

International volunteering projects

WORKCAMPS 2025 IN BELGIUM

JAVVA IS...

JAVVA stands for « Jeunes Actifs dans le Volontariat et les Voyages Alternatifs » which means « Young People Active in Volunteering and Alternative Travels » and was founded as a non-profit organization in 2000. Since 2003, JAVVA has been recognized as a youth organization by the French-speaking government of Belgium.

OUR MISSION

We aim to promote an ideal of tolerance, solidarity and peace between young people from around the world and to encourage their active participation and mobility.

JAVVA has no political or ideological affiliation.

OUR APPROACH

International camps and volunteering projects enable inter-cultural encounters as well as the discovery of others and therefore, in our opinion, represent a useful tool in the construction of peace. They contribute towards a fairer world with more solidarity and respect for differences. Even if our projects cannot be considered as humanitarian aid or emergency relief, they offer participation in another culture, and teach teamwork through participation in a development project in the heart of a local community.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

International Workcamps
European Volunteering (EVS/ESC)
Medium or Long Term Volunteering
Local actions
Trainings

Dear partners,

Please, find below, our program of workcamps for 2025. We do hope to host many of your motivated volunteers this summer, and that they will have a good time in Belgium. We would like to point out some general remarks and specificities regarding our workcamps:

Workcamps

This year, our workcamps will last **8 days to 2 weeks** and will take place from **May to September**. The number of international volunteers in the camp will vary from **8 to 14**. If possible, we try to avoid having more than 2 participants of the same nationality in the camp. Usually English is the camp language, but there is one project where notions of French are necessary (see workcamps' descriptions).

Conditions for participation

Volunteers should be at least **18-year-old and there is no maximum age limit**. There are no special skills required from volunteers. Participants should be **motivated** to do voluntary work, be ready to meet the realities of local life and demonstrate flexibility, tolerance and be open to new experiences. No extra fee.

Code	Name	Location	Dates	Type
JAVVA 25-01	Special Olympics Belgium	COURTRAI	25 May – 2 June	DISA/ FEST
JAVVA 25-02	Couleur Café Festival	BRUSSELS	18 June – 3 July	FEST
JAVVA 25-03	Building Youth (l'Enfance de l'Art)	TEMPLEUVE	12 July – 26 July	RENO/ MANU
JAVVA 25-04	Nomades Theatre Festival	BRUSSELS	09 August- 22 August	FEST
JAVVA 25-05	Folk Festival of Marsinne	MARSINNE	08 September- 19 September	FEST

JAVVA25-01 - Special Olympics Belgium

COURTRAI	25/05 - 01/06	DISA/FEST	8 VOLS	18+
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Every year, Special Olympics Belgium organises the National Games. In 2025, the Games will be held in Courtrai. More than 3,000 athletes, accompanied by 1,200 coaches, are taking part in the Games in around twenty sports disciplines.

Changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities through sport and promoting their social inclusion. This has been the mission of Special Olympics since it was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in the United States. And it works! Since then, Special Olympics has become an international movement active in 193 countries, with more than 5.5 million athletes with a mental disability taking part in adapted sports training and Olympic-type sports competitions, as well as participating in the Healthy Athletes Programme and much more.

Special Olympics Belgium was founded in 1979 and is officially recognized by the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee. It organises National Games every year (alternatively in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia) and send delegations of Belgian athletes to the Winter and Summer Special Olympics World Games. These competitions are open to any athlete with intellectual disability who regularly practise a sport at his/her own level. More than just a physical and sport training, these activities enhance the social development of the athletes.

More information (FR) on: <https://www.special-olympics.be>

WORK DESCRIPTION :

For this edition of the Belgian National Games, volunteers will help on several aspects of the event logistics, such as assembling and dismantling of structures, building and putting up the decorations, transport and unloading of material, waste management.

Volunteers will work with several teams of the organisation before and after the Games.

During the 3 days of competitions, volunteers will provide guidance to athletes for one of the disciplines of the competition: a precision ball sport, related to bowls and "pétanque" called Bocce.

The Opening Ceremony as well as the Torch Run will take place on May 28th while the Games will close the 1st of June.

ACCOMODATION :

Volunteers will be accommodated in dormitories in a hostel.

FOOD :

Meals will be taken with the different teams of the organisation and will be prepared by local volunteers. Vegetarian food will be available but should be asked in advance.

