



VALMIERAS NOVADA
FONDS

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Volunteering in Valmiera, LATVIA 2019/20

Position: Kindergarten “Pienenīte”

Project title: Community volunteers 2019/20

Travel dates: October 2019 – April 2020 (7 months)

Venue: Valmiera, Latvia

Coordinator of the project is Valmiera Region Community Foundation (*Valmieras novada fonds*), but host is kindergarten “Pienenīte” (*Dandelion*). 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: KINDERGARTEN “PIENENĪTE” (DANDELION)

This will be the first year for kindergarten to host long-term volunteer. But, we have had good experience welcoming EVS volunteers for few hours every week since 2016.

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 and ready to be away from your home sweet home for seven months!

We expect our volunteer to be:

- aged between 18-30 years – due to safety, we cannot accept minors;
- hasn’t been criminal punished—prescribed by law for staff of kindergarten (reference from your homeland is needed);
- loving kids because you will see them all around;
- creative to surprise kids every day again and again;
- with empathy abilities because kids are different, just like we are;
- with high tolerance to stress and noise because kids are fast and full of energy!

YOUR TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You will spend your days with ~20 children, aged 4-6, attending our kindergarten every day while parents are at work. Also, you should know that kindergarten in Latvia is pre-school educational institution, so you will be involved in learning process, not just leisure time activities.

Volunteer will work here normally between 8-14:00, but hours can be adjusted.

Together with kids and teachers you will:

- assist and lead sports lessons, music lessons, other daily lessons,
- just play and spend their free time inside or outside of rooms,
- attend cultural events outside of kindergarten,
- organize visits to other institutions to expand horizon of kids,
- organize activities for staff.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

- Lot of fun with kids and other 5 volunteers in Valmiera.
- Great experience how to work with kids, especially valuable if you consider future in pedagogy field.
- Build your patience, creativity and multi-tasking skills.



PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

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

Accommodation is located within 15-30min 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-IVFaINHZvvBBn28IXIs8BzJgLU&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 €.

Kindergarten provides hot lunch for even cheaper price.

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 10to 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 directly to us:

- 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 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