



Foundation Perekodu



ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Perekodu SA is an institution with different departments and services for children and young people in Viljandi County. It has different departments for orphanage and for children with special needs. Foundation Perekodu has hosted international volunteers since 2005. We have a long time experience in accepting long-term volunteers and we really appreciate these experiences. Regular activities in Foundation Perekodu are aimed to provide everyday care and counselling, helping to raise children's and young people awareness of themselves. It is run in cooperation with the specialists such as therapists, psychiatrists, social workers and youth-police. The target group for disabled children and youth is in age from 2 to 20.

There are around 40 children with severe mental/physical disability. This institution combines a nursery, school, rehabilitation center and an alternative home for those who need it. There are 6 family homes for orphans and children without parental care, where in each are living 8-9 children. We'd love to give them possibility to experience similar lifestyle as their contemporaries in biological families. Each family lives in a separate house and have their own educators. Most of the children go to school, kindergarten during the daytime. There are around 75 staff members all together in the institution.

Project context

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EVS volunteer could bring the international/ European awareness, openness, new approaches, intercultural dimension to the life of children and the employees in Foundation Perekodu. The institution already has been cooperated with Dalarna County in Sweden for a long time and is open to contacts from other cultures. All departments are located within 3 km from the Viljandi city centre and are easily reached by public transport.

Viljandi is the sixth largest town in Estonia with population of 18 257 (Population registry data by 1st of January 2015). Area: 14,6 km. Location: South-Estonia, the uplands of Sakala. It is 161 km from Viljandi to Tallinn and 81 km to Tartu. There are many cafes, restaurants, shopping centres, a library, a theatre, the university, alternative places to go and many other entertainments in Viljandi. The rural atmosphere of the town is balanced by the Cultural Academy of Viljandi, which organize many events in town – concerts, dance performances, plays etc. We have Estonian Traditional Music Centre, which organizes in every July the all-Estonia-famous folk music festival Viljandi Folk. The festival brings together contemporary folk music from all over the world and ca 20 000 festival visitors – a mix that creates not-to-be-missed event! There is very good bus and train connection with the capital and other cities. Also the nature is beautiful here!

Accommodation for volunteers will be organised by our coordinating organization NGO Noortevahetus Arengu Ühing ESTYES: the volunteer will live in apartment with convenient transport connectivity to the workplace, each volunteer either in a separate or shared room. Apartment is fully furnished with beds, bedclothes, bath/shower & equipped kitchen. Food will be prepared by the volunteer at home, money will be provided by our coordinating organisation. In addition, volunteers will be paid a monthly allowance according to EVS financing rules.

Proposed Activities

The main tasks of the volunteer are looking after children, helping social workers in their daily needs and organising different activities for the kids. Volunteer's tasks depend very much on his/her interests and skills. Most of the kids need a mentor in the class or in free time. (S)he can be hands or legs for the children in a wheelchair, helping to dress, with feeding or some other basic needs what it is needed. With some children it is possible to go further than just basic help. It is possible to organise different

events, games, do handicraft, sport, go to the city, cinema or to do some music. Volunteer can also participate in study visits but also help to organise different outings and excursions. Volunteer is expected to be a friend and role model for these children and help them to understand delight of the life. It is important to teach these children to evaluate surrounding and to find their way in it.

Depending on the volunteers and children's interests/abilities, following tasks can be adapted in each institution:

- arranging children's leisure time (sports, games, etc);
- planning and running creative workshops (dance, music, theatre, handicraft, etc);
- looking after children and helping teachers in managing their daily needs;
- presenting his/her own country and culture as a part of the intercultural learning;
- assisting to arrange outings and excursions and taking part in those;
- playing with children;

Hosting international volunteer will give new experience and more awareness of different cultures not only for the children but to all workers in Foundation Perekodu, too. Social workers in the Centre can share their skills and knowledge's of working with children with disadvantaged background with the volunteer, to develop his/her skills which could be useful in his/her future and/or professional career. Teachers are also hoping to get new and fresh leisure time activity ideas from the volunteer to fulfill children's days with happiness and versatile development. It is important to give a chance to the children to spend their childhood actively full of diverse activities. It broadens youth's outlook and gives more ideas of what they would like to do in the future.

In the very beginning of the project volunteers will have orientation and introduction to the workplace and in all institution to find the best activities for him/herself. She/he will have a tutor, who helps/introduces work activities. Volunteer has continues contact with the mentor to prevent and solve possible crisis in cultural or language level besides working time.

Profile of Volunteer and Recruitment Process

The first priority is that the volunteer is motivated and interested in meeting and working with the target groups. Previous experience of any kind of social work with young people is preferred but not necessary. The volunteer should be active, energetic, creative, taking initiative, adaptable, open-minded, sociable, positive, responsible and reliable and willing to work with children from difficult background and/or with children with mental/physical disabilities.

Risk Prevention, Protection and Safety

The host organisation will ensure:

- 1) that the volunteer work is safe and been assessed for risk;
- 2) that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards;
- 3) that the volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment if needed;

4) that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the staff.

The volunteers will have an experienced supervisor-coordinator, who will help the volunteer to understand the new environment and feel more comfortable. Volunteer will have the opportunity to learn Estonian language.

