

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS VOLUNTEERING



YOUTH OF TOMORROW

LONG TERM VOLUNTEERING
VENTSPILS
PROJECT IN LATVIA



Co-funded by
the European Union

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HOW TO APPLY

ATTĪSTĪBAS FABRIKA

... is an association that works with youth and uses non-formal education methods organizing various events – training's, fun activities, seminars, camps, informative campaigns for young people (13-25 years old) about topics that are important for them –career, business, educational possibilities, health and healthy lifestyle, participation, politics, mass media etc.

Association have signed a treaty with municipality making us responsible for youth work in the city.

Since 2017 we have hosted 49 volunteers(in European Volunteering service and European solidarity corps projects), coordinated 5 projects and sent/supported 10 Latvian volunteers in their volunteering projects.

MEET YOUR SUPPORT PEOPLE!



Unda, Project coordinator.

Will be your daily support and will be responsible for the implementation of the activities. Together with Unda you will learn how to say in Latvian all the necessary sentences :)



You will receive support from **MENTOR**, who will help you on your daily routine, help you with your learning process and facilitate in case of misunderstandings and difficulties.





Dana, Youthworker.

Will be a part of volunteers activity planing team. As Dana is a young person herself, she will be your guide in the local community.

Emīls, Associations "Attīstības fabrika" president.

You will meet Emīls many time trough all of your project duration, he is our vise and smart guy in the field of finances and technologies :)





This project is an amazing opportunity to get to know the charm of small town & rural Kurzemes region.

It is an opportunity to improve yourself and learn new methods of working with young people of different backgrounds.

This project will allow volunteers to experience and see Latvian culture, traditions, language and get to know the beautiful Latvian nature and changing seasons.

Project is a great opportunity also for the local community, to broaden their horizons by learning about new cultures.

The aim of the project is:

*To assist and help to expand activities and event offers to Ventspils residents - young people, children and people from older generations. Events will be developed and will be available for residents free of charge. These events will allow different age people to participate and gain experience in non-formal education activities;

*To do non-formal activities, such as team building, creative thinking, ect. activities in schools;

*To make youngsters in our region expand their European sensibility and know the opportunities that the EU offers;

*To engage with local community by doing events together, helping others, creating new ideas for better everyday life in the city;

*To stimulate cohesion and cooperation among people from different countries and social, territorial and cultural realities.



SKILLS & COMPETENCES

You as a volunteer will get the opportunity to develop and improve your skills in :

teamwork,
digital skills,
video creating & editing,
creating content for social media,
leadership,
responsibility,
organizational,
presentations,
group management,
project writing,
and other important skills

As well as provide an opportunity to local community, including young people from different backgrounds, children and older generation of people to participate in non-formal education activities in expanding their horizons, and to inspire themselves to become more active.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

During the project volunteers will engage in different activities:

- *Organize training and lectures for local schools;
- *Teach your mother tongue or language that you as volunteer feels like sharing in local libraries or in Ventspils University of Applied Sciences;
- *Promote to local community understanding of foreign cultures, by creating events during all the project;
- *Non-formal education classes and summer camps for country side youngsters;
- *Workshops and leisure activities for kids and young people in Ventspils city and Ventspils region, in Ventspils libraries and in Ventspils support center for kids with disabilities;
- *Motivate young people to engage and participate in various public events in Ventspils;
- *Inspire local community to take part in various EU projects;
- *Non-formal activities in schools with various age schoolers, ect.

WORKING LOCATIONS

***You will have the opportunity to hold and organize various campaigns and activities in NGO "Attīstība fabrika" that collaborates with local schools.**

***You will have a possibility together with the representatives of association to create and implement activities for kids in Ventpils libraries and young adults with disabilities in Ventpils support center for kids with disabilities.**

***You will have the possibility to be an assistant in creative and STEM based activities in the Design and creativity center "RADE" or Makerspace and in Ventpils science center "Vizium".**

***You will have the chance to work with kids and youngsters from countryside and create Non-formal activities and summer camps with association "MUMS", Ventpils district.**

Social accounts of working places:



Ventpils design and creativity center "Rade" - <https://www.facebook.com/ventspils.rade>
Ventpils support center for kids with disabilities - <https://www.facebook.com/aprupescentrs.cimdins.5>
Outdoors Association "DabaLaba" - <https://www.facebook.com/dabalabaliving>
Science center "Vizium" - <https://www.facebook.com/viziumventspils>
Association "MUMS" - <https://www.facebook.com/biedriba.mums>



Ventpils design and creativity center "Rade" @dizainadarbnicarade
Science center "Vizium" @viziumventspils



Science center "Vizium" @viziumventspils

In the first months of your ESC project, a significant attention will be put on your inclusion.

Therefore, Latvian language lessons will be provided for you and you will attend in back office activities. Later on, you will be more engaged in the regular activities to become **more confident and autonomous**.

You will also start planning your personal project!

SO...WHAT IS LATVIA?

Although rather small country (almost 2 million inhabitants) Latvia has welcoming people, gorgeous nature and pagan festivities... Check out these amazing, but true facts about beautiful Latvia!

