**Hoolekandeteenused Tõrva Unit**

**Introduction**

Tõrva Kodu provides 24-hours supported living for adults with mental and physical disabilities. There are  60 adult men and women aged 23-80 years living in that home. The home works every day for one goal - that people who live there would have active and positive days no matter their age, gender or disability. For that, there are activities like felting, ceramics, sewing. They are also very active in sports like walking, games, dancing, and activities like art and handicraft. They are always standing for disabled people's right to be involved in society and feel safe at home and support every person to be as independent as they can.

Tõrva Kodu is open in both ways - they encourage clients to be an active member of the local community and welcome families, trainees and volunteers to the home. An important part of everyday life is finding work for the clients in the local community – supporting them to find work that they are able to do. They would like their clients to have possibilities to get in touch with the outside world and the local community.

The clients in Tõrva Kodu are accommodated in modern 1-story family-type houses surrounded by a big green garden. The clients are mostly friendly and positive. Some have different ways to communicate- staff will help and guide volunteers in this.

**Location**

Tõrva Home is located in Tõrva town where lives about 1300 citizens. Tõrva is located in Southern Estonia and it is a beautiful and peaceful little community. The bigger city around is Tartu (70 km). Tõrva is famous for its cultural event- Tõrva Tulepäevad. This is an event with singers, dancers, fire, and water. Every year in summer thousands of people come to Tõrva to have a big experience in our culture.

**Work tasks**

* Helping staff in everyday activities
* Companying clients in community events and to other facilities (shop, parks, etc)
* Helping clients in their everyday activities
* Organizing (educative) activities for the clients

The volunteer will be encouraged to propose his/her personal projects/initiatives related to the theme of this ESC project which can be supported by the host and/or coordinating organization.

**Benefits of volunteering**

* The profound experience of social work and assistance to mentally disabled people
* May be helpful for determining future studies or field of work
* A chance to experience life in the countryside hence learning about and helping to raise European awareness in the local community

**Requirements for the volunteer**

* Mature
* Committed and motivated to work with people with special needs
* Active and prone to take initiative
* Flexible and open-minded
* Warmhearted and helpful

[Tõrva Kodu webpage](https://www.hoolekandeteenused.ee/kodu/torva_kodu/)