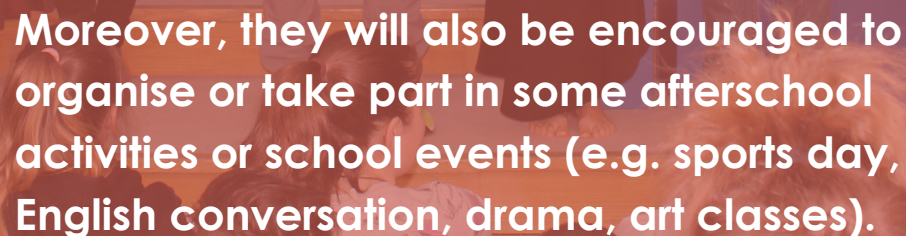
The volunteers will work mostly between 8:00 and 13:00, from time to time also in the afternoon in case of afterschool or extracurricular activities.

OŠ Škofja Loka – Mesto and OŠ Cvetka Golarja are two primary schools for children aged 6 to 15 situated in the town of Škofja Loka with OŠ Škofja Loka – Mesto being close to the town centre and OŠ Cvetka Golarja located further to the east. The daily activities of the volunteer will be discussed with the coordinating teacher and will be mostly based on his/her interests and preferences.

They could attend various classes and help the teachers prepare some activities for the lessons, or offer help to individual pupils with difficulties, especially in language classes, occasionally also in history, geography or other subjects.



Previous experience in the field of education might be an advantage for the volunteer, but it is not a necessity.



Moreover, they will also be encouraged to organise or take part in some afterschool activities or school events (e.g. sports day, English conversation, drama, art classes).

Vacancy 6 and 7 –

DC Om and MDC Podlubnik

DC Om and MDC Podlubnik (working hours 13:00 - 19:00) are run by the Center for Social Work Škofja Loka.

The program is primarily intended for children and adolescents from Škofja Loka between the ages of 6 and 18, and their parents, who are deprived of a normal family life experience due to diverse life challenges.

The purpose of the program is to help break down these barriers and pave the way to better educational, emotional, physical, and social well-being in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.



We offer creative opportunities for positive peer interaction,

motivation to complete school work and improve academic achievement, development of problem-solving skills, acquisition of new life skills, fostering good working habits, advancing communication skills, nurturing means of integration, gaining a sense of acceptance and security, and building self-esteem.

We accomplish this through both structured and unstructured activities.

Structured activities include:

themed workshops and focused discussions (for example, computer skills, study tips, development of specific self-competencies, social networking, etc.), cultural events, sports and hiking, swimming, arts & crafts, trips, and more.

Unstructured activities include leisure things such as playing games, watching films, or just hanging out together.

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Dnevni-center-OM-%C5%A0kofja-Loka-156160397756878>



Vacancy 8

Residential home for children at risk and primary school for children with special needs

1. Residential treatment institution for Children at Risk Črnava (working hours 10:00 -15:30 or 15:00 – 22:00) located in Preddvor is a community home for 8 children aged 10 to 15 with behavioral and emotional disorders.

In most cases, these children come from dysfunctional families and Residential Home Črnava tries to offer them a home-like environment where they can feel safe, supported and encouraged by the team of local social workers.



Vacancy 8

2. The other working place for this volunteer position is Jelo Janežič School in Škofja Loka (working hours 7:30 – 13:00), which is a primary school for children with special needs.

The school educates youngsters with specific learning difficulties and its main focus is to help pupils with intellectual disabilities get as independent as they possibly can.

The chosen volunteer will be involved in both organizations. They will assist with daily activities, help with the program and they will also have an opportunity to organize different workshops based on their interests and the children's needs.



Arts and craft play an important role in both basic organizations, so the volunteer should be willing to take part in dancing, music and/or art workshops.

Previous experience with vulnerable groups is more than welcome and some knowledge from pedagogy and psychology is also recommended.



Who are we looking for?

The future volunteer should bring in their own ideas into the project and be prepared to create, plan and execute their own projects.

Abilities in music, sport, manual activities, handcrafts, dance, art and multimedia would be convenient.

Past experience in education and youth work is welcomed.

Volunteer profile

Candidates should show:

self-initiative, motivation, patientce, flexibility, open-mindedness, creativity, good communication skills, interest in working with children, youth (and adolescents) and they should be able to speak English.

Guidance

Each volunteer will have their work coordinator who will integrate the volunteer in the work processes and inform him/her about the work of the organization and the people involved in the work.

