



Erasmus+

## INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITY (EVS)

**“Youth Ambassador for Mobility”**

*Social rural center “VIVA SIOULE”*

October 2018 - May 2019 (250 days)

Ebreuil, region of Auvergne, France

**1 position available**

***This year the Social center of Ebreuil wishes to host a European Volunteer in order to promote youth mobility and intercultural exchanges***

### **The coordinating organization: Concordia**

Concordia is a national, French, non-governmental and non-profit organization, founded in 1950 by English, German and French youngsters. Their aim was to enhance the values of tolerance and peace after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War by organizing international work camps for young volunteers.

Currently, Concordia is leading various volunteering projects in France (international volunteering work camps, hosting EVS volunteers, coordinating long term national volunteering projects). Concordia also gives opportunity to French youngsters to volunteer abroad (sending volunteers to EVS, “Service Civique International”, as well as short term or long-term projects with our partners all over the world). More particularly within Erasmus+ Program, Concordia is taking part in Youth Exchanges, Training Courses and EVS (European Volunteer Service) as a coordinating, sending and receiving organization.

The main objectives of Concordia are the following:

- Education: by helping young people to grow up through the experience of collective living.
- Culture: by favoring youth exchanges on an international level, always emphasizing the values of peace, friendship and mutual respect.
- Social: in taking part in concrete actions of solidarity, as well as supporting a civic engagement.
- Social economy: by contributing to the realization of local development, in favor of the environment, heritage, tourism and social and educational activities.



The Paris' head office supports the activities of 10 regional offices- including Concordia Auvergne in Clermont-Ferrand. There are two full time employees in the local team and one of them will be more particularly in charge of your mentoring. We also manage a team of French volunteers and another made of 3 European volunteers. You will be integrated with them as you will have quite the same mobility period. However, your service will be realized for our partner, a social center in Ebreuil.

**More information about Concordia here: [www.concordia.fr](http://www.concordia.fr)**

## The hosting organization: Social rural Center «VIVA SIOULE»

Since its' creation in 1975, the primary objective of the association Viva Sioule is to encourage local development in the rural area of Ebreuil. That is why this project was developed together with the local population and is based on the local resources and needs. The aim is to encourage inhabitants to take an active part in the improvement of their life conditions, development of education, culture, reinforcement of solidarity, and, prevention and reduction of social exclusion.

The social center is therefore a multi-purpose place opened for all, where everyone can find activities and services in the most varied fields: social, cultural and educational as well as health, entertainment, information etc. Viva Sioule promotes, creates and manages all the activities and services in cooperation with young people, their families and other inhabitants.

Today, the organization is working on the territory of 18 municipalities in the rural area of Ebreuil and its environs. The association Viva Sioule is part of the national and regional network of social and socio-cultural centers of France.

For many years, the Social Center of Ebreuil has led various Youth projects, including European ones like Youth Exchanges. Some young people are also involved in projects reinforcing cooperation with African countries. To support and enhance these activities, the association Viva Sioule has expressed a will to host a first European Volunteer (EVS).

**More information about Viva Sioule here: <http://vivasioule.centres-sociaux.fr/>**





## Role and tasks of the volunteer

The volunteer will be involved in the Youth service of the social Center Viva Sioule. He/she will be fully part of the friendly association's team and will have a tutor dedicated to his/her daily support.

→ **The general objectives of this project are the following:**

- ✓ To let the volunteer participate in the association Viva Sioule, as well as in the local community's life in general;
- ✓ To enable mutual exchange of experiences, approaches and methods of work between the volunteer and other facilitators;
- ✓ To contribute (through this) to the social development in this area in order to bring new perspectives and open a window on intercultural and European issues;
- ✓ To make the volunteer deeply discover the French culture, reinforce his/her social abilities and acquire new skills through this non-formal experience.

→ **The task during the mission will be the following:**

The volunteer will help the social center to develop local projects and actions based on non-formal education in order to:

- Foster the mobility of young Europeans;
- Promote active citizenship and civil engagement among young people;
- Encourage a sense of initiative and youth empowerment,
- Raise awareness regarding intercultural issues.

This is why the volunteer will take an active part in the various activities carried out by the social center and into actions for youth by the Community of Municipalities. After a period of integration, the social center expects the volunteer to be more specifically in charge of:

- ✓ Preparing interventions to give his/her testimony and to talk about international mobility and the Erasmus+ Program during various events, thanks to media materials, or with dedicated pedagogical activities;
- ✓ Accompanying youngsters, who are involved in projects in the field of international cooperation: take part in meetings, facilitate and monitor youth projects;
- ✓ Supporting the preparation of a European youth exchange: present the project, mobilize of a group of young people, define the project and its program, prepare the youth for this intercultural experience and then help with facilitation, evaluation and dissemination of results;

Moreover, within this EVS the volunteer can later suggest his/her own project according to the volunteer's skills and interests and after consultations with our team, elected representatives and other beneficiaries.





## Project environment

The volunteer will be hosted in Ebreuil, which is the place of the social center Viva Sioule. This village is located in the department of Allier; Auvergne's region and it is 50 km away to the North-West from the regional capital of Clermont-Ferrand. Ebreuil and its surroundings is a quite rural place; there are around 1300 inhabitants.