LOCATION :

The workcamp will take place in Courtrai, Belgium.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

- This workcamp requires **physical efforts** at some moments.
- Volunteers are asked to prove a **strong interest for the thematic** of this event.
- There will be one free day before and one free day after the competition.

Please bring good working shoes and clothes that can get dirty as well as a raincoat in case of rainy weather.

LANGUAGE:

The language of the workcamp is English. Basics of French or Dutch are useful but not essential.

ACCESS:

The meeting point is at the train station of Courtrai.

- From Brussels Zaventem Airport: Direct train from the airport to Courtrai Train timetables on: <https://www.belgiantrain.be/fr> .
- From Brussels Gare du Midi train station OR Brussels Gare Centrale train station : Direct train, direction “*direction de Zottegem & Courtrai* “ or direction “*Denderleeuw & Courtrai*” and get off at Courtrai.
- From Charleroi Airport : Take the bus from airport to Gare du Midi Timetables on: <https://www.flibco.com/fr> and then the train from Gare du Midi to Courtrai.

Important note : Courtrai is also named Kortrijk in flemish, it is possible that the name is displayed in Dutch on the station boards.

We encourage all our volunteers to prefer “eco-friendly transportation” to come on their volunteering project. So think twice and come by bike or hitchhike until your project! Do not hesitate to have a look on bus companies, car sharing companies or trains. Train timetables on <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx>

Sustainable development goals? Here you are working to reduce inequalities (10)  Supporting the local community in the social integration of people with intellectual disabilities through sport.

JAVVA25-02 – Couleur Café

BRUXELLES	18/06 - 03/07	FEST	12 VOLS	18+
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The Couleur Café festival is a festival of world and urban music. It is organised as a large convivial village in the city of Brussels and offers, in addition to the music, entertainment, fireworks, workshops for children, dance and music lessons, art exhibitions ranging from traditional to contemporary art and multicultural meeting places.

More information on [Couleur Café 2024 \(couleurcafe.be\)](https://couleurcafe.be)

WORK DESCRIPTION :

Volunteers will help with various logistical aspects of setting up the festival: assembling and dismantling structures, loading and unloading equipment, setting up scenery, setting up artists' boxes, participating in waste management, etc.

Volunteers will be working with part of the festival team as well as with other volunteers (outside JAVVA).

During the festival, which will take place from 27 to 29 of June, the volunteers will be integrated into the different teams (catering and eco-cleaning). After their shifts, the volunteers will be able to enjoy the festival.

The group of JAVVA volunteers will have two off-days with the possibility to visit Brussels or other cities in Belgium.

ACCOMODATION :

Volunteers will be sleeping in tents in the volunteer camp during the workcamp.

If possible, bring your sleeping bag, mattress and toiletries.

Beware, the nights can be very cold in Belgium!

Showers and toilets are available on site.

FOOD:

Meals (morning/midday/evening) are provided by Couleur Café.

LOCATION:

The site will be located in the Osseghem Park at the foot of the Atomium in Brussels (capital of

Belgium). The campsite is only a few minutes walk from the Festival.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

Bring good shoes and clothes suitable for work (clothes that can get dirty) as well as warm clothes and waterproof clothes in case of rain (good jacket). More casual clothing for festival days is of course allowed.

LANGUAGE:

The language of the work site is English. Basic knowledge of French is useful but not essential.

ACCESS:

The meeting point is at the PARC D'OSSEGHEM festival site in Brussels.

- The nearest train station is Brussels South. Train timetables on: <https://www.belgiantrain.be/fr> . To get there afterwards (if you arrive by train at Brussels South station):
 - Get off at the Brussels South train station
 - Take metro line 6 (direction Roi Baudouin) and get off at the Heysel stop.
 - Walk for 5 minutes.
- By plane: the nearest international airports are Brussels (Zaventem) or Brussels-Charleroi (note that this one is in the city of Charleroi).

Brussels airport (Zaventem) is the closest because it is directly in the city. It will take you 30 minutes to get there. Look for “Parc d'Osseghem” in google maps to get your route.

Brussels Charleroi airport (located in Charleroi) also allows you to reach the meeting place in 1h30. You will need to take a shuttle from the airport to Brussels and then take public transport within the city.

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Sustainable development goals? Here you work for sustainable cities and communities (11)!

Support to the local population for the organisation of a cultural event in a city of Belgium. In this way, the volunteer will participate in promoting integration, social cohesion, multiculturalism and sustainable development through this festival. This is integration through culture.

