



Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl **Location: Marche-en-Famenne (south of Belgium)**

Theme 1: Inclusion

Theme 2: People with mental disabilities



Project period

ESC activity will start on 01/05/2020 and end on 31/01/2021

Short introduction video if you're interested: <https://youtu.be/nsaxvy0FXIo>

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

1.a. The hosting and support organization

The “**Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs**”, aka **CBB**, is a non-profit, non-political Youth Organisation recognised by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation of Belgium. The organisation proposes different kinds of activities, mainly based on *volunteering* and *non-formal education*: local and international work-camps, youth exchanges, medium and long term voluntary services, weekend workcamps including leisure time activities for and with disabled people. All these activities would not be possible without a network of 327 members, 250 international volunteers during the summer, a team of 12 employees and 3 ESC long term volunteers supporting us at the office. As we are a Youth Organisation, most of our public is aged between 16 and 25 years, even if there is not upper age limit to integrate our groups of volunteers. Within our members, one person out of ten has a mental disability.

We have participated in the European Commission's volunteering program (Erasmus+ and now European Solidarity Corps “ESC”) both as sending and hosting organisation since 1997. We were accredited as coordinating organisation in 2007.



CBB is also member of the ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service Organisations.

Website: <https://compagnonsbatisseurs.be/>

1.b. The volunteering tasks

As mentioned before, CBB develop different kinds of actions mainly focused on group dynamics. Through these actions the association also tries to promote inclusion of people with fewer opportunities and people with learning difficulties or disabilities.



Our ESC volunteer will be actively involved in our activities, from the preparation to the evaluation, and her/his role will mainly be to facilitate, together with CBB leaders and other CBB volunteers, the participation of people with fewer opportunities or disabilities.

The volunteer will be particularly involved in three CBB actions:

- 1- The programme “*Volunteering, leisure time and disability*”;
- 2- Organization and animation of projects as work camps and youth exchanges whose aim is the integration of youngsters with less opportunities;
- 3- CBB training for young leaders of summer camps.

- ✓ The programme “***Volunteering, leisure time and disability***” proposed by CBB organisation aims to develop among young people a better awareness about disability as well as to favour the participation of people in situation of mental disability in CBB projects. Indeed, we think that spend leisure time together in a mixed group (people without and with mental disability) increase the awareness and decrease the barriers between the people.

In a volunteering, leisure time and disability activity, the ESC volunteer will be supervised by a staff member of CBB, and will be accompanied by other people: volunteers and people with mental disability mixed together.



Though the European volunteer is accompanied by other local volunteers in most of the activities, s/he has a more important role. Indeed, together with the staff members, the ESC volunteer will be in charge of the preparation, animation and evaluation of **residential week-ends, summer camps and evening activities** for groups of people with mental disability. The tasks will be varied and can be organised according to the skills, interests and abilities of the young volunteer.

Here below is an example of tasks concerning the organization of a week-end of activity:

- Before the week-end: with CBB staff member, to search for an accommodation, to organise the logistics, to plan the menus, to plan cultural and sports activities as well as touristic visits...
- During the week-end: together with CBB staff and local volunteers (usually 1/3 of the group): to welcome the group of participants, to provide an individual support to the people with disability (this may include sanitary support to the persons), to facilitate the group dynamic, to accompany a cultural visit, a group game or any visits organised for the weekend...

According with the time of the year, the activities planned can be: go to a Christmas market, go to a bowling alley, to the swimming pool, to a recreational park, spend the weekend on a barge, attend to a middle-age festival, and many other things...





This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know new places all around south of Belgium as every weekend is organised in a different place and offers different leisure time and cultural activities.

- After the week-end : after two days off, to evaluate the activity with the CBB staff, to write articles and to post news on the organisation's Facebook public page about the week-end, to prepare a small report addressed to the parents of the participants with disability...



Each year, CBB organises around 20 residential week-ends of such type. We also organise 2 camps of 10 days in Belgium and 2 camps abroad in which the ESC volunteer can take part. Around 20 persons participate in each of these projects; more than half of them are in situation of mental disability (mostly learning difficulties and Down syndrome).

Every two months Friday evening cine-club and monthly table games evenings are also usual activities developed within the programme "Volunteering, leisure time and disability".



