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European Solidarity Corps
of the European Union



Volunteering in Valmiera, LATVIA 2019/20

Position: Youth house “Vinda”

Project title: Volunteering for community 2019/20

Travel dates: October 2019 – September 2020
(11,5 months).

Venue: Valmiera, Latvia

Coordinator of the project is Valmiera Region
Community Foundation (*Valmieras novada fonds*),
but host is Youth House “Vinda”. See details below!



Valmiera with nearly 30'000 inhabitants is the 8th largest town in Latvia, economic capital of Vidzeme (Northeastern region). While it is not too big in European context, it provides all services one might need, including shopping, restaurants, culture, medical treatment, full range of education etc.

Distance to Riga is 110km, closest seaside is just 70km away, but Estonian border – 50km.

POSITION: YOUTH HOUSE “VINDA”

You will be working in Valmiera municipality’s Youth House, that is managed by Valmiera Youth Center “Vinda”. You as “youth worker” will be in close touch with another volunteer working at Valmieras novada fonds (coordinating organization) with Youth initiatives.

TIMELINE: due to delays, dates can be negotiated with each volunteer. Arrival – as soon as possible :)

VOLUNTEER’S PROFILE

No matter if you have just graduated secondary school or if you have had 10 years of working experience. You only have to be open-minded, willing to learn, very proactive and do a lot as well as to be away from your home sweet home for 11,5 months!

We expect our volunteer to be:

- aged between 18-30 years because European Solidarity Corps programme says so;
- active, enthusiastic and responsible because local youngsters will take an example from you;
- creative because you will be responsible for getting people to come, to enjoy time with you and to come again with their friends; ability to design posters and promote event online is a plus;
- self-organized because you will be the leader of this process, not just an assistant;
- with high self-initiative because success and fun will depend very much on activities that you suggest, create and realize;
- with strong motivation because there might be failures among happy moments.

YOUR TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- promote Valmiera’s Youth House as an open space for local youngsters;
- organize and promote your own events;
- motivate local youngsters to organize their own initiatives and get involved ;
- cooperate with other ESC volunteers and other organizations;
- promote European Solidarity Corps programme and volunteering.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- knowledge about youth policy and how to best plan activities for youngsters;
- possibility to realize your passion projects and impact local youngsters in a positive way;
- influence on the educators at the Youth Centre to modernize their methods and lessons offered;
- work experience with independent event organization, project management, marketing;
- learning from failure and flexibility in ways to achieve your goal;
- living in another country, learning Latvian language and gaining new friends and family;
- possibility to represent your country, share its culture and language.



PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

6 volunteers from different countries will be **accommodated** in apartment, rented by the foundation for ESC volunteers.

Apartment has fully equipped kitchen, WC, bathroom, heating system, internet. Each room hosts 1-3 volunteers.

Accommodation will be located within 5-30min walk from work, as Valmiera is not too big town. City buses are available. Also, 4 bicycles are available for volunteers to share.

See **Google map** to find ESC-related locations in Valmiera:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1zo5tP-IVFaINHZvvBBn28IXls8BzJgLU&ll=57.524170624014175%2C25.40107627770999&z=14>

Food money is 150 €/month, which covers food and basic household stuff. It is enough for homemade meals or our contracted diners, some meals at simple restaurants and even high-class restaurant couple of times a month. For example, our office has daily lunch in diner for 2-3 €.

Travel costs includes ground transport from your home to nearest airport/bus station and also from Riga to Valmiera. Onward trip will be reimbursed upon your arrival, but return trip can be purchased directly by us.

Pocket money is 4 €/day, and can be used for whatever you want. No reports needed.

Distance	Covered travel costs
From 10 to 99 km:	20 €
From 100 to 499 km:	180 €
From 500 to 1999 km:	275 €
From 2000 to 2999 km:	360 €
From 3000 to 3999 km:	530 €
From 4000 to 7999 km:	820 €
8000 or more km:	1500 €



Previous EVS volunteers with one of mentors during award ceremony "Volunteer of the Year 2017"

Funding will be transferred once a month to your **bank account** (Latvian or any other EU bank):
pocket money – at the beginning of month, food money – after report with receipts is given.

Volunteers get Latvian mobile phone number. (We kindly ask to have your own device, please, but we have one spare old fashioned handset.)

ABOUT COORDINATING ORGANIZATION

Valmiera Region Community Foundation is philanthropic organization that supports local people's initiatives to improve their lives in Valmiera and its surroundings, emphasizing that our own resources and forces can do a lot of good work. Fundraising and communication with our donors and local community is our main job.

Meanwhile, we coordinate EVS projects since 2013, but host volunteers in office – since 2016.

Short movie about EVS in 2016/17 is here: <https://youtu.be/prwt7OIVMgo>

Video about volunteers of 2017/18 is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYImMvKdk58>



Foundation's team on boat trip in August 2017: staff, some board members, local and EVS volunteers

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV and motivation letter to our sending partner in your country or directly to us:

- **Germany:** Eurocircle Deutschland (Berlin), info@eurocircle.de, www.eurocircle.de,
- **Latvia:** Valmieras novada fonds, gunita.vitola@vnf.lv, www.vnf.lv

After reviewing applications, Skype/phone interviews with selected candidates will take place.

After interviews, we will let you all know results.

If you have any questions to clarify, do not hesitate to contact your sending organization or us:

Gunita Vītola, Project coordinator

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Mobile phone: +371 29936869

Website (Latvian only): www.vnf.lv

Facebook page (good for pictures): www.facebook.com/ValmierasFonds