

## **TALLINN CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**

**(Tallinna Laste Tuvakeskus)**

### **ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION**

Tallinn Center for Children at Risk is welfare organization, where children who have been left without parental care or have behavioral or substance abuse problems, get professional help. This organisation has two centers in Tallinn: Lilleküla Shelter and Männi Shelter.

Children are hosted in these two shelters for various reasons, most common are vagrancy, home negligence, family violence, parental alcoholism or drug abuse, parental unemployment or loss of residence due to family poverty. Most of the children are brought to the shelter by the police or child protection worker.

The staff that works directly with the children consists of the manager of shelter, nine social workers and a nurse who all aim to provide the children a safe environment which helps to foster their personal development. Approximately 75% of shelter children are sent back home after their stay in the Shelter. If necessary, they remain under the supervision of the welfare worker.



Lilleküla Shelter has hosted EVS volunteers already since 2013 and Männi Shelter has hosted EVS volunteers since 2006. Both shelters see the great benefit of hosting EVS volunteers. Having a valid experience is a good base to continue working in frame of European Voluntary Service.

Click on the video link to see how Lilleküla Shelter looks like. Männi Shelter is very similar.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0BAPdGLBd4>

### **PROJECT ENVIRONMENT**

Both shelters of the Centre for Children at Risk are located in the capital and most developed city in Estonia – Tallinn. It is a very beautiful modern city with ancient buildings & fantastic sightseeings, a popular tourist destination. Tallinn is situated on the coast of the Baltic Sea, and has a population of about 440 206 people according to statistics in 2016. The spoken native language is Estonian, but English, Finnish and Russian are also widely

understood. Tallinn combines a lot of enterprises, businesses, organisations, etc. Governmental institutions and representatives of international organisations are situated here as well. Detailed information to be found on [www.tallinn.ee](http://www.tallinn.ee) .

Lilleküla Shelter situated in Tallinn, in the district of Lilleküla which is about 10 minutes away by bus from the historical centre of Tallinn. It is located in a quite busy area and is easily accessible from any location of the city.

Männi Shelter situated in Tallinn, in the district of Nõmme which is about 20 minutes away by bus from the historical centre of Tallinn. This area is surrounded of big park and forest, which is a beautiful sight every time of year.

Participation of motivated EVS volunteer is seen as an exciting innovative element refreshing the daily routine and bringing additional educational value to the pedagogical process. The main idea is to provide assistance and support local personnel in daily work, particularly in running various educational and free time activities for the children and youth. It is also to provide some experience and practice of foreign languages and intercultural learning both for children and local personnel. At the same time it gives valuable field experience of the social and youth work to the EVS volunteer accepted to the project.

After on-arrival orientation meeting aimed at the integration of the volunteer to local realities and explanation of aims and activities of the host project, the EVS volunteer will be carrying out the following tasks:

- looking after the children and youth and helping staff in teaching them different useful skills
- running additional educational activities in the house using its own facilities
- teaching children foreign languages through joined games, songs, sport, any other activities indoor and outdoor, which the EVS volunteer will be running
- presenting his/ her home country and its culture as a part of intercultural learning
- arranging children's outings, e.g. culture visits, excursions, hikes, picnics, etc.
- playing with children

Typical week day in both shelters looks like follows:

06:45 - children wake up

07:15 - breakfast

07:30 - children go to school

15:00 - children return from the school - time for games, sport, etc.

17:00 - classes, homework, preparation for the next day at school

18:30 - dinner

19:30 - different activities or free time

22:00 - children go to bed

The period spent at the shelter varies from days to a year. To shorten the time spent at the Shelter, we try to improve cooperation with families (briefing parents on the opportunities for receiving legal advice and psychological counseling and the possibilities for receiving

family-centred assistance) as well as with guardianship authorities (case discussions in the shelters) with the goal of helping the child return home or to a foster family as quickly as possible.

### **PROFILE OF VOLUNTEER**

We will be pleased to get applications from anyone who are:

- ready to work with children and youngsters and have enough patience;
- ready to understand and accept that the children/youngsters often come from difficult family and social background;
- friendly and open-minded;
- aged between 18 and 30 years;
- optimistic;
- responsible.

Working experience is not required. Most importantly the volunteer should be fond of children and have optimistic and stalwart nature. All sorts of artistic, pedagogical, musical or sports related skills are welcome as they can be implemented in educational and free time activities.