

2012-DE-162

Lebens(t)raum e. V.

Arrival date	01/09/2013
Departure date	31/08/2014
Location	Halle (Germany)
Theme 1	Children
Theme 2	Disability
Inclusion	Cultural differences, Economic difficulties, Educational difficulties, Geographical difficulties, Social difficulties

Description of the organization

Lebenstraum developed out of an initiative of parents of children with disabilities. Since 2007, it advocates for physically, mentally or multiple disabled children, youth and young adults. The aim is to make a bit of normality and the chance for a self-determined life possible for these people. At the same time, it longs on the society level for tolerance of human diversity and understanding for people who do not fit the picture of an average citizen. The associations wants to offer children, youth and young adults a second home, in which they can live together with same-aged as normal as possible. This way the parents are able to let them go knowing they did the best for them. For the children and youth, it opened the perspective to take part in life and a self-determined future. Parents get the space for exchanging their experiences, supporting each other in problem solving and strengthening each other.

The association offers:

Family supporting service:

- care and respite care (single and group offers), care at home or in the space of the association as well as care in case of incapability of relatives, holiday care
- assistance in free time and individual attendance to leisure time activities (sports, disco, cinema, bowling...) and to the leisure time centre of lebens(t)raum (common cooking, musics, Arts and crafts...)

- after school care for children from 14 years up in the youth center of lebens(t)raum
- provision of integration assistants or studies assistants
- attendance to leisure time activities of lebens(t)raum, e.g. halloween party, dragon boat driving, siblings weekend, celebrations, camps
- home help
- attendance at trips (for one or more days)
- family support and consulting in strong cooperation with the counselling centre lebens(t)raum
- further training for parents, experts, assistants and other interested persons

Integrative after school care:

Children with and without disabilities spend their leisure time together and have the chance to learn from each other in this way.

The care takes place individually and in small groups. This offer can be realized through the space which is arranged according to the different needs and qualified staff.

Activities take place in the following areas: relaxation, rhythmic, games and fun with water, cooking and household, sports, assistance with homework, occupational therapy, language needs, social training, trips in the region

Counseling Center:

There the association provides information on juristic questions and advices for financial help concerning families with children, youth and young adults with disabilities.

Early childhood support center:

The early childhood support center offers early support from birth to the entrance to school for children with attested retardations in development or disabilities in language, hearing, viewing, in thinking, in physical and motoric development and behavior.

Social-pedagogical family support:

The social-pedagogical family support is a form of youth welfare for families. Through intense counseling and monitoring of the families, solutions for daily-life problems and conflict resolution can be tested and practiced. Usually this is carried out in a longterm time frame (1-2 years).

Setting up a residential group:

In cooperation with "Schlesisches Konvikt", the association works to set up a residential

community for adults with disabilities who like to live up to high age in a self-determined way.

Special needs

The pedagogical staff is used to respond to the specific needs and backgrounds of youth through their work with people with disabilities. The families they work with come from very different financial, social and cultural backgrounds. The workers can bring in this experience in their work with the volunteers.

The pedagogical management is in the hand of a certified remedial teacher, who therefore also has the formal qualification.

Proposed activities for EVS volunteers

The volunteer is not going to replace any existing professional working force, but will support the work of the pedagogical staff by giving attention to one or a small group of children or youth and support the ongoing activities this way. Furthermore, it will be appreciated that the volunteer initiates own activities. The volunteer will be a full member of the team and will be integrated at relevant activities of the association, e.g. celebrations. S_he will take part in the weekly team meetings as well as in the counseling of between all teams of the association (approximately once a month).

The volunteer will be provided with a fixed contact person as a mentor in the hosting organisation with whom s_he will discuss learning goals and achievements concerning work. The volunteer has the opportunity to take part in two professional trainings per quarter together with the employed and honorary staff.

While living and working in a foreign country, the volunteer can build up work experience and intercultural knowledge which can be very important for her_his further life. Supported by the EVS seminars, the consciousness of Europe and European interrelationship can be built up and broadened. Besides this, the volunteer enriches the cultural, social and civil life on site. This is supported by the provision of a tutor (coordinator at the coordinating organisation) and a peer tutor (former volunteer). Furthermore the volunteer will be informed about local actions and events through the networks of the coordinating organisation. S_he will be encouraged to take part together with members of Friedenskreis Halle or other European volunteers in civil society (e.g. in actions against racism, volunteer day at the local volunteer agency or the European week).

A reflection of the learning experiences will be framed in regular meetings with the mentor and tutor and the EVS seminars. The volunteer will have the opportunity to work out a Youthpass together with the tutor. For this reason there should be offered at least one meeting every three months.

