

Context

Project Title	Worldwide Friends Iceland
Project Acronym	
Project Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	01-01-2019
Project Total Duration	24 months
Project End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	31-12-2020
National Agency of the Applicant Organisation	IS01 Landskrifstofa Menntaáætlunar Evrópusambandsins - National Agency for the Lifelong Learning Programme
Language used to fill in the form	English

For further details about the available Erasmus+ National Agencies, please consult the following page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact>



Project Description

Why do you want to carry out this project? What issues, needs and challenge(s) are you seeking to address? What are its long and short term aims and how do they link to the objectives of the Erasmus+ Programme?

We started again to host EVS volunteers after taking a break from the program for the last four years. The first group came in February and the experience is very positive. The volunteers are having a big impact in our organization and we want to continue to participate in the program. The group that we are applying for in this application will do a similar program as the one that is now doing their EVS. The only difference is that we are going to give them more freedom to develop the environmental campaign that we are working on. This is something that the current group is proposing and we truly like the idea to use more the initiative of the young people to prepare and run the campaign to reduce and recycle plastic in our daily life. The name of the campaign is "The Giant plastic soup" .

In the year 2018, we hosted 82 volunteers that stayed with us for 3 Months or longer. 56 of those volunteers came as Interns through AIESEC which a global platform for young people coming from different Universities around the globe which are exploring and developing their leadership potential through personal and professional development experiences. We are proud to say that the Icelandic branch of AIESEC nominated our organization as the partner of the Year 2016/2017. This year we hosted 8 volunteers through the Erasmus+ program.

We have created a project which we believe is perfect for the Erasmus+ volunteers. We can give them all the support that they need. They can learn a lot and at the same time use their initiative to create and choose from different tasks offered by our organization.

The project focuses on environmental and cultural participation in all aspects and is truly needed all around our planet. The project aspires to stimulate environmental protection, sustainable living involving children and young people. We want to bring up some fresh ideas that can help the young people and the organization to improve the way that we treat mother earth. The main purpose of the project is to raise the awareness about sustainability among the young local and international people. The project reflects learning opportunities for the volunteers as well as for our organisation. By hosting Erasmus+ volunteers we bring another long-term international dimension to the organization with the AIESEC internship program. There are many learning opportunities for the volunteers like discovering many kinds of new techniques related to environmental sustainability, new skills, a new language, involving children and youngsters in creative sessions and take responsibility to realize an own project.

The volunteer will on one hand work with international people and will be participating in workshops and projects with them, but also, they get the opportunity to work together with young Icelanders. The international youngsters are getting in touch with the different culture as well and can learn about cultural diversity by experiencing it in environmental or cultural projects. By setting up those projects themselves with help of professionals there will always be a young spirit in all our actions which stays always international and open-minded through the participation of international volunteers. It's a magnificent opportunity for volunteer and organisation in broadening perspectives and meeting another culture.

The mutual fertilization of volunteer and organisation is an idea we really like and appreciate. We will work together in a young and stimulating team. The volunteer project associates to the regular activities of our organisation and contributes to the development of the local community.

The volunteers will share knowledge and at the same time get more skills and competence by working in group of international participants. This will also help them to become more active citizens in their future.

Afterwards the volunteers will receive a youth pass to ensure the skills they learned will be more easily be recognized in the future.

There are a lot of learning objectives for the volunteers in this Erasmus+-project:

- learn more about important methods used in the organisation
- learn more about structures of the association
- social attitude, communication
- learn to speak another language
- take responsibility in running projects and own projects
- to organize
- learn about another culture – intercultural learning
- learn to do and to teach different environmental and art disciplines
- professionalism
- involvement in the work/organisation
- teamwork as well as independent work
- creative thinking
- take initiative, be creative
- learn basic in some practical physical work to protect areas of nature

How did you choose your project partners? What experiences and competences will they bring to the project? Please also describe how the project meets the needs and objectives of your partners.

