



Call for Evs volunteers in Arci Catania 2016-2017

Coordinating and Receiving organisation: Arci Comitato Territoriale di Catania

--Organisation not available yet on Evs database, waiting for renewal of accreditation---

Duration: 14th October 2016 – 13st August 2017 10 months

City : Catania, Sicily, Italy

Number of volunteers hosted: 1 male volunteer from Poland sending organisation Stowarzyszenie Promocji Wolontariatu

Deadline: **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Profile of the receiving organisation

Arci Catania is a social and cultural promotion organisation that coordinates the different organisations and realities joining the network Arci in the city of Catania and in its district. The organisation is active from so long in the social-cultural field promoting, designing, managing local, regional, national and European initiatives aiming at promoting active citizenship and democratic participation processes for all people; with a special attention to those people who have fewer social opportunities in order to promote their autonomy, emancipation, equal dignity and their social inclusion.

Main activities of the organisation are connected to the coordination as umbrella organisation of the 12 local ngos belonging to Arci network in Catania and in its district. Our local ngos are mainly youth , cultural or community centres and our role is mainly to support them in order to be more effective, sustainable and performing.

The activities of our network are related to the following areas:

- Culture and arts (music, cinema, dance, visual arts, theatre, web-radio etc) with large target group do young people and adults living in the communities where our local organisations are active.
- Cultural diversity , intercultural learning and anti-discrimination (legal support, cultural mediation, language support, empowerment of minorities organisations, anti-racist campaigns, etc). Target group of those activities are mainly immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, including young people belonging to minorities or from migrant backgrounds.
- International youth mobility (information youth desk about youth mobility opportunities., youth exchanges, training activities for youth workers and leaders and other international projects, consultancy and capacity building of small ngos and non formal groups in the field of international youth work)
- Education and Youth work (youth centres management, non formal education activities address to young people in the age 13-30, training and support of teacher in methodology connected to non formal learning, structured dialogue activities)
- Social Antimafia (raising awareness campaign about the phenomena of mafia and for the respect of law , prevention of criminal behaviour educational campaigns, mainly addressed to young people in the age of 11-30 etc)

Arci Catania staff is managed by a board of 10 members and have a staff of 3 permanent employees , several consultants and temporary workers, 2 Italian National Civil Service volunteers, and by a number of around 20 young volunteers who support temporary Arci Catania in specific activities in the sector of immigration and diversity (i.e. linguistic support, legal support, vocational guidance) , in the education and culture (trainers and facilitators) and international sectors (included a group of former evs volunteers).

More details about our work are available on our website www.arcicatania.org

Project context

Arci Catania is located in the historical centre of Catania. Catania is the second biggest city of Sicily (350,000 inhabitants approximately, 650.000 including all the metropolitan

area). Catania is connected by public transports with the other main Sicilian cities. It is possible also to reach other Italian cities by plane, train, bus or ferry.

The area in which Arci Catania is located is the old market's quarter, where every morning there is the biggest open market of the town. In the last years this area became the most relevant multi-cultural area of the city since many immigrants live and work there (there are also several shops run by immigrants). Immigrants working and living conditions in this part of the city are critical, because of the low quality of the lodging and the massive phenomena of discrimination in workplace and of illegal business. The arrival of thousands of asylum seekers who lack proper support made the situation more problematic and complex in the city.

After the meaningful development of new economy - including the field of the microelectronics whose Catania was one of the main Italian poles - nowadays Catania is suffering hardly the economical crisis. The social tissue is characterized by strong disparities due to unemployment and exclusion from the economic development regarding part of the population. At the same time there is a big issue related with forms of "new poverty" which affect that part of population who suddenly decrease his own economical situation and specially young people with an average education that have so many difficulties in finding a place in the job market. These difficulties often force these young people to move in other regions of Italy or Europe. The presence of immigrants is increased so much in the last years and it has resulted in problems of social cohesion. New needs must be faced and many times public institutions aren't ready to give them an answer.

It should be also outlined that the criminal organisations are deep-rooted in the territory and they affect the economic life of the city. Within a such negative social context should be mentioned that the civil society in the city is a dynamic world increasing every day. NGO's networks and platforms have been developed (especially in the field of culture and immigration) which contribute to the innovation in the sector of cultural and social work. In this field, Arci and its network of local ngos in 11 different municipalities of the province of Catania, has performed an important role in the civil society in terms of linking different realities by leading a community network against discrimination and to spread the knowledge of different cultures and by promoting daily youth work and cultural activities addressed to young people and adults.

As part of this work Arci Catania has been active in promoting actions in the field of the so called "Antimafia Sociale" a system of actions, campaign, educational activities focused in fighting organised crime with a special focus on Sicilian mafia from a grass-root prospective through education and active citizenship in order to fight the social consensus that illegal behaviors taken by organised crime have on part of the society also in the city of Catania. These actions include workcamps, workshops with students, exhibitions, events, etc.

We might propose short term Evs project in the field of "Antimafia Sociale" because in this sector we promote some events such - -

- Antimafia Carovane (a campaign to raise awareness about the topic of Mafia and prevention of crime in different cities and villages of Sicily), we promote since 1994 every year and which goes on for around 1 month in Sicily

- Antimafia workcamp in Librino : a workcamp of 2 weeks in a marginal area of the city of Catania, whose aim is to offer a knowledge and understanding of the phenomena of mafia in Sicily and at the same time doing something useful for the community (some years manual work for local ngos, some other animation with children etc.).

