

ELF AROUND!



YOUTH CENTRE VILLA ELBA

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GROUP-EVS PROJECT, KOKKOLA 6.11–15.12.2017

Welcome to Villa Elba!

Elf Around is a group-EVS project that gathers 18 persons from around Europe to Kokkola 6.11-18.12.2017. During the project, the volunteers help to prepare Villa Elba's Christmas project. The volunteers will be introduced the history and secrets of Finnish elves and based on that the volunteers help to plan and realize an Elf path for children and families. In addition, volunteers will organize elf school for the primary school students.



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YOUTH CENTRE VILLA ELBA

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Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work. We work under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education.

Our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity.

Our work consists of international camps and programs, education, practical training and voluntary work for young people, information and guidance about international programmes, projects and EVS co-ordination for hosting organisations.

Profile of participants:

The participants are young people seeking new possibilities to their lives. You can be unemployed, face educational, economic or social challenges or have low language skills. We wish that the volunteers are interested in working with children and feel confident to act as an elf. There is no need of previous experiences, just the interest to try it out and learn more!

Registration form: <https://www.webpolsurveys.com/S/5F9F57394A726F7A.par>

We will give you:

- a chance to live in a new culture
- possibility to do volunteer work for the local community
- a chance for intercultural learning
- a project where you can use your creativity

Be prepared for:

- darkness
- coldness
- listening Christmas music
- changes
- adventure

Show your:

- motivation
- skills and strengths

We expect from you:

- flexibility
- respect
- ability to follow the rules and schedule



Tips for travelling to Kokkola:

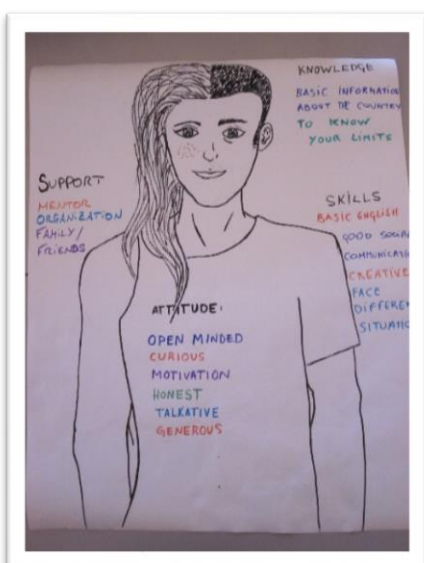
The participants can search for flights to Helsinki or directly to Kokkola. The best way to travel to Kokkola from Helsinki is train, timetables and prices at: www.vr.fi/en. There is also one very cheap bus connection <http://www.onnibus.com/en/index.htm>, but this runs only once a day and the ride is very long (approx. 7 hours). Villa Elba organizes transportation from Kokkola airport/ train station to Villa Elba. This transport cost is covered from the travel grant.

What to Bring with you:

- Warm clothes and shoes (also gloves, cap) temperature can be something between +5 and -30 Celsius
- European health card (very important, you will need it if you need to go to health Centre/hospital!)
- personal medication and hygiene products
- Swimming suits if they want to wear them in sauna or want to go to swim
- Something typical from your country to present your culture (music, songs, dances, something to eat etc.)

On-arrival training:

First week of the project will be on-arrival training in Youth Centre Villa Elba. The aim of the training is to get to know the other participants and understanding for EVS. We will also tell about the aim of the project, intercultural learning and about their rights and responsibilities. There will be Finnish language lessons to learn basic words and sentences.



Tasks:

After the on-arrival, training volunteers will work on different teams related to the theme of the project: Elf and Christmas. Each team will be in charge of their own tasks, but **volunteers will be also helping other teams**. Teams are formed during the on-arrival-training considering volunteers' strengths and wishes.

The EVS- volunteers are working together with the regular staff and interns of Villa Elba.



Team Elf path: Group of volunteers will help the staff of Villa Elba with Christmas preparations and organizing Elf path happenings for families and kindergartens and other visitors of the Youth Centre. Work also includes helping the staff of Villa Elba in cleaning and serving for the Christmas time visitors of the youth Centre. Team Elf path will have a chance to use their creativity for planning different games and tasks for the children who take part at the elf school.

Team Elf school Volunteers will plan, prepare and organize elf path for local schools. In Elf path children can learn important elf skills, like peaking from windows, elf dance, making presents etc. Team Elf school will have a chance to use their creativity for planning different games and tasks for the children who take part at the elf school. Work also includes helping the staff of Villa Elba in cleaning and serving for the Christmas time visitors of the youth Centre.



Team Documentation: Group of volunteers will be in charge of documentation of the whole project and will take part of different events, which other volunteers are organizing. Team can use the media equipment that Villa Elba has and use their own creativity for planning the methods of documentation. Work also includes helping the staff of Villa Elba in cleaning and serving for the Christmas time visitors of the youth Centre. A link to Elf path-video made by media students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQgA2eZvpkx>

We encourage participants to bring in their own ideas and competences when planning and realizing the content of the different events and activities organized during the project. Planning and preparing the teams tasks will include for example, making elf costumes, making Christmas decorations, planning games for children and planning how to promote intercultural learning.

