



Infopack
Study Visit VOLT -
Volunteering Team Activities
Unlocked

-

Study visit for best practices and mentoring

16.3.2026-20.3.2026

Youth Centre Villa Elba

Kokkola, Finland



VOLT - Volunteering Teams unlocked

16.3.2026-20.3.2026

VOLT is a international study visit focused on European Solidary Corps volunteering team projects, best practices, and mentoring.

The program brings together youth work professionals to share experiences, build networks, and learn effective methods for supporting volunteering teams and young people learning during their projects. Through interactive workshops, real-life examples and hands-on activities, participants will explore new approaches to the management of team projects, mentoring, and the exchange of good practices. The visit offers a unique opportunity to strengthen collaboration skills, discover new tools, and bring fresh ideas back to your own organization.

The study visit will be held in Youth Centre Villa Elba, in Kokkola Finland on 16.3-20.3.2026 (16.3. arrival day and 20.3. departure day). We are inviting 3 participants/organization.

Contact information:

Youth Centre Villa Elba
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67200 Kokkola, Finland
www.villaelba.fi

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Profile of the participants

The seminar is aimed for over 18 years old participants working in in the field of international youth work. They should be actively involved in the management and organisation and/or mentoring of volunteering team projects.

They also should have interest to apply knowledge and new competences gained during the seminar in their work.

Participants should also be able to share their own good practises, and have enough english skills to fully participate to the programme.





Villa Elba

Youth Centre Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work. We work under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education.

Our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity. We have been organising volunteering teams and group volunteering projects over ten years and have hosted and coordinated over 30 volunteering teams.

Our work consists of international mobility for young people and those working with young people, voluntary services, training courses, International Club activities, advice and guidance on international programmes, project activities and coordination of volunteering projects.



www.villaelba.fi/en

Study Visit VOLT - preliminary programme

MONDAY
16.3.

TUESDAY
17.3

WEDNESDAY
18.3

THURSDAY
19.3.

FRIDAY
20.3.

ARRIVALS

Arrival of participants /
Check-In and accommodation
in Youth Centre
Villa Elba,
Sannarannantie
60, 67200
Kokkola, Finland
(www.villaelba.fi/en)

Welcome and accommodation

Dinner

Free time

Breakfast

Opening - Who are we?

09:30-12:00

Welcome and get to know each other.

Chaos game (outdoors)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:00

Free time & (collecting travel documents etc.)

14:00-15:00

Basics about ESC volunteering teams

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00

Gallery of organisations

Evaluation of the Day

18:00-19:00 Dinner

Evening at Kota

Breakfast

Diving in to practicalities

09:30-12:00

Volunteering teams as a process. Tips and examples.
From choosing the volunteers to farewells. Looking into documents, roles of the project staff etc.

12:00 Lunch

13:00-14:00

Free time

14:00-15:30

Mentoring as a way of supporting learning

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00 Mentoring in action

Evaluation of the Day

18:00-19:00 Dinner

Finnish night: bilateral talks and SAUNA evening

Breakfast

Field visit day

09:30-11:00

How to build up a good start?

Field visit

11:30

Bus to the City

12:00-13:00 Lunch at the city

13:00-14:00

Guided tour in the city.

14:00-15:30

Free time

15.30 Bus leaves back to Villa Elba

16:00

Coffee and evaluation of the week

Packing time

18:00-19:00 Farewell Dinner

Farewell evening

Breakfast

DEPARTURES



Travel support:

	Non- green travel:	Green travel:
10 – 99 km	28 €	56 €
100 – 499 km	211 €	285 €
500 –1999 km	309 €	417 €
2000 – 2999 km	395 €	535 €
3000 – 3999 km	580 €	785 €
4000 – 7999 km	1188 €	1188 €
8000 -> km	1735 €	1735 €



Please notice that accommodation is booked between 16th to 20th of March. Please schedule your travels so that you would arrive on the arrival day the 16th of March. You will need to check out on 20th latest at 12.00.

Travel grants are paid according to the funding rules of Erasmus+: Travel grants depend on the length of the journey, and for measurement of the journey we use Erasmus+ distance band calculator: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en.

We also recommend to consider travelling sustainably if you have the possibility. There are train connections for example from Copenhagen to Stockholm or from Berlin to Tallinn. You can also travel one way with the flight and the other with trains and boats.

Travel grant is paid by bank transfer only after the participant has filled in the EU-survey and given all the needed travelling documents (travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices).

Villa Elba organizes transportation from Kokkola train station/airport to Villa Elba. This transport cost is covered from the travel grant. Please notice that the transportation from Kokkola airport to Villa Elba can cost around 80€ and from the Kokkola train station to Villa Elba around 30€. If you arrive during reasonable hours 8-20.00 we might be able to pick you up and costs are less.

Tips for travelling to Kokkola:

The participants can search for flights to Helsinki or directly to Kokkola. The best way to travel to Kokkola from Helsinki is by train, timetables and prices at: www.vr.fi/en. Note: Try to book flight arriving in Helsinki until 17:30, otherwise travel to Kokkola with the train will get difficult! The earlier you book the train ticket the cheaper they are. There is also one very cheap bus connection <http://www.onnibus.com/en/index.htm>, but this runs only once a day and the ride is very long (approx. 7 hours).