We recently started to host Erasmus+ volunteers again, so we decided to select partners that we know and have been working with for many years. They are all very active in the field of volunteering and participation in the Erasmus+ program. They know our program very well and we have been hosting their short term and long term volunteers recently and in the past. They are also working with people from difficult background and we trust them 100% to select candidates for our program. Their staff members have been in Iceland for a visit so they are aware of the facilities and the work that the volunteers are going to have. This means that the selection and the preparation should work out in a good way.

Please select up to three topics addressed by your project

Environment and climate change

Rural development and urbanisation

Creativity and culture

If relevant, please describe how you plan to involve associated partners in the project. Please provide information on their profile(s), role(s) and on how will their involvement contribute to meeting the aims of the project.

Participants

Participants Profile

Please describe the profile, background and needs of the volunteers involved and how they have been or will be selected.

Veraldarvinir is open for hosting volunteers from all kind of a background. The organization gives preference to candidates with the following profile:

- enthusiastic and dynamic personality
- willingness to learn the Icelandic language
- independent and eager to take initiative
- Interested in environmental sustainability and/or youth work is a surplus value
- flexible and responsible

The volunteers are selected after consideration of all candidates, concerning the profile above mentioned. In the first round, we select on motivation letters and cv. In a second round the remaining candidates receive a questionnaire and get a phone call. The best matches with our mission are selected.

Participants with Fewer Opportunities

Does your project involve participants facing situations that make their participation in the activities more difficult?

Yes

Which types of situations are these participants facing?

Educational difficulties

Cultural differences

Economic obstacles

If any, please explain the particular measures (accompanying person, reinforced mentorship etc.) you will put in place to cater for the specific needs of these participants and/or to support their participation.

Veraldarvinir is a very open organization where all people are welcome to participate. Therefore, we want to have in the group of EVS volunteers young people with fewer opportunities or weak background. We want to host young people which are having fewer opportunities and/or problems to interact in their society for various reasons for example young refugees or immigrants. We believe that our program which is based on friendship and intercultural learning is the perfect ground for young people which are not sure about which direction they want to have in their lives. We do not need a accompanying person for those youngsters but we will give a special focus on their needs and mentoring.



Learning Outcomes

Which learning outcomes (i.e. knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours) are to be acquired/improved by participants in each planned activity of your project?

One of the most important issues in the work of Veraldarvinir is to avoid job substitution. We only work with non-profit organizations and local communities in Iceland and the aim of our work is to focus on tasks which are considered as extra value for the public and for our volunteers. We want to give the chance and opportunity to the volunteer to present and implement a personal project. It is additional to the 'normal' activities of the organization. The volunteers mean a surplus value for the organisation by integration. The support of the volunteers in their exploration of the organisation and our methods and in the coordination of their ideas is the investment we do as an organisation believing that as a team we can learn from each other. The project is meant to be enrichment for all: for the volunteer, the community and for Veraldarvinir.

All this learning objectives will be ensured by integrating the volunteers as a complete team member, joining activities running, be present in meetings, prepare projects, do several tasks, think with the team, reflect on the project, bring own ideas, integrate them, coordinate workshops or create new ones.

The different competencies that the volunteers are expected to improve/learn:

- professionalism
- teamwork as well as independent work
- creative thinking
- leadership, take initiative, be loyal
- responsibility
- active participation

They are also expected to acquire a range of knowledge throughout their EVS:

- learn more about didactic methods used in the organisation
- learn more about structures of the association
- social attitude, communication
- learn to speak another language
- take responsibility in running projects and own projects
- involvement in the work/organisation
- to organize
- learn about another culture – intercultural learning
- learn to do and to teach different workshops sustainability and environmental issues
- participate in the organization of local events
- learn more about the culture of the host country
- openness to new creative perspectives, new ideas and opinions

Our volunteers will gain important skills in the EVS project for their professional possibilities: through working on workshops and delivering environmental and cultural activities, participating in local events. They will develop important skills such as organizing skills, creativity, communication skills, new techniques, leadership, planning and management skills.

