

Project „Trees“

EVS Info Kit

1st. February 2019 - 31st. January 2020

Prenčov, Slovakia



Here you can find some useful informations about our project, that you will need for your preparation and your stay in Slovakia as an EVS volunteer.

Please, read it carefully!

Project „Trees“

About Us :

Civic association ART KRUH established in 2004 is a corporation of artists, craftsmen, creative and natural people. Our mission is preservation of cultural heritage and development of traditional values in the fields of arts, crafts, and sustainable lifestyle specifically in rural areas. Our philosophy is based on principles of Permaculture and we are founding a Village center of non-formal education “Golden hill”. The aim of this place is to create a space for education, expression and exploration of oneself, through creative, artistic and also everyday-life activities. Our main target group are youngsters (but also children and adults) that we want to motivate to live an active, creative, meaningful and sustainable lifestyle. Throughout year we organize several events, like training courses, seminars, workshops happenings or festivals. Besides that, we carry on and renovate a local museum “The Black Kitchen” where you can cook and live in a traditional way.



(project presentation during our last partnership building seminar)

Location :

Our organization is located in [Prenčov](#), a small village in the middle of Slovakia, in the region of Banska Bystrica, near the hill of Sitno and surrounded by beautiful natural landscape. The village has many traditional houses, rich cultural heritage and many living traditions. Life of the village is connected to the nearby town of [Banská Štiavnica](#). The town is a part of the UNESCO cultural heritage and it is one of the favorite destinations in Slovakia especially in summer, with many cultural events throughout the whole year.



Prenčov from the sky



Trinity square in Banská Štiavnica



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Description of project :

The region of Hont, where we are settled, is mostly a rural region with a lot of small traditional villages, with a beautiful environment, but a lack of work, educational and social possibilities. Also here consumerism is becoming the leading motivation, traditional, rural methods and crafts are vanishing. People are losing the relationship and the contact with soil, nature and with themselves. As a result rural areas are losing productivity and independence, with a rising level of dependence on national budgets or EU grants. The lack of working opportunities leads young people to passivity, migration to cities or abroad. With this rural areas are facing depopulation. **We are reacting to this situation, with our long-term goal, to explore possibilities of sustainable, individual and community lifestyle in the rural area.** We want to support the process of change in our region towards modern rural lifestyle, with an emphasis on interconnecting cities and rural areas.

We choose as a topic for this project „Trees“, because they are a symbol of long term perspective, a way of thinking and living. During this project we will work on this subject with different approaches. Trees as a complex living system. The Tree of life as a symbol of connecting earth and sky. And as a physical approach, on how to care about the already existing ones. How, where, when, and why to plant new ones.

This project will offer to participants opportunities of:

- **developing social skills**
- **gaining permacultural knowledge and skills**
- **gaining manual working skills**
- **learning how to live in and with a community**
- **gaining knowledge and skills in project management**
- **experiencing life in a rural area**



Back garden, tipi and military tent to accomodate guests during summer



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We practice the philosophy of **Dragon Dreaming** (see below in „management“) and **Permaculture**, which means building **sustainable, productive human settlements**.

By the project „Trees“ we want to support the topics mentioned above. Here are some examples of specific activities:

- Gardening (e.g.: [Three sisters garden](#))
- Property maintenance
- Managing projects and educational activities
- Non-formal activities for children in local school (english sessions, creative workshops...)
- English sessions/cultural exchange with the local community
- Recycling and Upcycling
- Medicinal herbs picking and processing
- Organizing cultural events
- Reconstruction of building
- ... and a lot of other things that are needed

We want to support volunteers to get skilled and competent, in a variety of things that are important for life in rural areas and for life in a community. They will discover rules and principles of life in nature. We want to support and develop their creativity and entrepreneurship, so they are able to discover potential and sources offered by the countryside. Thus enabling people to live a meaningful and real life in rural areas.



Activities with children from local school



Tomatoes harvest



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4 seasons :

Our life is closely connected to the rhythm of the nature. Our activities are dependent on **each season** and also on weather conditions. During summer, days are long and warm, there is lot of life around, beautiful nature with hills and lakes, lot of cultural events and festivals. However, the project will start in February!



In the period of **Winter** (when the volunteers will arrive) there are limited options for entertainment, culture and rich social life. Winter is the „dreaming time“ when people, together with the nature shrink their life energy back to the roots. It is also time for creativity, planning and insights about yourself. It will be time for getting to know the environment in which you will spend the next year in. Furthermore it will be a significant period of community building; you will have time to get to know other volunteers with who you will live and work. Your coordinator Marta will be there for you and with you through all your tasks. And The head of the organisation Martin will also work with you on a daily basis. Main activities are cutting wood to heat the house, preparing place and tools, and planning for the upcoming projects.