“Each volunteer will also have to create their YouthPass at the end of the project. The work coordinators will ensure that the tasks of the volunteers are clearly defined and well-executed.”

Language support will include a Slovene language course, where volunteers will get acquainted with the Slovene language.



A group of seven young adults, four men and three women, are posing for a photo on a grassy hillside. They are dressed in casual summer attire like t-shirts and tank tops. In the background, a town with a prominent white building on a hill is visible, surrounded by lush green mountains under a clear sky.

We will also provide the volunteers with mentors who will personally support and include them in the local environment, social life, local customs and lifestyle.

Supervision

Supervision over the work of mentors and work coordinators will be carried out by the project coordinator, who will, in the course of the entire project, be in direct contact with everyone involved.

His responsibility is a quality preparation and implementation of the project.

A photograph of two women sitting on a window ledge, smiling and wrapped in a dark grey blanket. The window is open, and the background shows a building facade. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red rectangle.

Accommodation, food and transport arrangements

The volunteers will be accommodated in one fully furnished apartment (including gas, water, electricity and Wi-Fi) on the main square of Škofja Loka, an old historical town with about 13,000 inhabitants, located 25 km north-west from Ljubljana.

Each volunteer will stay in a private bedroom with shared cooking, washing, laundry and social facilities. Volunteers will cook by themselves, and a monthly food allowance will be provided of 176 €.

They will be also entitled to receive a monthly “pocket money” of 120 €. A bike will be provided to each of the volunteers as well as tickets for public transportation (if required for the purpose of the project).

Free time

Škofja Loka lies at the river confluence of Selška and Poljanska Sora and next to Škofja Loka Hills. It is 25 km from Ljubljana, 40 km from Bled and 120 km from the Slovenian coast.

Being located in Central Europe, Škofja Loka is a great starting point to visit other nearby European cities.

Budapest is 500 km from Škofja Loka, Venice 250 km, Vienna 350 km, Zagreb 170 km.

Be active.



Spending free time

Škofja Loka is a regional center with all the infrastructure that comes with it.

We have a library, post office, banks, numerous restaurants, pubs, four sports halls and other recreational facilities, a cinema hall, theater and many different clubs such as skateboarding, paintball, shooting, beekeeping, climbing, mountaineering society, mushroom picking society, animal welfare society, yoga, dance, basketball, soccer, knitting, orchestra and folklore.

Volunteers can join all of these activities, and many more.



Language should not be an obstacle because everyone speaks English well.



The town is just small enough that young people know each other, but it is also an environment that enables individuals to creatively engage in the society.

The areas surrounding Škofja Loka have many possibilities for activities in nature, which also includes various forms of entertainment such as hiking, running, and cycling.

This gives individuals genuine contact with nature and additional opportunities for leisure activities. In summer, swimming in the Sora river is also possible.

Whereas in winter, skiing and snowboarding is available in the area.

The volunteers also have a stimulating impact on the Škofja Loka living environment.





COVID-19 Volunteering abroad

In times of stress, the best relieve is being surrounded by nature. Our country may be small, but it has got so much to offer; mountains, rivers, valleys, hills, lakes, sea.

The project will be adjusted to whatever the reality may be considering the needs of the organization (and its target group) and those of the respective volunteer.

If you want to live in a place where it is both vibrant and peaceful, come to Škofja Loka.

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

We do not know for what the (near) future will look like, but we know for sure that we will continue our programs in one way or another and **you can be a part of that.**



Ask a question to any of the current volunteers.
We will make sure to respond within a few days.

**Contact us
via email:**



Helena
hhrychova@volny.cz

**Here
are our
wonderful
volunteers!**



Vera
vera.darabont@gmail.com



Katy
k.hofke@web.de



Tom
tomdehaas@live.com



Jeremy
jezantunes17@gmail.com

How to apply:

Let us know in your application which of the proposed vacancies would be the most interesting for you!

If you are from an EU country and you're interested in the project and want to be volunteer, send us your CV and motivation letter to **matjaž@familija.eu** or apply through European Solidarity Corps portal until 1st March 2021.

The first candidates considered suitable will be selected.
Your application should be also marked which of the proposed vacancies seems the most interesting for you.

During the selection period, we might contact you for further information through e-mail, Skype or Facebook!

We are almost sure you haven't heard much about Slovenia or/and Škofja Loka, here are some videos and links to ease your decision:

Useful links:

Slovenia:

- Video 1
- Video 2
- Video 3

Škofja Loka:

- Škofja Loka video
- Škofja Loka Tourism

SEE YOU SOON!