Working hours and holidays:

Most of the work tasks also include performing as Christmas Elf. The volunteer will work 5 days a week, approximately 30 hours. The working hours are usually from 8-15 including lunch break, but sometimes **work times can vary depending on events that we are taking part in**. In that case, work can also be in evening time for example from 14.00-20.00 or 7.00-14.00.

Volunteers have holiday 5-8.12.2017, (Finland's independency day 6.12 is also a public holiday).

Accommodation and meals:

During the project, the volunteers will live in Youth Centre Villa Elba. The accommodation is in cottages (8 persons/cottage). Therefore, it requires patience and flexibility, as you will share the cottage with other people during the whole project.

Meals are served in Villa Elba during on arrival training, and during the rest of the project, volunteers will get lunch at Villa Elba but **prepare other meals themselves**. Twice a week Villa Elba staff will go buying the food for the meals with couple of the volunteers.

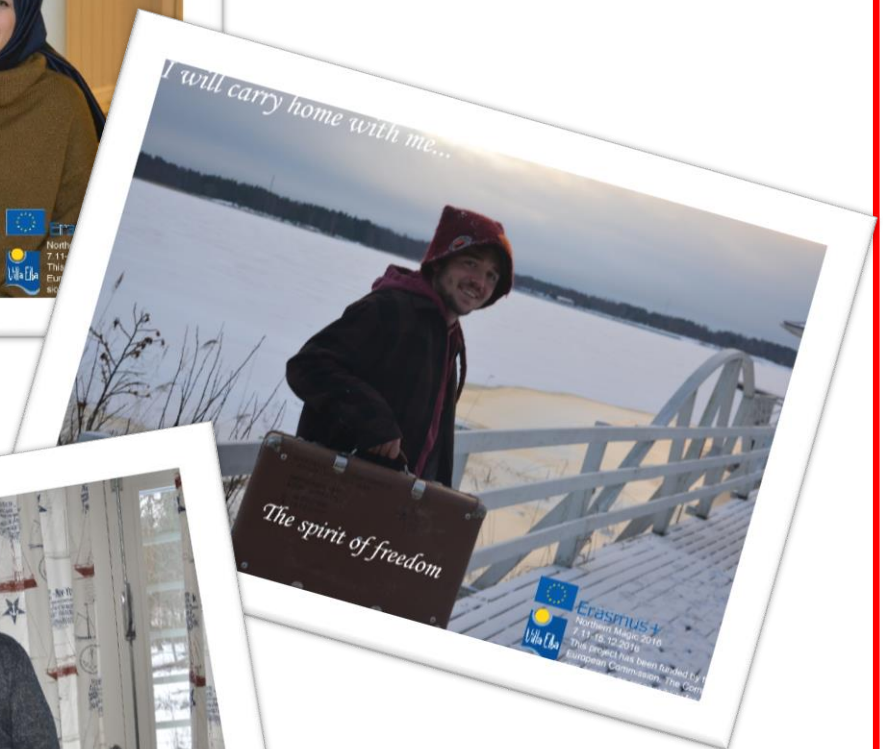
Villa Elba provides bed sheets and towels.



Support measures:

Extra support is available for volunteers 24/ 7 during the whole project. The support persons helps with everyday issues (cooking, cleaning, shopping), to get familiar with local community and culture, helps in difficult situations and supports the volunteers to reflect on their learning outcomes. There will be organized mentor meetings weekly and volunteers are entitled to take part in the mentoring meetings.

Each sending organisation can, if needed, send a support person to escort the volunteers to Kokkola 6-9.11.2017. We provide board and lodging for the support persons and travel costs are reimbursed fully up to 500 €.



Financial issues:

Travel grants

Partner	Country	number of pax	travl grant / pax	visa costs	max travel costs for support person
Centro Social de Palmela	Portugal	2	530 €		500 €
Sistem ve Jenersayon dernegi	Turkey	2	360 €	80 € / person	500 €
EDUCERE	Spain	2	530 €		500 €
Fekete Sereg	Hungary	2	275 €		500 €
Comune di Torino	Italy	2	360 €		500 €
Momentum World Community Interest Company	United Kingdom	2	275 €		500 €
Association FOR YOU	Bulgaria	2	360 €		500 €
Continuous Action	Estonia	2	180 €		500 €
Education4all e.V.	Luxembourg	2	275 €		500 €

Pocket money

The pocket money is 160 € for the whole project (4€/day), payment days are:

13.11 40 €

20.11 40 €

1.12 40 €

13.12 40 €

It is not possible to pay all of the pocket money before the holidays; we always pay part of pocket money the last day, after the volunteers have fulfilled their duties (e.g. cleaning).