All this learning objectives will be ensured by integrating the volunteers as some complete team members, joining activities running, be present in meetings, prepare projects, do several tasks, think with the team, reflect on the project, bring own ideas, integrate them, coordinate workshops, create new ones and etc

At the end of the project the volunteers will receive a Youth Pass as a certificate of the project.

The Erasmus+ Programme promotes the use of instruments/certificates like Europass, ECVET and Youthpass to validate the competences acquired by the participants during their experiences abroad. Will your project make use of such European instruments/certificates? If so, please select up to three

Youthpass Certificate

Are you planning to use any national instrument/certificate?

No

How will you use the European/national instrument(s)/certificate(s) selected, if any? How will you ensure an awareness and reflection of the volunteers on their learning process and competences developed in the project? Please remember to include the methods that support reflection and documentation of the learning outcomes in the daily timetable of each activity.

The European Youthpass certificate will be used by the volunteers as a sample of all the skills and abilities acquired during their EVS and it will help the volunteers to open new employment possibilities. The Youthpass will be introduced by Veraldarvinir during the EVS-period, and it will be worked along the entire project period. The Youthpass serves as a tool for personal evaluation and for comparing the skills, knowledge, expectations and competences in the starting point and at the end of the EVS experience. This comparison will empower the volunteers to get to know themselves better and deeply while it will show to Veraldarvinir the real impact of the project to the volunteers. The volunteers will receive their Certificate at the end of the EVS-project, after evaluating and discussing the learning outcomes.

The sending organisations will take care about a moment of reflection and personal evaluation of the volunteers. The volunteers are asked to write a mid-term report, a final report and doing a rating of the different parts of EVS. Both reports are sent to the sending organisation. They will study the reports and discuss it during a personal talk with their tutors in the sending country. If there are issues of difficulty, these will be addressed with all partners. The reports are a method to evaluate the service from the side of the volunteers and they are part of their control of the quality standards in the hosting project.

Project Management

How will you address quality and management issues (e.g. setting up of agreements with partners, learning agreements with volunteers, mentoring and support of volunteers etc.)?

The main structure that we will use to integrate and respect the interests of the volunteer is: during the first Month the Veraldarvinir team will work on the total inclusion of the volunteers, integrating them in the routine of Veraldarvinir, supporting them to get to know the organisation, the volunteers, the participants, the dynamics of the workshops and motivating their participation in the leisure activities organized. Once the first phase has been completed we will meet with the volunteers to know what are their main interests and which project they would like to join/create in the aim of Veraldarvinir values and purposes. From there on, a new stage begins. Veraldarvinir will adapt the volunteers work-scheme with the aim to make it correspond with their interests.

With a good cooperation with the partners we will design a joint work that will keep us in contact during the EVS project. Mainly through email (and other communication channels if necessary) organizations will exchange the know-how of the volunteering process with the objective to have the best and the most possible feedback between sending and hosting partners. We will also solve any problems that may arise as fast as possible.

We can ensure that responsibilities are well distributed in the organization as well as with the partners. We will make a partner agreement with the partners. In this agreement the role and the tasks of the volunteers, the division of rights and responsibilities among promoters and volunteers, and the division of the EU grant are explained and signed by all partners.

How do you intend to cooperate and communicate with your project partners including, if relevant, associated partners?

The most common way of communicating with the sending organisation will be by e-mail or by skype. The good thing is that we have been cooperating with them for many years, so we have a very personal contact with the. We also share the work in an organized way, so the project can go smoothly.

In the beginning, the volunteers and Veraldarvinir will have a weekly contact with the sending organization to reflect how the EVS-project is going, after a couple of weeks or one month, the contact will reduce to monthly contacts with the sending organization.

During the Erasmus+ project we will have several times contact to evaluate the process of the project with the three partners (hosting organisation, volunteer and sending organisations).

The sending organisations takes care of the following: pre-departure training where the volunteers will gain all information about the guidelines and the organisation of their stay. They will talk about personal strategies of crisis situations. They will discuss culture shock, theories of intercultural learning and conflict resolution, the volunteers will work in groups and as individuals and they will have the opportunity to exercise role plays. They will explore more about the practical issues such as travel arrangements, insurance, Youthpass, health issues and etc. After the European Voluntary Service, the volunteers will take part in a seminar to evaluate the period and to talk about next steps. If possible, they will offer some possibilities to engage further in volunteering.

