

Seven info

GIVE project 2009 agreed for Senior Volunteering Projects

Title: **Ecoseniors**

Start date: 01/08/2009

End date: 31/07/2011

Coordinator: **Lunaria** –Italy-

Partner: **études ET chantiers (UNAREC)** –France



In the project “EcoSeniors” the volunteers will be involved in a short-term voluntary service project centred on the theme of the sustainable development, protection of the environment and the landscape.

In both projects volunteers will perform two activities:

1. Coordinated by local staff, they will carry out concrete activities such as cleaning the path and the wood, cutting trees, gardening, preparing informative materials for youngsters who will visit the centres, etc. This part of the work will be done jointly with local and international youth volunteers. This will give to the senior volunteers a great chance not only to acquire new skills and competences about sustainable development and bio-diversity protection but also to improve their relational skills trying to bridge different generations that often have problems to communicate.

2. In the second of the project time volunteers will be involved in dissemination activities about their environmental work and the senior exchanges experiences in the cities of Rome and Clermont Ferrand to spread this kind of activities

Translation of summary into French

Dans le projet “Ecosenior” les volontaires seront engagés dans un volontariat court terme sur le sujet de développement durable, de la protection de l’environnement et des paysages.

Dans chaque projet, les volontaires réaliseront deux activités :

1. Sous la coordination des équipes permanentes locales, ils et elles réaliseront des travaux concrets comme le nettoyage de chemins, de bois, du jardinage et préparer des supports d'information pour les jeunes qui visiteront ces centres. Une partie de ce travail pourra être réalisée en commun avec des groupes locaux ou internationaux de bénévoles. Ils donneront aux volontaires seniors une grande chance d'acquérir de nouvelles compétences dans le domaine du développement durable et de la protection de la biodiversité, mais aussi pour renforcer leurs compétences relationnelles par des passerelles intergénérationnelles pour dépasser les problèmes de communications entre groupes d'âges différents.
2. Enfin, dans le temps du projet, les volontaires seront engagés dans la dissémination des activités environnementales et sur les échanges de volontaires seniors entre les villes de Rome et de Clermont-Ferrand afin de promouvoir cette forme de mobilité.

Background and objectives

Different European projects carried out in the past years have shown that a period of voluntary service abroad represents a relevant learning experience. As a matter of fact environmental issues become more and more of general interest. Apparently it is mainly young people and the new generations interested in learning more about it, but we believe that an ecological awareness should be developed also by senior citizens, being the latter, at turn, educators as they will daily deal with children, nephews and other young people.

In this perspective, this process addresses not only active citizenship and active ageing but also social cohesion and with this project we aim at favouring inter-generation experiences with a potential process of change of mentalities of young people and senior citizens, one towards the others.

With this project we want to achieve three general objectives

- to spread and demonstrate the possibilities of involvement of senior people to local partners and authorities.
- to create a sustainable model of involvement of senior people in the current activities of our activities.
- Create tools and events of peer dissemination among senior citizens about the international voluntary service opportunities.

This project will develop four educative objectives for the volunteers:

- to ameliorate their knowledge about sustainable development and bio-diversity protection.
- to improve their competence and skills in the environmental work.
- to improve their communication skills with foreigners and youth.
- to increase their sense of usefulness and their consciousness of their skills and competences

Project Topic (GIVE)

- 1 Environmental and sustainable development
- 2 Intergenerational learning / learning in later life / senior citizens
- 3 Volunteering

Exchanges:

- 6 Italian volunteers and 2 staff
- 6 French volunteers and 2 staff