- ✓ Our ESC volunteer will also take part in other projects as **work camps and youth exchanges whose aim is the integration of youngsters with less opportunities.**
- ✓ S/he will be part of CBB animators' team who will organize a **training cycle for summer camps leaders.**



With CBB staff members the volunteer will be in charge of the good implementation of the training and s/he will have the opportunity of taking initiatives, organizing workshops and bringing new ideas. Being involved in this training will enable our volunteer to be sensitized to the topic of group management, techniques of animation, organization of activities.

In this ESC project, we really wish the volunteer to develop a personal initiative so any idea and proposal of new activity is welcome!

1.c. Practical arrangements

Working hours will be flexible and involve participation in evening events, as well as during school holidays and weekends. 5 days per week will be worked on average. Days off will compensate the extra shift hours if necessary to keep an average of 38 hours a week (French lesson included). The volunteer will generally have two consecutive free days per week except for special events and has the right to two days of holiday per month.

A ***usual schedule*** for a volunteer involved in the “Volunteering, leisure time and disability”: on average every two weeks, there will be three days of work at the office for the preparation and evaluation of the activities and residential leisure time during the weekend. On the second week, the volunteer will be 4 to 5 days at the office and might be working an evening for either “cine-club” or boarding games evening.

Accommodation: In Marche-en-Famenne the volunteer will live at “CBB Volunteers’ house”, a comfortable house near to the town centre. S/he will have his/her own room and will share the common spaces with other 7 ESC volunteers involved in other ESC projects in Marche-en-Famenne.

Insurance: all participants in cross-border activities have to be covered, throughout the activity period, by the obligatory **European Solidarity Corps insurance plan** set up by the European Commission. This coverage is only complementary to the mandatory coverage of **the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**, which must be obtained prior to departure. In certain cases, when national rules deprive participants from coverage under EHIC for the duration of the placement, CIGNA will provide full coverage.

Language course: OLS + French lesson: an online language course is provided as part of the project support from the Commission allocated on the basis of a level test to complete before the activity starts. The volunteer is also encouraged to join free French lessons given in the municipality or around.

Food: the volunteer will receive a budget and will take care of the meals by her/himself.

Participation in the European Solidarity Corps is free of charge for the participant, except for exceptional contribution to travel costs. The volunteer will receive free board and lodging during the whole activity. In addition, she/he will receive a small allowance (**pocket money**) for personal expenses throughout the duration of the activity, including holidays.



2. ABOUT THE PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

2.a. Location of the project

CBB office is located in Marche-en-Famenne, a 17 000 inhabitants town of the province of the Belgian Luxembourg. This unique situation will allow the volunteer to share the semi-rural life style of the area, but also to meet young people coming from different realities and horizons.



During his/her ESC activity, the volunteer will live and mostly work in Marche-en-Famenne (except

during the weekends, where the activities take place out of Marche-en-Famenne). The town offers all modern facilities (shops, supermarkets, sport center, cinema....).

Even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (57 km from Liège, 106 km from Brussels, 47 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look remote and very quiet.

The volunteer will be in contact with other ESC volunteers being hosted in other projects in the municipality.

For the urban-life-style-lover, it is however IMPORTANT to note that our town is located in a semi-rural area. Even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (57 km from Liège, 106 km from Brussels, 47 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look remote and very quiet.

2.b. Collective activities with other ESC volunteers

The ESC activity within CBB, together with 7 other **ESC activities organized in Marche-en-Famenne**, participate to the aims of **increasing European awareness** among the local community in Marche-en-Famenne and surroundings, as well as enhancing a closer **networking between the local non-profit services**. For this reason, some activities might be run with other ESC volunteers involved in other local organizations (Youth house, CBB, AMO, ...).

The volunteers are encouraged to work together especially during specific youth events organized once a year in Marche-en-Famenne: Rock festival, youth services, open day...

The volunteers can help to prepare and follow-up these events. In some occasions, they can hold an information stand presenting ESC program and youth exchange opportunities.

The volunteers are encouraged to take any initiative that enhance such kind of collaboration and make their presence visible in the community.



3. REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1. Profile of the volunteer

- ✓ Age requirement to take part in ESC programme: **18-30 years old**
- ✓ **Prior to departure**, the volunteer should be in contact with a support (sending) organization in order to receive information and preparation. Look up for a support organization in your region via this link:
https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisations_en
- ✓ Our project is open to anybody **motivated by volunteering** and who wishes to **be involved in our organization and working in the field of inclusion, regardless to their nationality, religion, believes, diploma, professional experience.**
- ✓ We expect the volunteer to:
 - **Be able to communicate in French at a reasonable level** as s/he will share a lot of time with people with mental disability who do not know any other language;
 - Be highly **motivated to work for a better social participation and inclusion of people with disability and fewer opportunities**;
 - Enjoy the **group life and to be ready to participate in several residential week-ends and camps** in company of lots of people;
 - Appreciate **office and computer work**, as several tasks in this project also concern the **preparation and the evaluation of the activities which are done at the office.**

3.2. How to apply

In the frame of the new program of the European Commission, the European Solidarity Corps, you first need to create a profile on the new data base: https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en ("JOIN THE CORPS"). Then, find the project and click on "apply". It will send us a contact request.

Send the following documents written in **FRENCH or ENGLISH** to Sophie and Morgane (evs@compagnonsbâtisseurs.be) until **16th February 2020 at 23:59.**

-A specific motivation letter

-A CV

-The filled questionnaire (see from page here below of this document)

The application of those who will send their motivation letter and CV later than this date won't be taken into consideration.

After the deadline, the pre-selected volunteers will be contacted for a skype interview in the following days.



Contacts

Name	Morgane HAZARD and Sophie CHIELENS		
Organization	Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl		
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Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl

Volunteering project, Belgium 01/05/2020-31/01/2021 (9 months)

Project “Trait d’Union pour l’Inclusion” (Hyphen for Inclusion)

Questionnaire for the candidate volunteers

To be filled in electronically and sent by email

to Sophie: evs@compagnonsbatisseurs.be

BEFORE 16th February 2020 at 23:59

After this date, we will contact the selected candidates for a Skype interview!

Personal data :

By filling the information below, you provide us with personal information. You are aware of the fact and agree that the pieces of information will be used in the frame of the call for candidates for the Erasmus+ volunteering project. Your personal data will be used by the persons in charge of the selection of volunteers in the sending and coordinating/hosting organizations. Each part mentioned takes the responsibility of erasing the documents containing your personal data once the selection procedure is over.

Name and surname	
Birthdate	
Current address	
Phone number	
Email address	
Availability period for the project (preference will be given to the volunteers able to join the whole duration of the activity)	
Have you ever taken part in a volunteering project	



under ERASMUS+ or a short term ESC?	
!!!VERY IMPORTANT!!! Support (sending) organization <i>(Name, Accreditation or PIC number, post address, phone number, contact person's name and email address)</i>	
What are your (long term) travel experiences?	

Please fill in this questionnaire if French if possible. If not, English will be fine. *(In any case, please don't use Googl Trad.)*

- 1) What are your general motivations to take part in a long term ESC volunteering project? What do you like about this specific project?
- 2) What are, for you, the qualities of an employee of this organization?
- 3) How do you see your role, as volunteer, within these activities?
- 4) Can you explain a typical week of a volunteer (working hours, tasks, colleagues, location,...) during the high and low seasons at CBB?
- 5) What are your main weaknesses and qualities?
- 6) Do you think you will be confronted with some difficulties? If yes, which ones? If no, why?
- 7) Do you have some special skills that would be interesting in the project? What would you like to implement as personal project during the activity?
- 8) Do you have any experience with the public of people with mental disabilities? Do you have some special skills in animation/groups leading? Which ones?
- 9) What would like to know about our organization and activities? Do you have any questions or doubts before to accept to be volunteer in our project?
- 10) What do you like to do in your free time? What do you think about living in a semi-rural town?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HAVING FILLED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IN
WE WILL CONTACT YOU AFTER 16TH FEBRUARY 2020 FOR FEEDBACKS



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



In case of any doubts, do not hesitate to email us

**For CBB,
Support organization
Morgane & Sophie
evs@compagnonsbatisseurs.be**