How will the practical and logistic matters of each planned activity be addressed (e.g. travel, accommodation, insurance, safety and protection of volunteers, visa, social security, mentoring and support, preparatory meetings with partners etc.)?

International travels: Veraldarvinir will buy the flight tickets and pay them in full (even if the price is higher than the budget).

Domestic travels: The volunteers will have the opportunity to travel around Iceland on tours organized by Veraldarvinir. They will also have free access to the local buses in the East of Iceland and bikes will be provided as well. When the volunteers will be moved from one part of Iceland to another during the project they will go with buses that are having full license for moving passengers and driven by professional drivers. In Fjardabyggd they have an access to a private car that they can use to go to the shop, swimming pool or somewhere else. The gas is of course paid by the organization and only the volunteers with driving license are allowed to drive.

As an organisation we have an insurance for all people involved in the activities. The volunteers will receive a Cigna EVS insurance. In case of emergency we have the contacts of the volunteers, their family, the sending organisation and the National Agency. All buildings of the organisation are approved as safe by the safety and prevention service of the city and by the fire department.

Accommodation: The Erasmus+ volunteers will share apartment which is 147,5 m². They will stay in private or double rooms with another volunteer of the same gender. The house is fully equipped with a living room, common kitchen and three bathrooms. There is also a free access to the internet. The volunteers will also have access to the second floor of the house which is also 147,5m².

Food: All ingredients are provided but the volunteers must take part in the cooking and cleaning.

Pocket money: The volunteer will receive pocket money according to the rules for Erasmus+. They will get the pocket money paid in the beginning of each Month.

The sending organization will take care of all the practical arrangements that are required before departure, such as helping the volunteers in finding the most economical airplane tickets, arranging the medical insurance as well as possible visa requirements.

Each sending organisation will organise departure meetings in cooperation with the EVS office in the sending country to discuss with the future volunteer in detail all the aspects of program including rights and responsibilities, risk and safety, overcoming cultural shock, maintaining motivation

The volunteer will go to the on-arrival training and mid-term evaluation meeting organised by Erasmus+ National Agency in Iceland.

After the end of the volunteering each sending organisation has an evaluation meeting with the volunteers where we ask them to describe the gains and challenges of the experience and to consider the skills they required, the competences they enhanced and their future possibilities. The volunteers are then asked to write about their experience at the official blog of our website summarizing their consideration of the whole project and offering themselves as EVS promoters.

For the whole period the volunteer can count on personal support of the mentor and the team in the host organisation. Every week there will be an information meeting. The Veraldarvinir team will have monthly evaluations with the volunteers. In evaluations we will speak about the following points: is the project matching to your expectations, are you satisfied with the tasks you perform, are you satisfied

with the linguistic support, do you receive enough support, are you satisfied with arrangements for the accommodation? Professionally there will be support of all the team members.

The mentors in the organisation will support the volunteer in all tasks and in the stay in Iceland. Regularly there will be organised a 'mentor-date' where all the aspects of the project, professional and personal could be discussed. The mentors are the go-between for the volunteer. Between job and expectations, between habits and traditions, ... There is a group of four mentors in Veraldarvinir at the moment and hopefully the group will get bigger in the next Months.

Language lessons: the volunteers will get a language course, with a special focus on the work in the organisation and the daily life situations. The language lessons are given by Iris Þórarinsdóttir, who is a language teacher and has a lot of experience in teaching courses on several communication subjects. In the beginning of the EVS they will have several lessons and in the following months the volunteers will have some online lessons and less classes.

The quality of the preparation of the volunteers is a key element to implement a successful project. Which kind of preparation will be offered to participants (e.g. task-related, intercultural, linguistic, risk-prevention etc.)? Who will provide such preparatory activities and how will you monitor that this is done?

