

YOUTH EXCHANGE: BEHIND THE SHADOWS



BEHIND THE SHADOWS YOUTH EXCHANGE
BELGIUM - ITALY

30.09 - 06.10 2019
YVOIR (BE)

COMPAGNONS BÂISSEURS
A.S.B.L.

FAUT QU'ÇA BOUGE! BIJ'

CROIX-ROUGE DE BELGIQUE

Droits de l'Homme

Who?

10 participants (leaders included) from CBB and Lunaria (4+1 for each). Asylum seekers from the reception center we be actively involved in the project.

Participants should be between 18 and 30 years old (but minors are welcome as well)

When?

From the 30/09/2019 (arrival day) until the 06/10/2019 (departure day)

Where?

Yvoir asylum seekers centre (close to Namur)

Short sump up:

« Behind the shadows » is a short youth exchange of seven days, imagined as an immersive experience in an asylum seekers centre.

Five young people from Belgium and five young people from Italy (4 participants + 1 leader for each group) will live and work together on an artistic project inside the asylum seekers centre of Yvoir together with 5 to 8 young asylum seekers.

Accompanied by an artistic leader, the participants will create a giant fresco using photographic materials and images diversion. Their work will be exhibited to the “outside world” during a raising awareness day organised by the centre on the 05th of October.

The theme of the fresco and of the youth exchange will tackled two hot questions:

- How can we raise local community's awareness about the challenges faced by migrants by promoting direct encounters between both groups?



- How can projects and partnerships built with local citizens and organizations be a tool for migrant's social inclusion in the local community?

Project background:

The exchange will be focusing on the articles 21, 27 and 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, related with the right of any individual to social and cultural participation

For a few years CBB has been strongly committed to supporting the participation of young asylum seekers in volunteering projects. Thanks to this experience, we could notice there was a real will from the young asylum seekers to participate in projects allowing them to meet other people, getting out of their daily routine and sharing their knowledge while learning from others.

Additionally, asylum seekers as well as workers from asylum seekers tend to point out that relations with the local surroundings are very scarce, and interactions between the asylum seekers and the local community are really limited. This situation is of course a problem and, despite the fact that centres organize activities targeting the local community, those attending are those who are "already convinced"

On another hand, we can say that CBB young members also mentioned their lack of relationships with migrants and asylum seekers outside of CBB activities.

Based on these observations, CBB wishes to contribute even more to the inclusion of the migrant public in the local community. It was therefore decided, together with the centre, to implement a raising awareness-and-meeting day in which young people from CBB and Lunaria would participate.

Activities:

During this youth exchange, young people from Belgium, Italy and young asylum seekers hosted in Belgium will interact, exchange, express themselves and act in order to increase the number of meetings between the asylum seekers and the local community surrounding them. Indeed, it is important to try to mix these two "realities" which cohabit without meeting: the reality of a village harbouring an asylum seekers centre, and the one of the residents of this very same centre.

Among others, some workshops planned during this exchanges are:

- Human Rights discovery
- Images diversion techniques
- Meeting with the neighbours of the centre by doing an outside picture workshop
- The refugee paths: raising awareness workshop
- Creation of the fresco
- Participation at the 05/10 raising awareness event
- ...

To do what?

The general objectives this project aims to achieve are:

- To raise awareness and inform the members of partner organisations and of the local community surrounding the centre about the "living-together" and the richness of social and cultural diversity;
- To raise awareness about the rights to social and cultural participation to which every individual is entitled with;
- To raise awareness about rights and duties linking together the members of a community;

- To raise awareness among the Belgian and Italian participants about the situation and living conditions of the asylum seekers;
- To bring a small contribution to a European, open, united and welcoming towards migrants;
- To bring a small contribution to the inclusion of migrants people, asylum seekers and refugees within our society;

The operational objectives are :

- To allow a group of around 15 young people from 18 till 30 years old, among which 5 Belgian, 5 Italian and 4 to 8 young asylum seekers from different nationalities, to share an experience and participate together to different reflection and artistic workshops;
- To allow these young people to exchange and share about their perception of diversity and “living-together” in their daily life;
- To allow young people to express themselves – thanks to non formal education as well as artistic workshops focusing on images and pictures – about the coexistence and the meeting between asylum seekers and the local community around
- To produce different artistic creations addressed to the outside world, and more particularly the neighbouring community, during a raising awareness day

Living conditions and accommodation:

Within the centre, **in very basic conditions**. The participants will share a common room in which mattresses on the floor will be provided for them. Pillows, bed linen and sleeping bags are requested from the participants. Showers and toilets will be provided for them, they will use the centre facilities to cook for themselves.

Expectations towards the participants:

By enrolling in this project, we ask you to be:

- Ready to roll up your sleeves and get actively involved in the different workshops,
- Prepared to exploit your imagination and express your creativity,
- Ready to live experiences with a group, share and question your virtual habits,
- Ready to live in an asylum seekers centre and respect its rule and its inhabitants,
- Ready to invest in a collective dynamic and daily life.

Financial conditions:

Food and accommodation are provided

70% of travel costs reimbursed, up to 200EUR/pax