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EVS in education and long life learning in Vicopisano, Italy



Hosting Organization: Cif Vicopisano

When: September 2017 – August 2018

Who: 2 Volunteers

Where: Vicopisano (Pisa), Italy

Who we are and what we do



The Italian Female's Centre (CIF) of Vicopisano is a voluntary organization which belongs to the CIF national organization with sections in 90 provinces and 500 municipalities in Italy.

For over 20 years CIF Vicopisano has organized afterschool activities for young people, formal and non-formal educational activities for adults and the elderly, meetings with experts and seminars as well as socializing activities for all ages.

Currently the association is made

of 19 volunteer members of which 13 are active volunteers; these last ones are in charge of the entire management of the organization and cover management and administrative roles of the various activities.

The main activities are:

- ❖ The afterschool program takes place every weekday afternoon from 14.30 to 19.00, involving an average of 22 children and young people aged 5-18 from primary, secondary and high schools. It is an open access service attended by those in need of a space for socialization and help with homework. They do their homework in an environment aiming at reinforce their abilities, autonomy in the study process, motivation to learn, self-esteem and mutual help alternating work and breaks to favour socialization and group dynamics.
- ❖ In the field of educational services for adults, CIF offers training opportunities on different topics in order to promote socialization and guarantee the acquisition of useful skills. In this context, the following activities are carried out:
 1. Language workshops (English, Spanish, French),
 2. Italian language workshops for foreigners,
 3. Language Cafè on Saturday afternoon: a friendly way to improve language skills without attending formal classes,
 4. Computer Literacy,
 5. Workshops on nutrition and lifestyle,
 6. Thematic meetings about the importance of doing sport activities.
- ❖ During the summer: Summer Camps take place, including both recreational activities and help with homework.
- ❖ At weekends and on particular celebrations, CIF Volunteers carry out socialization activities for the local population and for the elderly:
 1. Sunday Raffle/Tombola
 2. Afternoons for seniors
 3. Events (Halloween, Epiphany, Carnival, birthday parties)
 4. Alzheimer's Cafè, a project foreseeing meetings among patients with senile dementia, art therapy and workshops with family members/ people who take care of patients to provide help and share experiences.



Project Context



Vicopisano is part of the County Council of Pisa, about 18 Km away from Pisa town; it covers a surface of 26,92 sq.Km. and its population is about 8,000.

The Rural District of Vicopisano lies entirely between the river Arno, which marks all its southern border, and the 'Monte Pisano'. The dualism mountain/river has been one of the distinguishing features which have marked the History of its urban agglomerations. For centuries, the inhabitants



have been living on activities linked to the exploitation of these so different but yet complementary environments: the Mountain, which gave water and wood, the products of the forest and of the olive grove; stones were used for dwellings, churches and palaces, as well as for millstones and terracings for the olive trees. The River, which has always been the main means of transport, vital link to Pisa, Leghorn and Florence, and therefore a great source of profit for generations of

boatmen and fishermen. The many remarkable architectural sights and beautiful landscapes present in the district of Vicopisano have made it, in the last years, a popular destination for national and international tourism; and the position of the village at the slopes of Monte Pisano with its mixture of pine woods, oak trees, and also of bare, calcareous rocks has increased the interest of visitors. Vicopisano is easily reachable from any part of Tuscany and is very close to the International Airport of Pisa.

Vicopisano is a town lived all year: residents are an integral part of its authenticity, of its personality and daily story. Vicopisano is a living town, animated every month and every season from many events and cultural, music, food and wine initiatives: the Medieval Festival that takes place every first weekend of September, is the most important event that animates the town and all its corner with historical groups, camps and medieval jousts, itinerant musicians and themed theater.



Main activities in which volunteers will be involved

CIF Vicopisano is looking for two Volunteers. The Volunteers will be involved in educational, and long life learning activities with children, adults and elderly people. From September to the middle of June will be involved in educational activities as follows:

- ❖ Participation in the staff meetings to settle the programme activities;
- ❖ Support in the afterschool programme, open 5 afternoons per week, helping children with their homework through workshops, group work or individually work.
- ❖ Support children with specific learning disabilities and linguistic difficulties;
- ❖ Organization of linguistic workshop for children and young people both in group and individually;
- ❖ Presence to the canteen service with the educators, children and adolescents;
- ❖ Organization of games, outdoor and recreational activities before and after the afterschool programme;
- ❖ Support teachers, educators and the staff members in tutoring and linguistic activities with adults and elderly people;
- ❖ Support adults and elderly people during the online training courses;
- ❖ Organization and management of workshops;
- ❖ Participation in the monthly coordinating meetings with public stakeholders.

From June to September the three volunteers will be actively involved in the Summer Camps for local children through outdoor activities, games, workshops, sport, trips out of town and afterschool programme as well.

The profile of an ideal volunteer is:

- ❖ An open-minded young person with a positive attitude to work in an education and training programme with different kinds of people: children, teenagers, adults and elderly people;
- ❖ Ready and motivated to interact with local people and live a deep cultural experience;
- ❖ Patient, kind, polite, tolerant, able to listen actively and willing to work in team.



Accommodation & Financial Support

CIF Vicopisano will locate a flat in Vicopisano for the 3 EVS Volunteers with three rooms, a bathroom and a kitchen. We will also provide an amount that will be sufficient to go shopping and cook at home.

A travel card for public urban and extraurban transports, Pocket money of 115 euro for month and an Italian language course will be provided.

The travel expenses will be refunded on the basis defined by the European Commission.

How to apply

Send the CV and the application form to candidature.sve@associazionejoint.org with the subject line "Application for CIF Vicopisano EVS" by the 14th of April 2017. Only shortlisted people will be contacted to arrange a Skype interview.

Thank you everybody for your interest and time, **GOOD LUCK!**