This small town is situated in the valley of Sioule, on the shore of a natural and wild-flowing river. Thanks to its picturesque landscapes, Ebreuil is an attractive place for green tourism and it proposes various leisure activities, such as hiking, swimming in lakes or canoe rides.

Moreover, Ebreuil has an historical heritage, in particular the abbey of Saint Léger which is dated back to 10<sup>th</sup> century. It one of the few very rare churches in France and the only one in Auvergne, where the ancient nave of Carolingian style (11<sup>th</sup> century) was preserved. In 2015 this beautiful building received a star in the Green Guide by MICHELIN.



In general, this town is perfect for those ones who enjoy natural and calm environment and like doing some outdoor activities. There is a supermarket, small cafés and bars in the town, so you will have no problems with buying food and you even have a place to go out from time to time.

Ebreuil is quite close to Gannat's train station, which can be reached by bicycle or your colleagues can bring you there by car. From there, you then can take a train to bigger cities such as Vichy or the regional capital Clermont-Ferrand. Moreover, every month you will get a reimbursement of your trip to Clermont-Ferrand. There, you will have possibilities to meet other international volunteers.

Furthermore, you will benefit of a daily quite peaceful lifestyle in the centre of the village. The association owns an entire building which used to be a train station. It is now well renovated and the ground floor serves as the office of the social centre, while the first floor as a flat which will be dedicated to your accommodation.

You will enjoy relationships with local youngsters, inhabitants and with your colleagues. Everything will be done to facilitate your social integration and help you participate in what you want from leisure activities; thanks to these contacts. Note that Viva Sioule has a good experience in hosting foreign people, in particularly with some trainees during the summer time. If you want, we will also put you in touch with other previous volunteers or current ones coordinated by Concordia.

**Despite all these advantages, we would highly recommend you think carefully before applying for the project and prepare yourself to spend one year living in the village, in a rural area, where life is not that dynamic as in a city.**



You can find more information about the town here:

- <http://www.auvergne-tourisme.info/> (Tourism in Auvergne)
- <http://www.ville-ebreuil.org/> (City of Ebreuil)
- <https://www.allier-auvergne-tourisme.com/culture-patrimoine/villes-villages/villages-de-charme/ebreuil-587-1.html> (Department of Allier)
- <http://ebreuil.stationverte.com/> (Green tourism in Ebreuil)

## Practical Information

- **Activity period:** From October 2018 to May 2019 (250 days)
- **Working Hours:** The volunteer will work from Monday to Friday, approx. 30 hours per week (a timetable will be defined by both the volunteer and Viva Sioule staff). There may be periods where he/she has to work more (during youth exchanges for example). However, all the time when the volunteer works more hours, he/she will be able to take extra days off. Except regular days off (Saturday and Sunday), the volunteer is allowed to take 24 days of vacations spread out during these 12 months of the project.
- **Working and living conditions:** Accommodation will be provided. The flat is situated right above the main office of the social centre. The volunteer will have his/her own room, living room and bathroom, during the working days kitchen may be shared with other employees of the association. The flat is well equipped and furnished to ensure a comfortable stay. This accommodation is located at the centre of the town. All house services and Internet fees are 100% covered.
- In addition, the volunteer will receive **money for food** (7,5 € per day) and **pocket money** (6 € per day) according to EVS funding rules. Thus, the volunteer has to cook for him/herself.
- The volunteer will be individually followed by a **dedicated mentor** from Concordia and a referent person inside the team of the social centre for daily management.
- **Travel expenses** from the volunteer's city to the service's place will be reimbursed within a maximum limit of 250 € for both ways.
- The volunteer will benefit from an **insurance** (for medical health and common risks), subscribed by the sending organisation.
- A **linguistic support** will be available thanks to an online platform in order to facilitate French learning.



## Application

This European volunteering activity is opened to **one volunteer** coming from **Erasmus + Programme and Partner Countries**.

We are searching for an active and motivated person with the following qualities:

- ✓ Adaptability;
- ✓ Readiness and desire to live in a rural area;
- ✓ Good communication and presentation skills;
- ✓ Flexibility and ability to communicate with different audiences;
- ✓ Strong interest for non-formal education, its principles and advantages;
- ✓ Good level of English and/or French or motivation to learn French;
- ✓ Motivation to participate in European projects and international volunteering work camps.

**A priority will be given to youth with fewer opportunities** (economic, social, geographical obstacles, disability, educational difficulties, cultural differences, health problems...).

For that purpose, we kindly ask candidates to mention which situation they may face and what kind of support should be given to facilitate their involvement.

We are waiting for your application until **September 3**.

**For that purpose, please send your Motivation Letter and CV to:**  
[cd.auvergne@concordia.fr](mailto:cd.auvergne@concordia.fr)

In the topic of your email write "your first and last name\_EVApplication\_Ebreuil"

We are looking forward to read your application! To go further, we may suggest to some of you a Skype interview (please have a careful look to your email - including your spam box- and be reactive in that case). An answer will be given to everyone at the end the selection process.

If you have any question or if you want more details, do not hesitate to contact us!

Concordia Auvergne

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