

Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl **(2013-BEFR-15)**

EVS Project “Volunteering, leisure time and disability”

The hosting Organisation:

The “Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs”, aka CBB, is a non-profit, non-political Youth Organisation recognised by the French Community of Belgium. The organisation proposes different kinds of activities, mainly based on *volunteering* and *non-formal education*: local and international work-camps, medium and long term voluntary services, leisure time activities for and with disabled people.

All these activities would not be possible without a network of 420 members, 160 international volunteers during the summer and a team of 9 employees.

As we are a Youth Organisation, most of our public is aged between 16 and 25 years, even if there is not upper age limit to integrate our groups of volunteers. Within our members (+- 350 people), one person out of ten has a mental disability.

We participate in the EVS Program both as sending and hosting Organisation since 1997. We are accredited as coordinating organisation since 2007.

We believe that the EVS program perfectly fits with our goals and methods: non-formal education, citizen awareness, volunteering, and multiculturalism are keywords in our daily action. We also particularly appreciate the learning opportunities that the EVS offers to all young people, regardless to their origins, background and economical means.

CBB is also member of the ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service Organisations.

Location of the project:

Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl presents the specificity to develop of lot of international exchanges and to be located in a small town of the south -French speaking- part of Belgium. From our office, by the church place of Marche-en-Famenne, a 17 000 inhabitants town of the province of Luxembourg, we organise projects all over the French Community of Belgium (Brussels and Wallonia) and maintain close partnerships with non-profit organisations from all over the world. This unique situation will allow the volunteer to share the semi-rural life



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style of the area, but also to meet young people from different places of the country as well as to be in contact with people from the other side of the earth.

During his/her EVS, the volunteer will live in Marche-en-Famenne. The town offers all modern facilities (shops, supermarkets, sport centre, cinema....).

!!!IMPORTANT!!!: Our town is located in a semi-rural area. For the urban life-style-lovers it is important to know that even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (60 km from Liège, 100 km from Brussels, 50 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look very quiet.

The project:



As said before, CBB develop different kind of actions mainly focused on group dynamics. Through of them, the association also tries to promote inclusion of people with fewer opportunities as people with learning difficulties or disabilities.

In close relationship with CBB leaders and other CBB volunteers, the EVS volunteer will be actively involved on these activities from the preparation to the evaluation, with a special attention to facilitate the participation of people with fewer opportunities.

We will offer the volunteer the opportunity of being integrated into our **training cycle of animators**. This training will enable him to be sensitized with the management of group, the techniques of animation, and the organization of activities. Thanks to his/her observations and the professional support given by the coordinator of this activity, he/she will be expected to take initiatives in the project frame and to develop self-starting skills.

The volunteer will be particularly involved in the programme **“Volunteering, leisure time and disability”** developed by the organisation. This programme aims to develop a better awareness about disability among the young people, as well as to favour the social participation of (young) people in situation of mental disability.

L'asbl Compagnons Bâisseurs est une association de chantiers de jeunes reconnue et subventionnée, en tant qu'Organisation de jeunesse, par le Ministère de la Jeunesse de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, membre de la Confédération des Organisations de Jeunesse (COJ) et de l'Alliance européenne des associations de service volontaire (ALLIANCE).



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In company of staff members, the EVS volunteer will be in charge of the preparation, animation and evaluation of residential week-ends, summer camps and evening activities for groups of young volunteers and people with mental disability. The tasks will be varied and can be organised according to the skills, interests and abilities of the young volunteer.



Here below is an example of tasks concerning the organisation of a week-end of activity:

Before the week-end: to search for an accommodation, to organise the logistics, to plan the menus, to plan cultural and sports activities as well as touristic visits...

During the week-end: to welcome the group of participants, to provide an individual support to the people with disability (this may include sanitary support to the persons), to facilitate the group dynamic, to lead a cultural visit, a group game...



After the week-end : to evaluate the activity with the others leaders, to write articles and to post news on the organisation's Facebook public page about the week-end, to prepare a small report addressed to the parents of the participants with disability...

Each year, CBB organises between 15 and 20 residential week-ends of such type. We also organise 2 camps of 10 days in Belgium and 2 camps abroad. Around 20 persons participate in each of these projects; more than half of them are in situation of mental disability (mostly learning difficulties, Down syndrome).

Every two months Friday evening cine-club and monthly table games evenings are also usual activities developed within the programme "Volunteering and disability".

In this EVS project, we also wish the volunteer to develop a personal initiative; any idea and proposal of new activity launched by the EVS volunteer are welcome!

Sometimes according to the goal of this EVS project focus on inclusion, the EVS volunteer will be involved on the other actions of CBB (trainings, weekend work-camps...)



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It is also possible for the volunteer to participate and develop collective activities with other EVS volunteers. For other young volunteers are hosted in other projects in the town of Marche-en-Famenne. The volunteers can sometimes work together, especially during special youth events organized once a year in Marche-en-Famenne: Rock festival, Carnaval, youth services open day, end of exams party.... The volunteers can help to prepare and follow-up these events. In some occasions, they can hold an information stand presenting EVS program and youth exchange opportunities.

Profile of the volunteer:



For this project, CBB requests from the volunteer:

- To be able to communicate in French at a reasonable level as he/she will share a lot of time with people with mental disability which do not know any other language.
- To be highly motivated to work for a better social participation and inclusion of people with disability.
- To enjoy the group life and to be ready to participate in several residential week-ends and camps in company of lots of people.
- Not to be discouraged by office and computer work, as a several tasks in this project also concern the preparation and the evaluation of the activities which are done at the office.

Project period: EVS activity will start on 01/09/2015 for aduration of 12 months

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