



SIW

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

A learner-centred approach to increase
creative problem solving skills in
International Voluntary Service (IVS)



Why should you accept this challenge?

There is a need for International Voluntary Service (IVS) actors to:

- Understand and analyse what is missing or not working in IVS activities
- Get to know (more confidence in) your strengths, values and talents
- Discover opportunities available in IVS and develop solutions through creative ways
- Learn to collaborate, support each other, think out of the box, test and make mistakes, and stay engaged when you face challenges
- Be empowered in taking small everyday steps to implement solutions in your IVS practice with the aim to make more and better impact in society

Background

International volunteering offers youth all over Europe - and beyond - the opportunity to meet, work and live together. To create, to explore and to be challenged. To discover similarities, contrasts and to be surprised. International volunteering is all about dealing with the unexpected - and actively pursuing it for the exciting opportunities it holds. Anyone that volunteers or works in IVS faces a diversity of challenges that they have to respond to. The project 'Challenge Accepted' therefore aims to increase creative problem solving skills in IVS.



When and where?

'Challenge Accepted' is a training programme that is composed of the following phases (dates mentioned include travel days):



February 2022:
online preparation for the participants



March - June 2023:
implementation of the lessons learnt



26 February - 5 March 2023:
training course in the northern mountain range of Madrid, Spain, hosted by De Amicitia



3 - 8 July 2023:
evaluation seminar in Lage Vuursche, the Netherlands, hosted by SIW

Expected participants

Expected 'Challenge Accepted' participants consists of anyone involved in organising international volunteering or working (voluntarily) in an IVS organisation. We are looking forward to receive your application if you are:

- Based in an EU programme country.
- Interested in gaining creative problem solving skills.
- Committed to actively participate in all phases of the project.
- Excited about the idea of spending two weeks in Spain and the Netherlands with an international group from all over Europe
- Minimally 18 years old by February 2023.
- Able to speak sufficient English to be able to express yourself during the training as well as the (online) evaluation afterwards.

Participants with fewer opportunities are highly encouraged to apply.

Arrangements

- Accommodation and meals during the training course and evaluation seminar are provided
- There is no participation fee
- Compensation for visa costs for participants from Turkey (capped by EUR 100 each)

- Travel compensation: actual bus/train/flight costs with a maximum (distance calculated from the place of residence to Madrid (Spain) for the training and Lage Vuursche (the Netherlands) for the evaluation seminar on [Distance Calculator | Erasmus+](#)):

Distance traveled	Non-green travel	Green travel*
10-99 km		EUR 23
100-499 km	EUR 180	EUR 210
500-1999 km	EUR 275	EUR 320
2000-2999 km	EUR 360	EUR 410

* This maximum applies if you travel at least one way by shared car, bus or train

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK
any tickets until your participation
in 'Challenge Accepted' has been
confirmed!

About De Amicitia and SIW

De Amicitia (Spain) and SIW Internationale Vrijwilligersprojecten (SIW International Volunteer Projects, the Netherlands) are non-governmental, non-profit voluntary service organisations and members of the Alliance. Both organisations aim for (young) people to discover their impact abroad. This is achieved by bringing volunteers into contact with different cultures, in the Netherlands, Spain and all over the world with partner organisations that are part of Alliance, CCIVS and/or SCI.

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About 'Challenge Accepted'



'Challenge Accepted' is a project that is supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project is coordinated

and implemented by SIW and De Amicitia in close collaboration with its partners. The training course will be facilitated by Isabel McLean, Frank Elsdijk and Rob van Leeuwen, who have various experiences in IVS, leading international groups, (international) project management, facilitating non-formal education learning experiences, improvisation and forum theatre and much more.



What's Next?

Apply by 10 January 2023 through the [online application form](#). Results will be shared shortly after.

Any questions about 'Challenge Accepted'?
Contact Rob van Leeuwen through:
rob.van.leeuwen@siw.nl!

Need further convincing?

Here's some quotes from participants of previous SIW Erasmus+ training projects for you!



"Everyone should have this kind of project, they totally change your life. At the beginning you could be afraid, but nobody judge you!"



"I recommend joining this project if you're passionate about thinking out of the box and training your intuition in difficult situations."



"It makes us not only courage to make mistakes; it also provides us to learn from others."



"This project has been amazing, not only you learn how to get out of your comfort zone, but you also learn how to efficiently deal with diverse challenges when they come. I am really sure I will use the tools and mindset given in my professional and personal daily life."



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