JAVVA25-03 – Building Youth

TEMPLEUVE	12/07 - 26/07	RENO/MAN	14 VOLS	18+
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This workcamp is organised by "L'Enfance de l'Art", an association founded in 1997, which aims to help parents in their education role. The organisation aims to gather people willing to bring to their children a creative learning environment where they can find the joy in learning and experience the richness of childhood rather than early specialisation or academic hot-housing. Parents and professionals work together in the structures created by the organisation: leisure workshops, nurseries, schools, kindergarten. To do so, the association follows the principles of Steiner-Waldorf pedagogy.

Altogether, those activities gather a total of 155 children. The nursery, the kindergarten and the primary school, which are all recognized by the authorities, are located in a former boarding school which was abandoned in 2004. This building is now in a process of renovation which the volunteers will take part in.

WORK DESCRIPTION:

This eco-construction workcamp with "L'Enfance de l'Art" aims at renovating the building hosting kindergartens and a school following Steiner principles for children of the neighbourhood using only ecological materials and techniques. Volunteers will work on the renovation of a building in order to transform it into a welcoming place for kids.

The aim is to create a welcoming and well-equipped place with lavatories, kitchen, dorm, game room, etc.

Volunteers will work from Monday to Friday, from 9 to 12am and from 2 to 4pm. Depending on the needs, they will work in teams to take care of the school: Improvements, renovations and maintenance of the school premises. Also some demolitions!

ACCOMODATION :

Dormitories in the school with access to shower, bathroom and a washing machine.

FOOD :

The meals (light at lunch: sandwiches, salads, soup, etc. and hot meal for dinner) will be prepared by a member of the organisation with the help of two volunteers. A focus will be put on a good management of the collective cooking to have quality meals with as less waste as possible.

LOCATION :

The building of "l'Ecole de la Providence" is located in Templeuve which is a small village close to the French border (2 km) and 20 km from Lille and 10 km from Tournai. There is a market and small shops in the village. A bus line makes the connection with Tournai (every hour during the day). The countryside is flat, which makes it easy to bike (a few bikes will be available). Tournai is a touristic place for old stones, history and museums lovers. Its cathedral is listed as a UNESCO

World Heritage Site.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

This workcamp is open to anyone interested in meeting and sharing with others but keep in mind that is physical work !

Please bring :

- Sleeping bag. Sheets are provided, as are extra blankets ;-)
- Safety shoes: essential!
- Music and playlist: very useful on site, but also for parties!

Smartphone use will be limited, based on rules which will be decided collectively on the first day.

LANGUAGE:

Language of the workcamp will be English. Basic knowledge of French is useful but not mandatory.

ACCESS:

The meeting point is at Tournai station.

- Brussels airport (Zaventem) is the closest because it takes 1h30 by public transport to reach Tournai station.
- Brussels - Charleroi airport (located in Charleroi) is also a good way to reach the meeting place in 2 hours.
- From Brussels City: go to Brussels Central Station and take the direct train to Tournai. If you are under 26 years old, ask for a GoPass 1 ticket. You can go anywhere in Belgium for 6,6€. All timetables and routes on www.belgianrail.be/en/

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Sustainable development goals? Here you work for quality education (4) and measures to combat global warming (13)!

Supports the local population in improving their school infrastructure by using environmentally friendly materials

JAVVA25-04 - Théâtres Nomades Festival

BRUXELLES	09/08 - 22/08	MANU/FEST	10 VOLS	18+
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Since its creation in 1994, "La Compagnie des Nouveaux Disparus" strives to give access to culture and - particularly theatre - to a socially disadvantaged public, less inclined to cultural activities. Democratisation of culture and promotion of diversity are the guiding principles of the company's activities. These are divided in three types of projects: theatre plays creation, "Théâtres Nomades" festival and Mimouna Festival.

Every summer, the Brussels' Park hosts more than 50 shows over 4 days for the Festival Théâtres Nomades Festival. The fountain and surrounding area are transformed into a colourful nomad village made of marquees, caravans, berber tents, and open-air stages.

The programme is diversified through various shows for children, a circus, street theatre, classical theatre, puppet shows, as well as creative workshops on the stage.

WORK DESCRIPTION:

Volunteers will help on several aspects of the festival logistics, such as meals preparation for the entire team of the festival, assembling and dismantling of tents, building and putting up the decorations, stage-managing, transport and unloading of material, installation of the "village of organisations", waste and composting toilet management. Volunteers will work with all people working on the festival (technicians, stage managers, facilitators, organizers, cooks, etc).

