

Initiative et Développement Citoyen (IDC)

Lastours, France

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Initiative et Développement Citoyen (IDC) is a cooperative born in April 2010 in order to promote the sustainable development, the international mobility, the active citizenship, the mutual aid, the ecological engagement, and the awareness of different people.

Our eco-label structure, a small campsite in the middle of nature, is based on both tourism and nature and heritage preservation, in a linked intercultural process. Far from those outdoor hotel spaces filled with facilities, the 19-place campsite is an oasis of peace and serenity for campers, responding to sustainable tourism values.

The cooperative aims to achieve different activities: event and various workshops, some about ecological building, farm, maintenance of a vegetable garden and of a greenhouse, host costumers, start to think how to create an instructive by the volunteer's help. For this reason we prefer people who appreciate the nature and living in.

April to October....On the Reception

We have a little campsite who brings to the camper an atmosphere close to the nature.

Warm welcome and availability are assured to the costumers in a natural space at the same time wooded and quiet. The campsite dominates the site of the castles of Lastours which constitutes an exceptional view .

We like when our reception could be a good moment to share with costumers their experience as a volunteer. It's important that ours volunteers are interested to met people with various experience and share it.



Context

The project will take place in a rural environment in the South-West of France. The hosting organization is based in Lastours, a small village in the Aude department 18 km far from Carcassonne, the main city of the area, where the closest train station and supermarket are. It's a rural region living on agriculture, wine-producing and tourism. In fact Lastours, with its 60 inhabitants, has a long history: since the beginning of Middle Age it was a strategic hub for economic traffic from Spain to the rest of Europe. The four castles on the top of the rock are the direct testimonials of its power. Actually, thousands of tourists by year come to visit the castles and all the close villages and our little campsite offer the view on it.



Volunteerism in Le Belvédère

Hosting a volunteer is, firstly, an exchange. In our region, there are not a lot of EVS volunteers, so one of our mission is to promote the Erasmus Plus Program.

The cooperative manager has been working in the field of international mobility, especially for the European Program, for ten years. In 2014 we started hosting some European volunteers as part of Erasmus Plus Program and a Mexican one with the organization "Latinomics".

Volunteers are very important for us, they are bringing a special atmosphere to our team thanks to their energy, diversity and contribution.

Following our commitment to increase youth employability, our goal is to promote an intercultural exchange and a mutual enrichment between the volunteers and our centre, allowing volunteers to live a new experience in a foreign country that will bring them personal and professional enrichment.

Ideally, each volunteer after the project will have a more environment-conscious attitude and will continue to learn keep on in their search for information to become a respectful citizen of their own environment.

Volunteers' activities

The volunteer make the ambient of the season,

So the solidarity, the tolerance and the communication in the team are important.

Volunteers will have an important supporting role. They will support the team in the daily management, development and evolution of the hosting organization. Professionally, the proposed activities will focus on these different fields: environment, international mobility, tourism and communication, hospitality.



During the volunteering, all the volunteers will help in common tasks:

- Hosting costumers and supporting the local staff in the logistic part
- Team working on party events and green buildings
- Participating in daily life by cooking for everyone and cleaning of the common showers area
- Sharing their knowledge and experience as a volunteer
- Sharing about the right behavior to have less impact on the nature in our daily life
- Organizing eco workshops
- Participating in youth exchanges organized and hosted by the cooperative.
- Participating in building a positive atmosphere

We have 4 fields of action:

Animation, nature and environmental protection: Discovering of environmental awareness and preservation of green spaces. The main activities are:

- Assisting in raising awareness activities about sustainable development with other volunteers and the employee.
- Taking care every day of two donkeys and other animals of the center.

- Developing information signs on the flora and fauna of the region: green oak, lavender, fennel, rock rose, birds. This is a direct approach to the Mediterranean biodiversity to give a better understanding and make others understand.
- Taking care of the green spaces watering plants, maintaining trees and vegetable garden. (2 times per week).

Discovery and promoting exchange and intercultural learning, non-formal education and Erasmus Plus program, *(This activity is supported by the manager and his assistant, both in charge of EVS projects and international mobility)*. The main activities are:

- Taking pictures regularly to improve the communication about EVS and youth mobility.
- Collecting debriefings of young people who have participated in an international experience.
- Helping in signing new partnerships.
- Feeding the blog to make information more accessible to young people.
- Assistance in updating the website;
- Participating in the creation and dissemination of mobility tools for young people in collaboration with the association ADHC
- Helping to develop a centre dedicated to mobility information.
- Helping the administration and delivery of statistics on volunteers and participants of all approved projects, partner associations, central institutions.

Communication / sustainable tourism / animation, helping in organizing events throughout the year, especially during summer, to raise awareness about the environment and responsible actions, but at the same time to promote the campsite. In particular the volunteer will take part in these activities:

- Developing of a long-term communication strategy to promote the centre and its activities over the year.
- Creating, managing and distributing information about the organization and its commitment for the environment.
- Looking for new partners and sponsors.
- Helping in organizing events
- Updating the website, working on the theme of volunteering with the volunteers in charge of keeping this page.
- Updating the contact list.
- Planning and facilitating an environment-awareness program at the center and primary schools in the area to know the children issues related to the environment.

- If he / she has experience in the field and desires to learn about, the volunteer will work on graphics, logos, shooting and editing short videos.

Communication / Reception / Greet customers and promote the region , Host and dealing with customers: registering them, showing them the site, answering questions, providing information about the activities of the camp and its commitment in respect of environment. In addition, he/she will help in:

- Distributing bread every morning to the customers and taking orders at night.
- Preparing breakfasts.
- Maintaining the reception: watering plants, cleaning, tidying up, managing the shop.
- Managing the touristic information.
- Shooting photos for the web communication.
- Participating in animation time.

The volunteer schedule will be defined depending on his/her interests, needs and skills.

Welcome to the Belvédère!