The person for the task related support is the coordinator of sustainable/environmental projects in Veraldarvinir. He is on charge of the everyday tasks related to the subject. Therefore, he will support the volunteers with their tasks and give them new tasks if needed. Before the project start, he will keep in touch with the volunteer and sending organisation by e-mail and phone, to answer all the questions or doubts of the volunteer. Necessary arrangements concerning the holidays, working hours and tasks will be made together with the volunteer.

The whole project will help to develop sense of tolerance and understanding of diversity and knowledge about diverse cultures. A lot of prejudices and racism come from an acknowledge about the others.

By being in touch very closely and directly working together, people will learn about each other's culture and to be tolerant. Young people will also learn what it means to live in a different culture, to be integrated in it and how important this is.

With hosting international volunteers, we widen the possibilities to work more international in our project which will make our project more and more open for people from different cultures and also the awareness in the minds of people for cultural diversity will rise if it is common that there are people from other cultures integrated in the project.

The intercultural principles during preparation and activities of the project concentrate on openness to the other, active respect for difference, mutual comprehension, active tolerance, validating the cultures present, providing equality of opportunities, fighting discrimination. The principle aim of intercultural dimension is to promote and develop the capacities of interaction and communication between youngsters and the world that surrounds them, so the positive awareness of other cultures is increased.

the tasks of the volunteer will reflect his individual abilities and desires. The project program can be adapted to the expectations of the volunteer. Persons who are familiar with those tasks within Veraldarvinir will guide the volunteer.

Activities

Volunteering Activities

In this section, you are requested to enter information on the volunteering activities you intend to implement. The budget of your project will be partly generated based on the data provided here.

When filling in the activity table, you have two options:

- You already know the main elements (country of origin, country of destination, distance bands) of the activity you plan to carry out: you will then fill-in all fields in the activity table and your grant will be calculated using the applicable unit costs per budget category based on the exact flows of volunteers.
- You have not yet identified the main elements (country of origin, country of destination, distance bands) of the activity you plan to carry out: you will then encode in the activity table only the number of volunteers you plan to involve and the duration of the services. Your grant will be calculated based on the average costs per budget category per volunteer. At final report level, your final grant will be calculated based on the exact flows of volunteers and associated unit costs as defined in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide. The final grant will have to remain in the frame of what was granted at application level.

Please explain the context and objectives of the volunteering activities you are planning.

The tasks of the volunteer will reflect their individual abilities and desires. The project program can be adapted to the expectations of the volunteer. Persons who are familiar with those tasks within Veraldarvinir will guide them. The proposed schedule is flexible and can be built in coordination with the volunteer. In a first phase, we propose an integration time in the country, environment and the association. The volunteer works and helps in projects in progress. The possible projects are the following: 1. Different environmental work such as cleaning the coastline, fixing hiking paths or planting trees working with group of international volunteers and in cooperation with the local community in Fjardabyggd and/or forestry associations in the East of Iceland. . 2. Veraldarvinir is involving children in secondary school in activities focused on environmental conservation and awareness. To do this, Veraldarvinir aims to organize awareness weekends in Fjarðabyggð. The weekends will consist of a cleaning up day activity, and then a conference on the cleaning up activity with the participation of interested people and learned specialists in the current field. This activity will take place once every two months 3. Workshops related to sustainable living which includes topics, such as “food waste”, “recycling” and “renewable energy” which are very important for the whole planet. 4. The volunteers will also have the option to help with the following tasks: • Updating the website of the organization www.wf.is and social medias • Coordinating and preparing the environmental awareness section of the WF Newsletter. • Updating our database on brochures/reports/trainings/seminars/others. • Preparing and distributing documents concerning different activities. • Working in the office, with computer and usual modern facilities. 5. The volunteers will also get to know other parts of the Erasmus+ program through the activities of Veraldarvinir which is also organizing youth exchanges and seminars. This will encourage them to participate in similar activities in the future. At the beginning of the project, they will receive qualified training from the organisation members. The training is partly practical which means that they will learn how to take care of some technical work when it comes to environmental protection. This training will capacitate them to perform the projects’ activities, which vary between organizing workshops, cleaning beaches, planting trees, cutting lupine and various kinds of environmental-related tasks to taking care of environmental awareness campaigns and sustainability. At the same time, will receive guidance in how to plan, organize and lead the projects, including topics as group management, conflict resolution, bookkeeping, development, leader roles, intercultural cooperation, motivation, etc. They will also receive practical information about planning a project, spare time activities, first aid, etc. When it comes to the basic elements in the activities we offer the volunteers all chances and opportunities to integrate completely as a team member in the organisation. They will learn how projects are set up, how sessions and workshops are conceived, what methodology we use for environmental education, how they can organize and take responsibilities themselves in projects, courses or sessions. They will increase knowledge, skills and responsibility in an environmental educational association. Volunteers will discover and get in touch with many kinds of tasks. We offer also a language course for the volunteers because we consider the learning of the new language as a very important part of the project. EVS volunteers are expected to integrate as a full member of the team, involved in all activities going on in the association. They will get the chance to implement an own project too, within the philosophy and aims of the association. Activities where the volunteer will be involved are: - follow, prepare, assist, lead sessions of international volunteer’s groups staying with us for 11 days each group - prepare, assist and lead workshops for children, youngsters or adults - take part as a team member in different projects related to art, sustainability and environmental protection. - prepare and coordinate own projects/ideas (within the frame and philosophy of the association) - take part in the educational lessons in the schools/kindergartens in Fjardabyggd Working hours: The volunteers will work Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 15.00. They are encouraged to participate in leisure activities with other