What to bring along:

- Comfortable clothes and shoes. We will be partly outdoors, and temperature can be still quite chilly. We do not use outdoor shoes in the indoors, so you might want to bring indoor shoes/woollen socks
- Personal medication and hygiene products
- Swimming suits if you want to wear them in sauna or want to go to swim
- Due to the short duration of the seminar, we will not have a separate cultural evening. However, during the sauna evening, participants are welcome to share small snacks from their home countries if they wish to bring some.

Weather

The seminar takes place in the winter, but the weather can be anything from +5 to -25C. For detailed weather forecast, please check: <http://www.foreca.fi/Finland/Kokkola?frontpage>

Pre-tasks:

We kindly invite you to visit the dedicated Padlet page for the study visit: <https://padlet.com/villaelba24/volt-volunteering-team-activities-unlocked-f0odwekk8uy45fbh>.

Before the visit, please complete the three short tasks available on the page. These will help you prepare and contribute meaningfully to the programme.

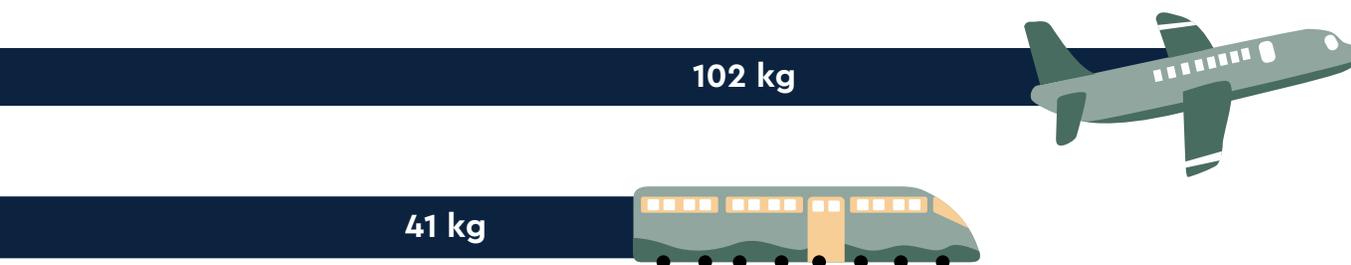


Tips for travelling to Kokkola:

How to get to Kokkola:

We encourage groups to use green means of transportation, for example with Interrail ticket (more information: <https://www.interrail.eu/en>), but we understand that it might be difficult for some people. If you have to fly to Helsinki, please remember about sustainability and pay extra fee for CO2 emissions.

CO2 EMISSIONS IN COMPARISON *



TRAVELLING BY TRAIN WILL LOWER YOUR CO2 EMISSIONS BY MORE THAN HALF

* 1000 KILOMETERS

From Helsinki Airport the most convenient and green way to travel to Kokkola is by train. You can find tickets here: <https://www.vr.fi/en>

! We recommend to buy tickets in advance because prices are increasing dramatically closer to departure day

If you are taking train from Helsinki Airport, then on your way there will be one short transfer at Tikkurila station. Please, be very careful and check all the information: train track number etc. in order not to miss the train. There are displays everywhere as well as information via speakers.

Accommodation

Accommodation is arranged in Villa Elba in cottages, Old Villa and Lassela. Towel and bed linen are included, so there is no need to bring them along.



Cottages

Two atmospheric sailor's huts and four cosy cottages. The sailor's huts fit 8 people each and the cottages have two 4 person rooms. All cottages are uniquely furnished and have a toilet, shower, kitchenette and TV.

Old Villa

The charming mansion Old Villa offers upstairs accommodation for 12 people in four different rooms and downstairs facilities for meetings and parties. The villa has a kitchen and toilet, but no shower (the shower can be found in the nextdoor sauna-building 'Helmi')



Lassela

Lassela is an old villa building in the garden of Villa Elba, right by the sea. Lassela has beds for 12 people in two separate rooms, a small kitchen, a lounge, a toilet and a shower.



Practical arrangements:

We serve breakfast, lunch, coffee break, dinner and evening snack. Inform about your special diets and allergies in the registration form. The kitchen in Elba makes special food only for those who order it, and that is why it is not possible to choose between vegetarian and other dishes. You must cover extra coffee, drinks or snacks.

Alcohol & smoking:

Smoking is allowed only during free time but only at the smoking area. We do not sell either cigarettes or alcohol at the centre. Drinking alcohol in public areas in Finland and in Villa Elba is not allowed.

Fragrance-free space

To ensure a comfortable environment for everyone, our youth centre is a fragrance-free space. We kindly ask all participants to avoid using strong perfumes, scented products, or fragrances during their stay. This helps make the space more accessible and enjoyable for all.

Registration form:

Each participant must fill in the registration form before 11th of February 2026. Only participants pre-selected by the sending organisation should fill in the registration:

<https://s.zef.fi/sqcvrx0n/>



See you in Villa Elba!