Volunteers will also be integrated in the different teams during the festival (tickets, bar, catering, stage-managing, ...) which will take place from August 14th to August 17th 2025.

ACCOMODATION:

Volunteers will sleep in caravans on the site of the festival. The living conditions are **very rudimentary** close to conditions of a "scout camp". Volunteers will use dry toilet and a shower placed in the park.

FOOD:

Meals will be taken with the diverse teams of the festival and will be prepared by the volunteers together with the kitchen team of the festival. Lunch will consist of sandwiches and a warm meal will be prepared for dinner. Vegetarian and halal food will be available.

LOCATION:

In the beautiful Bois de la Cambre in Brussels.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

Please bring sleeping bag, mattress sheet, casual clothing, cap and closed-toe shoes.

LANGUAGE:

The language of the workcamp is **French**. It is not necessary to speak perfectly but it will be the main language on the workcamp.

ACCESS:

The meeting point will be at Gare du Midi . From there, someone will pick up the group to the site.

- By plane: the nearest international airports are Brussels (Zaventem) or Brussels-Charleroi (note that the latter is in the city of Charleroi).
- The easiest way is to arrive at Zaventem, the airport in the city of Brussels. To get to the railway station, you will have to take a public transport which takes 20 minutes.
- It is also possible to arrive at Brussels - Charleroi (in the city of Charleroi) and take a shuttle bus (1h drive) to the capital.
- Train information here: <https://www.belgiantrain.be/fr>

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Train timetables on <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx>

Sustainable development goals? Here you work for sustainable cities and communities (11)!

Support to the local population for the organisation of a cultural event in a rural area in Belgium. In this way, the volunteer will participate in promoting integration, social cohesion, multiculturalism and sustainable development through this festival. This is integration through culture.

JAVVA25-05 – Folk Festival Marsinne

MARSINNE	08/09 - 19/09	FEST	12 VOLS	18+
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The Marsinne Folk Festival is organized by the non-profit organisation «Musiques et Traditions» since 1992. This three-day long Folk Festival features balls, concerts, dancing workshops, a free stage, sessions, street and puppet theatre, as well as a market for instrument makers and craftsmen.

Whether you are an experienced dancer, an enthusiastic music lover or a one-day passer-by, this is the place to be if you want to indulge in traditional music in a peaceful and easily accessible setting. Expect to find a friendly and family-oriented festival with a unique atmosphere and set in a spectacular location. When it is not on one of the three stages, musicians play spontaneously together, in the middle of the public or in the craft market.

The lovely surroundings of the Marsinne castle-farm offer a unique atmosphere to the festival. We invite you to discover and enjoy what the oldest festival of traditional music Wallonia has to offer! More information (FR) on www.folkfestivalmarsinne.be

WORK DESCRIPTION:

General festival set-up and dismantling. More specifically, setting up the stages, setting up the stands and the bar, plus a little decorating and painting, then the same thing but in the other direction for dismantling.

ACCOMODATION:

Volunteers will sleep indoors.

FOOD:

Before and after the festival, meals will be taken with the diverse teams of the festival. Sandwiches will be prepared for lunch and a warm meal for dinner. During the festival, volunteers will receive meal tickets to get warm meals from the caterer of the site.

LOCATION:

The castle-farm of Marsinne, built in the XII century, is located in the old village of Couthuin (Commune of Héron), in the Province of Liège in Wallonia in Wallonia, the French-speaking part of Belgium. The site of the festival is about 10km away from the city of Huy and 40km away from the city of Liège. The caste-farm hosts also a brewery that produce a craft beer: the «Léopold 7».

SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

Please bring sleeping bag and mattress, and a musical instrument if you have one (and can carry it).

LANGUAGE:

The language of the workcamp is English. Basics of French are useful but not necessary.

ACCESS:

The meeting point is at the Andenne train station.

- The two well-connected cities near Heron are Namur and Liège, where there are bus connections to these cities. The nearest train station to the Festival is Andenne. Train timetables on: <https://www.belgiantrain.be/fr>
- By plane: the nearest international airports are Brussels (Zaventem) or Brussels-Charleroi (note that the latter is in the city of Charleroi). Coming from Brussels-Charleroi airport, it takes about 1h45 to reach Andenne station. It is the same time from Zaventem airport.

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Train timetables on <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx>

Sustainable development goals? Here you work for sustainable cities and communities (11)!

Support to the local population for the organisation of a cultural event in a rural area in Belgium.