Follow Up

Please describe what will happen after the end of your main activities.

What is the expected impact on the participants, participating organisation(s) and target groups?

From the moment, the volunteers express their desire to take part the European Volunteering Service, the impact will start for them and their surroundings.

We believe that for volunteers which decide to carry out such an experience, this voluntary program has already had an impact on them since they must meet with organizations that are authorized to take part in Erasmus+ program, have to search in different databases for projects they like and are available and be willing to reflect about questions like why- who - where - for how long, etc... regarding the voluntary program. Meanwhile these youngsters become main promoters of this European program through their communities. They explain their ideas to their friends and family and even ask in different organizations they have contact with and so, make them also aware of this European possibility. Thanks to this, the impact people have been able to know the objectives better, description and passions of the European Voluntary Service, waking up in some of them (friends, organization, family) the desire to participate in the next calls.

It is expected that through this experience, each volunteer will improve and challenge many aspects of his life. On personal side, they will adapt to live far from the family, environment and comfort zone and will acquire the autonomy necessary to operate in the host country. We believe that they will be able to achieve new skills regarding: time management, money management among other things.

The volunteers will also achieve new intercultural knowledge and skills, they will have to adapt to a different country, different customs, different schedules, different languages and communication rules and they will have to find the balance between the Icelandic society and their own culture and personality. They will be experiencing and sharing another way of life.

Through all the project we want to achieve for the volunteers (and the local community) more understanding of the other culture in another environment.

But the impact on the volunteer is difficult to predict. That's a question for them.

It's impossible to describe the impact of volunteers on the organisation. You really have to feel it and to experience it. The only thing we are sure of, is that it's an enormous impact on values and attitude, on creativity and diversity. This impact is on local society, on participants in Veraldarvinir programs and our staff as well.

The impact on the sending organisation and Veraldarvinir, can also be interesting for a collaboration in the future. We are also opened to discuss common projects.

It is also intended that the volunteer gain self-confidence to be able to face the adversities that may occur with a positive conclusion of the difficulties. In order to motivate this self-reflection, Veraldarvinir will use, among other methods like meetings and mentoring sessions, the Youthpass certificate considered a tool to be useful for self-reflection and as a multiplier element, as it reflects all the learning opportunities that the EVS program seeks.

The participating organisations will gain experience of working together and understand the divergent realities and practices in different European countries. The sending organisations are able to widen the knowledge about the host organisation and their working methods.

We expect an enrichment for all involved partners: organisations, volunteers and local community.