In addition, Lebens(t)raum encourages the volunteer to connect with other volunteers and will offer their own space according to consultations with them.

During schooldays the volunteer will work in the family supporting service in the mornings and in after school care. During holidays the volunteer will usually be working almost fully in the after school care or support camps.

Usually the volunteers will work from Monday to Friday. When the volunteers collaborate in celebrations or trips on weekends they will get a day off during the week.

Activities inside the family supporting service can be (depending on skills and interests of the volunteer):

- supporting the realisation of events which are taking place (e.g. Halloween party, association celebrations, dragon boat driving etc.)
- supporting the running leisure facilities for youth with disabilities (cooking, making music, sports, handicrafts etc.)
- preparation, organisation and facilitation of own ideas for leisure activities or events for youth with disabilities (supported by the pedagogical staff)
- supporting youth at day trips
- supporting youth at long trips or camps

Activities inside the after school care can be (depending on skills and interests of the volunteer):

- company and support of individual children during free play
- Supporting the running activities in the fields of agitation, cooking, music
- Preparation and realisation of own ideas for activities (supported by the pedagogical staff)
- helping the children with their homework
- supporting children at trips

An example of a working week could be:

Tuesday:

12.00-13.30: preparation of the cinema-evening on Wednesday

13.30-14.00: break

14.00-17.00: collaboration at after school care

Wednesday:

10.00-12.00: team meeting

12.00-14.00: break

14.00-17.00: collaboration at after school care

17.00-21.00: co-organization of a cinema-evening for youngsters

Thursday:

12.00-13.30: preparation of a cooking activity at after school care

13.30-14.00: break

14.00-17.00: carrying out a cooking activity at after school care

17.00-19.00: language course

Friday:

12.00-13.30: Technical preparation of the day trip on Saturday

13.30-14.00: break

14.00-17.00: Collaboration at after school care

Saturday:

8.00-18.00: supporting youngsters at a day trip

Location and environment

Lebens(t)raum is based in Halle/Saale. The town has got 230,000 inhabitants and is located in Saxony-Anhalt, approximately 40 km to the west of Leipzig. The University formed the town with its cultural and social life. There are several theaters, cinemas, pubs, libraries, baths and clubs. Situated next to the river Saale it is a wonderful place to walk, relax and enjoy nature.

The social and economic situation is very influenced by a high unemployment rate (about 22%), movement of population especially amongst the youths and the collapse of the economic sector after the "Wende" in 1989.

Office, contact point and after-school care are situated in the city center. A second after-school care center is in the process of planning at the moment for the district Halle Neustadt.

Risk prevention, protection and safety

The volunteer never has the full responsibility for a group or individuals, but is always working together with pedagogical staff.

The working environment complies with the national security regulations. At the beginning of the voluntary service, the volunteers will get an instruction about risks and safety protection. Rights and responsibilities of the volunteers are fixed in a voluntary project agreement. Through continuous talks between the mentor and the volunteer, the current working process is reflected.

Furthermore, there is the tutor supported by the peer tutor ready to consult at personal crises, dealing with cultural shocks or conflicts inside or outside the working place.

A partner agreement will be signed between the partner organisation, regulating the rights and duties of the sending, hosting and coordinating organisation to enable an adequate professional coaching and alignment in content as well as a support in all technical questions of the EVS Charta (e.g. enrollment in the insurance or explanation about rights and duties to the volunteer in EVS).

Under-aged volunteers will not be accepted.

Accommodation and language

A room in a shared flat will be at the volunteers' disposal.

The CO (coordinating organization) will provide a language course for a volunteer. After arrival, they will decide together with the volunteer, whether an intensive or an ongoing course should be taken and which level is the most suitable.

Number of volunteers hosted

2

Project duration:

From 1st of September 2013 to 31st of August 2014

Volunteer profiles and recruitment process

The volunteer should:

- have interest in interaction with people with disabilities
- be able to communicate to people with and without disabilities openly and with interest
- have empathy
- bring in creativity, fantasy and like to play
- be motivated to engage in Lebens(t)raum as well as in the social and political life in Halle

The application deadline is the 7th of April 2013. If you are interested, apply via email to schulz@friedenskreis-halle.de. Please include the following documents:

- CV
- motivation letter (1 page maximum; please explain:
 - why you are interested particularly in this project
 - what do you want to learn
 - what can you contribute
- name of your sending organization)

The applications will be processed till May. All applications will be considered no matter of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion etc. Possible candidates will be invited for a Skype talk. Afterwards, all applicants will be informed about the decision.

For potential projects with youth with fewer opportunities we want to collaborate directly with sending organisations who deal with this target group.

Contact Point

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