

EVS with children and adolescents in Associazione Il Ce.Sto.



Location: Genova, Italy

Project Dates: September 2018 - August 2019 (12 months)

Applicants: 2 volunteers from France and Romania

Where: Genova, Italy

Coordinating organization: P.E.CO. - Progetti Europei di Cooperazione
<http://en.peco.genova.it>

Hosting Organization: Il Ce.Sto. Onlus <http://www.ilcesto.org>



Associazione il Cesto Onlus is involved since 1987 in the promotion of integration and social promotion processes among the different ethnicities living Genova historical city centre, with a particular attention towards minors, second generation migrants and other actors in the neighbourhood (residents, shop keepers, schools and institutions).

The association has managed to build a space in which develop and bring together educational, recreational and creative goals among minors of different ethnicities and Italian, stimulating and encouraging positive relations among people, encounter, mutual knowledge and solidarity, providing paths and tolls to value and enforce individuals and community's potential.

The association's services are a literacy course for adults, an helpdesk for migrants, the Social Centre for children, the Social Centre for pre-adolescents and adolescents and cultural animation and training activities mostly provided within the Circolo in Giardini Luzzati (Luzzati Gardens). Furthermore, during the summer Giardini Luzzati hosts summer camp activities, involving children and adolescents in recreational activities in June and July.

The Social Centre for children and adolescents are open every afternoon from Monday to Friday, providing school support and leisure time activities in a protected environment.

Summer camp activities take place in the city surrounding and involve children and, separately, pre-adolescents and adolescents.

In 2012 Associazione il Ce.Sto ha started managing Luzzati Garden, a downgraded area that has been renovated and transformed. In this area, Il Ce.Sto, in cooperation with Giardini Luzzati Nuova Associazione that leads the bar, promotes cultural and recreative activities giving life to an alternative place of meeting for the citizens.

Another integration project promotes by Ce.Sto is "Insieme allo Stadio" (together to the Stadium) in cooperation with Genoa Cricket Football Club and a project called "Un cuore grande così" (Such a big heart): children and youngsters attending Ce.Sto services are accompanied to Genoa F.C. matches and get in for free.

Since 2011 Ce.Sto is involved in the project "Nuova Casa Guarchi", focused on the hosting of refugees and asylum seekers and today so structured: an emergency service in agreement with Prefettura di Genova providing support in the asylum seeking procedure and medical assistance; a social, working, housing integration and empowerment process for people having subsidiary protection and a hosting project within the SPRAR system of Comune di Genova and ANCI for single persons and families who are being hosted in apartments and provided with services such as literacy, documents issuing, medical assistance and work integration, and a residential community for Separated Children.



PROJECT CONTEXT:

Genova (Genoa) the most important port of the Mediterranean and one of the most important ports in Europe, it is the sixth most populated city in Italy and is part of the industrial triangle that connects Turin and Milan. Its privileged location, as the “door to the Mediterranean”, has made Genoa one of the most prosperous financial and commercial centers and one of the most influential of the West. The city of Genoa has in recent decades been going through a time of economic and social hardship caused by the de-industrialization and impoverishment of the economy in general. For this reason, the Ligurian capital has undertaken in the last 20 years a significant process of urban renewal. The activity of Ce.Sto is strongly rooted in the historic center of Genoa, which is developed through a maze of narrow streets and alleys where it is impossible to enter in any other way except on foot. It has always been the destination of migrants arriving to Liguria and for this reason, today more than ever, includes a number of different cultures often in conflict with each other and with local authorities. It is indeed a tough neighbourhood, where marginalization and petty crime hinder the process of integration and where Ce.Sto has succeeded in spreading the values of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. EVS volunteers will live in the city center in an apartment provided by the Association and carry out their service entirely in services in the city center within walking distance in less than 15 minutes.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

The volunteers will be involved in:

Social centre activities, starting with kids and then being involved also with adolescents, replaced by Summer Camps activities in June and July: the volunteers will help and staff and the local volunteers in creating social animation activities and games. Volunteers will be encouraged to organize their own workshops, events or sport activities together with the youngsters and local volunteers. EVS volunteers will also be involved in scholastic support activities.

Sport project "Together at the stadium" and other sport activities, depending on availability

Luzzati garden management: they will have the opportunity to interact with a target of age different than that of children and assist the staff and volunteers Ce.Sto in cultural and intercultural promotion activities and events.

Support to the organization of literacy courses

Support to the Association's promotion activities on social networks and on the "Luzzati Square"

ABOUT YOU

The ideal volunteer is a young person willing to take part in a project for the development and integration of an entire community in the center of a large Italian city. The EVS volunteers must be willing to collaborate on the education and training project of Ce.Sto. Since this involves a delicate role in contact with young people that often come from complex family situations, the volunteers must be fitted with qualities such as tolerance, patience, firmness, creativity, and above all excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

If you are interested in joining us, please send your CV, motivation letter and questionnaire filled in in English at: sve@peco.genova.it