There will be benefits for all people involved in any way in the project.

EVS only brings positive things to everyone involved, that's for sure!

What is the desired impact of the project at the local, regional, national, European and/or international levels?

Through all projects, we want to achieve for the local community (and the volunteers) is more understanding of the other culture in other environment. We intend to look for cross-cultural elements too, to encourage young people to get to know the other culture and in the same time to develop their personalities through an intercultural learning experience.

After the program, the volunteers will increase their empowerment and will be more active in promoting environmental and sustainable activities, events management and a wide knowledge of leisure time, establishing a kind of leading role in their peer group. This will increase active participation and contribution in their local community life.

Besides, the announcement of our new volunteers is always a notice in the local media as well as in the organization Facebook page. Veraldarvinir is publishing an online magazine called UNA 6 time a year. The magazine is made by our international volunteers where they are writing about the life of the organization. It is send to all our partners around the globe and to all our partners in Iceland as well. Our former volunteers are also following the magazine among others. The volunteers will be encouraged to write about their projects in the magazine.

The project will also have a great impact on the youngsters in Fjarðabyggð and hopefully they will be active with sustainable activities in their homes and future life.

Dissemination of Projects' Results

Which activities will you carry out in order to share the results of your project outside your organisation and partners? What will be the target groups of your dissemination activities?

We believe that in this dissemination and valorization of results is something that grows during the project. Ideas about that will be discussed together with the volunteers, in cooperation with the Veraldarvinir team

The volunteers in Veraldarvinir usually also work on a personal project during their stay with us. We had volunteers which created workcamps in the field of art and culture. The idea to have an inside magazine in the organization came from one of our volunteers. Two of our ex long-term volunteers made a campaign related to recycling and environmental protection. These activities were announced in different media, as the schools and children/youngsters participated in those activities. Pictures and an article in the newspaper showing the workshops optimized the value of the activity and strengthened the impact.

Some of our volunteers did series of short videos about our projects under the name "Land of dreams" which have been quite popular on the internet.

After the period there will also be a blog and pictures published in newsletters and blog of the sending and hosting organisation.

The volunteers will be encouraged to write a blog or a learning diary to share the voluntary service experiences and to promote the European Voluntary Service. After their return home, the volunteers will be encouraged to do school visits and tell about their volunteering learning experience also in youth and educational fairs where the sending organisation is attending. The main target group is youth, not only friends and family, but also other young people living in the same area where they are coming from and also wider circle through social media networks.

As the projects of the volunteer are integrated in the organisation, the visibility will also be integrated in the organisation. As well on the website as on flyers and mailings the logos and information about the Youth in Action programme will be visible. Also in the personal contacts with the people, schools, children, youngsters and adults who join activities in Veraldarvinir this programme will be visible. People talk about it, meet the volunteers, ask about the programme and will learn about it through conversations.

Evaluation

Which activities, other than complementary activities, will you carry out in order to assess whether, and to what extent, your project has reached its objectives and results?

During the whole learning period, the volunteers will be guided by their mentors. The mentors in the organization will support the volunteer in the work and daily life in Iceland. Regularly there will be a 'mentor-date' where all the aspects of the project, professional and personal could be discussed. The mentor is the go-between for the volunteer. Between job and expectations, between habits and traditions, ... The mentor is also a volunteer in the organization, knows the organization very well but is not part of the staff.

In the beginning the mentor introduces the youth pass to them. (Of course, during the on-arrival training and mid-term evaluation training they will organize workshops about youth pass and reflection of their own learning process.) Continually they will meet in planned intervals to reflect on and to write down their learning process.

Not only with the mentors but also with their colleagues and language teacher the volunteers will speak about their evaluation. Therefore, some meetings are scheduled in the period of the volunteer service.

In the first month of the project, there will be every week an evaluation meeting. Afterwards it will be less but still continuously. In those meetings, we'll speak about the following points: "Is the project matching to your expectations, are you satisfied with the tasks you perform, are you satisfied with the linguistic support, do you receive enough support, are you satisfied with arrangements for the accommodation?"