Activities of this Evs project

The project include 3 areas of activities:

European awareness and youth information

- Information help- desk about international mobility opportunities for local young people- supporting them in the research of learning opportunities abroad

- European awareness: organising campaigns, workshops info-days and events in cooperation with the 12 local ngos belonging to Arci network. (the so called "Circoli Arci") about European citizenship including promotion of Evs and other learning mobility experiences for young people. Promoting the ability and building the capacity of local Arci ngos to open to international activities and projects.

Within these activities it will be asked to international volunteers to support Arci Catania's staff in the relation with the young people, in the research and distribution of useful information for young people and to

bring a different point of view, based on their personal experience of international volunteers . Volunteers will support Arci Catania staff in organising events and training activities at local level and to promote the participation of local Arci Ngos volunteers to international training activities.

Cultural networking and active citizenship

- Cultural activities, events and campaigns in cooperation with the 12 local ngos belonging to Arci network . Examples of 2 initiatives promoted and managed by our network are:

a) No Made : a campaign to raise awareness about the lack of public spaces dedicated to culture and education and to promote community actions in the field of public spaces . The No-made consist in a networking path of the duration of several months including local events and campaigns in the 12 local Arci ngos and a final common event.

<http://arcicatania.org/2015/07/12/nomade-nella-citta-invisibile/>

b) Akmo "Arts within 0 Kilometres" is a network of artists and cultural organisation to promote Arts and cultural events available at low reasonable costs for grass-root ngos. The artists offer their cooperation to the network and events are organised also in cooperation with other ngos in order to guarantee a wide access to arts and culture. The network has developed a database of artists who agree on the principles of the network.

<http://arcicatania.org/2014/05/28/akmo-inaugurazione-con-musica-e-cinema/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/AKm%C3%98-arte-a-Km-zero/300665936757396?fref=ts>

Within these activities it will be asked to international volunteers to support Arci Catania's staff in coordination tasks of the network and in the preparation of the events and activities of the network including meetings, on line work, management of database and of internal communication tools.

Communication and visibility on media of Arci network

- documentation and promotion through media of activities and campaigns run by our network in the city of Catania and/or in the other 11 municipalities where our ngos daily work

Within these activities it will be asked to international volunteers to support Arci Catania's staff in documentation and communication actions (using video, photography, web-radio programmes, social media, etc) to spread the value of our network and activities and to cooperate with our press/media officer in the relation with local media. One possible tool is our webradio Radio Matria <http://www.radiomatria.org/#> .

There will also space for the initiative of the volunteers in order to develop a personal project coherent with the principles of the organization and the above mentioned 3 areas of work (European awareness, cultural networking, communication and visibility) .

The content and methods of the personal project have to be agreed between the volunteers and Arci Catania staff.

Most of the activities will take place in the city of Catania but the volunteer will also have the opportunity to visit and meet members of 12 local ngos belonging to Arci network in the province of Catania (municipalities of Catania, Trecastagni, Belpasso, Bronte, Acireale, Misterbianco, Aci Castello, Ramacca, San Michele, Caltagirone, Palagonia).

Volunteer profile

We would like to host volunteers who demonstrate **a strong interest for the main themes** of the project and main areas of activities .

Previous **organisational experiences in ngos field** and knowledges in the issues mentioned above will surely help the volunteers in the full integration into the project but are not essential to be selected as a volunteer.

The specific motivation to take part in this project that the volunteers may express is

important as its **coherence with personal life experience and future plans.**

Practical Skills (i.e. in communication sector or culture/arts), knowledge in one or more of the 3 areas of activities are welcome.

Learning Italian is essential for this project, previous knowledge or motivation to learn are necessary.

Practicalities about hosting conditions

The volunteers will **share a double room** in a flat located in the centre of Catania (area of Piazza Castello Ursino) walking distance from Arci Catania office (10 minutes). In the flat live other 2 young people in other rooms. There are shared services such as kitchen, 2 toilets, washing machine, relax area. All costs related to the house such as electricity and taxes will be covered by the receiving organisation. There isn't any heating system in the flat.

Unfortunately, due to budget problems it is not possible to provide volunteers with a single room.

Concerning board, the volunteers will receive an amount of **185,00 €** per month to buy their food. It is necessary to keep track of what the volunteers will buy through invoice and receipts.

Volunteers will receive the right to attend the official online Italian language course provided by the European Commission. Additionally it will be possible to take part in Italian language courses in Catania according to the level of volunteer. The volunteer will have the opportunity to participate for free in an exam for the certification of Italian language level in cooperation with Perugia University since Arci Catania is a decentralised centre for CELI exams.

How to apply ?

If you want to apply for our project, volunteers have to send their **Curriculum Vitae** and a **specific motivation letter** for the project as soon as possible to both email addresses: evs@arcicatania.org and sylwia.jedra@spw.info.pl. **It is not possible to send application or ask information through Facebook. All application and request of information have to happen through the email evs@arcicatania.org and sylwia.jedra@spw.info.pl**

Additional information about our organisation :

A brief description of the 12 NGOs belonging to our network in Italian :

<http://www.argocatania.org/2014/09/29/incircolo-i-dodici-volti-dellarci-catania/>

Video about our network reality (in Italian)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVFieOUHJwA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://vimeo.com/85741469>