When **Spring** arrives everything comes alive again - nature, garden and also ourselves. **Spring** is an awakening of life. We are starting new things, working outside again, putting seeds to the ground, preparing the garden. We also prepare our environment and background for projects for the late spring and summer. Most of the work will need to be done during this period, but it is very reasonable to invest our energy here, to get the abundance back afterwards.



Summer is a mix of doing and celebrating of life, when a lot of festivals and cultural events are all around. We take part in few events and also organize our own. Sometimes it is too hot in summer to do anything else, than lying close to one of the many lakes around Banská Štiavnica. But it is still important to take care very well of our plants. They need our care and we are responsible for them, because if we don't give them what they need, we will get not back what we want. So we will have to water them every day!



Autumn is the time for harvesting, not only fruits and vegetables, but also our skills and knowledge. It is important to name and celebrate what we have learned and experienced. It is time to finish work outside and prepare for winter.



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Management

As a managing tool for our projects we use the [Dragon Dreaming](#) project methodology, where individual positions and tasks are distributed according to the capabilities and needs of all participants.

On the beginning we will look together on one year plan with all „bigger“ activities and then every week we will have regular meetings where we share previous successes and failures and actual plans, tasks and needs.

Volunteers work together in groups, or alone according to common and/or personal needs. They have one supervisor which is a previous EVS volunteer and furthermore one mentor which cares about their development and learning progress.

Practical arrangement

Duration of the EVS:

The project is designed for one year. Possible start is from **1st February 2019**. Final duration (12 months) will be managed with volunteers.

We would like to start with all of the four volunteers around the same time, to provide the best possible setting to develop a strong community/team from the first day on.

Working Time:

Usually we work from 9:00 to 17:00 with 1 hour break for lunch, 5 days per week. For possible work on the weekend, volunteers get compensatory time according to oral contract, to fit actual conditions.

For each month, volunteers have 2 days of holidays. We are not strictly following the working time, more important is to fulfill actual needs of garden, necessary tasks and also needs of all participants.

Accommodation:

We have a separated part of our house with two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and toilets, where we can accommodate four persons. This part of the house will be the volunteers accommodation. In the second part of the same house is another flat, where the director of ART KRUH and his family live. Both places are independently separated with their own entrance, they are just connected with a corridor.



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Food :

Volunteers have their own kitchen. In the village there is a small grocery store, there is a school kitchen with reasonable prices, and there is the option of food delivery. Usually they are going to the nearby town to do bigger shopping trips in a supermarket. There is the possibility to rent a car from ART KRUH for this occasion.

Volunteers usually cook or eat all together, as this is a part of living in a community, but there is no rules given by the organisation, the volunteers make their own choices about their living together.

Money :

In the first week of each month each volunteer will get 122€ of pocket money. Each of them will also receive another 123 euros per month for food and usage.

Slovakia uses Euro, for those of you coming from countries that don't use it, be prepared by either changing money prior to your travel, changing money at the airport or in the exchange places in the town or if you prefer just bring your bank card and withdraw money from ATM's or pay with card, anyway it's always nice to have some pocket money with you at the beginning.

Costs :

This project is funded with the support of Erasmus+. Accommodation and food costs will be covered by project's grants.

Travel costs: We will refund your travel costs up to the defined limits (example in the table below). Refund limit depends of each country according to the distance. Travel costs will only be refunded after we received all related tickets and invoices (including boarding passes). This means participants (or their sending organizations) will have to advance the money themselves and they will be refund afterwards.

France	275 euros
Portugal	360 euros
Italy	275 euros

Special Needs :

In case you have some diet requirements/food allergies/medical conditions or anything else that could influence your participation, please let us know soon, so that we can arrange accordingly and be ready to support you.



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Other useful informations :

The participants commit themselves to actively participate in the whole process, including: to read all informations carefully, communicate timely with organisers, prepare adequately for the EVS; to take actively part in the full duration of the activities; to participate in the evaluation process after the EVS;

Pictures and videos taken during the project, as well as the materials produced during the activities, can be used to document our activities in reports, websites or social networks, or for promotional material.

Providing information on special needs, does not remove the participant's personal responsibility for ensuring their own health and safety.

Please think in advance which activities are most interesting for you and send us your feedback, CV and motivation letter!

For any question or support, don't hesitate to contact us: evs@artkruh.org

Contact persons:

Martin (+421 905 723 958), or **Marta** (marta_dean5353@hotmail.com)

We are looking forward to hear from you! ☺

ART KRUH crew

Here is some overview of our activities in pictures:



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