In the middle of the project, we organize a Skype conference, in which the representatives from Veraldarvinir, the sending organization and the volunteer will take part in. In order to avoid possible conflicts and problems, we try to establish open and honest relationship between all the parties involved.

Finally, in the last few weeks of the service the mentors and volunteers will write the description of the learning outcomes together. The volunteers will consider in the evaluation of the project any further partnership that will come out from the project, sharing the international network that each organization has. The hosting organisation will help the volunteers to figure out their learning outcomes which they can add in the Youth pass.

From the language teacher, they will receive the Europass Language Passport with their achievements.

The sending organisation will also do a moment of reflection and personal evaluation of the volunteers. After the end of the EVS the sending organisation has evaluation meetings with the volunteers where they ask them to describe the gains and challenges of the experience and to consider the skills they required, the competences, they enhanced and their future possibilities. The volunteers are asked to write about the experience at the blog of our website summarizing their consideration of the whole project and offering themselves as Erasmus+ promoter.



Project Summary

Please provide a short summary of your project. Please recall that this section (or part of it) may be used by the European Commission, Executive Agency or National Agencies in their publications. It will also feed the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform.

Be concise and clear and mention at least the following elements: context/background of project; objectives of your project; number and profile of participants; description of activities; methodology to be used in carrying out the project; a short description of the results and impact envisaged and finally the potential longer term benefits. The summary will be publicly available in case your project is awarded.

The volunteers do their project in Fjardabyggd in East Iceland. They will work as a team under the supervision of the project manager of the organization. They will be involved in preparing, organizing, running and evaluating environmental and sustainable projects. Those projects are organized with international volunteers and usually last for 10 – 12 days. The volunteers will organize workshops during the projects in the field of environment and sustainability. The workshops include cleaning coastlines, planting trees, making hiking paths. We will also focus on topics, such as “food waste”, “recycling” and “renewable energy” which are very important for the planet.

Veraldarvinir is involving children in secondary school in activities focused on environmental conservation and awareness. To do this, Veraldarvinir aims to organize awareness weekends in Fjarðabyggð. The weekends will consist of a cleaning up day activity, and then a conference on the cleaning up activity with the participation of interested people and learned specialists in the current field. This activity will take place every two months.

The volunteers will also have the option to help with the following tasks:

- Updating the website of the organization www.wf.is and social medias
- Coordinating and preparing the environmental awareness section of the WF Newsletter.
- Updating our database on brochures/reports/trainings/seminars/others.
- Preparing and distributing documents concerning different activities.
- Working in the office, with computer and usual modern facilities.

The volunteers can visit and/or participating in other environmental workcamps in different regions in Iceland if they are interested.

Working hours: The working hours are 9 – 15 Monday – Friday. During the workcamps the volunteers are asked to share their free time with the rest of the group, such as going to the swimming pool, playing cards, listening to music, cooking and having dinner and going for walks. All depending on the field of interest of each volunteer.

At the beginning of the project, they will receive qualified training from the organisation members. This training will capacitate them to perform the projects´ activities, which vary between leading workshops, cleaning beaches, planting trees, cutting lupine and different kinds of environmental-related tasks to taking care of environmental awareness campaigns and sustainability. At the same time, will receive guidance in how to plan, organize and lead the projects, including topics as group management, conflict resolution, bookkeeping, development, leader roles, inter cultural cooperation, motivation, etc. They will also receive practical information about planning a project, spare time activities, first aid, etc.

During the project, they will learn a lot about environmental awareness, sustainability and of course about leadership. Veraldarvinir is involving local children in activities focused on sustainability and environmental awareness. The volunteers will go to the local schools and kindergartens in Fjarðabyggð with short courses about sustainability.

The volunteers are getting in touch with the different culture as well and can learn about cultural diversity by experiencing it in environmental or cultural projects. It's a magnificent opportunity for volunteer and organisation in broadening perspectives and meeting another culture. The mutual fertilization of volunteer and organisation is an idea we really like and appreciate. We will work together in a young and stimulating team. The volunteer project associates to the regular activities of