3 FUN FACTS ABOUT LATVIA

1. One of the last corners of Europe to join Christendom, Latvians are still very much pagans at heart. They worship nature by jumping over bonfires at Midsummer Eve, and many surnames are about birds, animals or trees.
2. Latvians are a people to look up to. Latvia has one of the world's tallest women, with the average lady coming in at an impressive 175 cm. The men are no midgets either, holding fourth place.
3. Over half its territory is covered by forest, so Latvia is a very green place. Locals love to pick mushrooms and berries, and at Midsummer young couples duck into the woods to look for the mythical flowering fern. No such plant exists, but the search goes on...

Check out LATVIA:



www.latvia.travel/en



@visit_latvia



youtube.com/c/latviatourism

YOUR NEW HOME VENTSPILS

In your new home town Ventspils you will find harmony between the modern port, innovative plants and factories, and the beautiful and tidy Baltic sea beach that has been flying the Blue Flag since 1999, makes Ventspils a very special place.

Ventspils is a city that won't leave you indifferent !

It is like a small country within a country. There is no need to travel outside Latvia to feel a breath of Europe – you will find everything in Ventspils where even time is counted differently and where flowers, in spite of rhythms of life dictated by nature, break into blossom earlier than in other places of Latvia, and holidaymakers can enjoy an easy walk along city's cobbled streets.

Check out VENTSPILS :



<https://www.visitventspils.com>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/VentspilsVideo>



@visitventspils



WORKING HOURS & HOLIDAYS



Volunteers week is usually **from Monday to Friday, or sometime in the weekend**, depending from activities type, with a max of 35 hours per week.

Flexibility is requested as some events might be on free days, but you'll get them back.

Each week has **2 free days (weekend) + 2 extra free days every month.**

You can collect them and enjoy all together, but always share and discuss your plans with the project coordinator to better organize activities.

Normally, during the summer the big vacation month is July :) You will also get free days during all of the Latvian national holidays.

Latvian national holidays:

- *First day of school - 1st September
- *Lāčplēša diena - 11th November
- *Latvian Independence Day - 18th November
- *Christmas holidays (Ziemassvētki) - 24th till 26th December
- *New Year holidays (Jaunais gads) - 31st December, 1st January
- *Easter holidays (Lieldienas) - 29th and 31st March, 1st April
- *Labor Day, the day of convening the Constitutional Assembly of the Republic of Latvia - 1st May
- *Independence Day of the Republic of Latvia - 4th May
- *Summer solstice celebration (Jāņi) - 23rd till 25th June



MORE INFO



From your home country to Latvia and back to your home country, **will be granted.**

*Monthly pocket money - **5€ per day**

*Monthly support money - **7€ per day**

*Living expenses like rent, housing bills and supplies **will be covered** by organization

*Local transportation in Latvia: www.1188.lv

*Local transportation in Ventspils: runs frequently every 10 min and one way trip costs 1,00€.

Ventspils is a small town and everything is reached in walking distance

*Once you will be approved as a volunteer in this project the **COORDINATING ORGANIZATION** will enroll you in health insurance program.

We encourage you to make your travel to Latvia and back to your home country as green as possible

*Volunteer will be insured through the **Henner** insurance plan and will receive their personal membership card

*More detailed information, here:

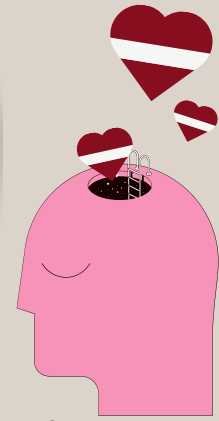
<https://www.henner.com/en/accueil-english/>



***Green travel - Choosing an environmentally friendly mode of transport (bus, train, car, ferry...)**

TIPS

TAKE IT SERIOUSLY



*If you have an **student ISIC card** you will get discounts almost everywhere in Latvia, like, in museums, cafes, cinema etc.

*Don't waste your free time on buses. **WALK OR TAKE THE BIKE!** In Ventspils we have perfect cycling roads trough all of the town.

*If you are a light sleeper **bring an earplugs and sleeping mask.**The sleeping mask will help you out in the summer time as Latvia is in the north of Europe, that means that summer days could be bright till very late at evening.

***Don't use plastic bags**, use your own bags or a shopping ones. Also **don't buy drinking water in plastic bottles**, as in Ventspils the drinking water quality is excellent! So bring or buy your own (non plastic) bottle :)

TAKE IT EASY



*Get to know the locals by **shopping in local market.** It will be also a great way to practice your Latvian skills.

***KEEP CALM!** It will take **SOME TIME** for locals to open up to you, so be patience !!! Latvian hearts warm up slowly, but when they do you will have a friend for lifetime :)

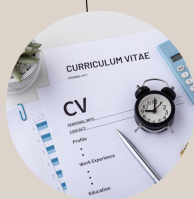
*Don't say no to a tea or a coffee brake. Latvians are hospitable people and **you must try our tea**, because it is usually handpicked and dried tea from our local meadows and forests.

*Enjoy Latvian food but be aware that it will affect your body. **Work out!** In Ventspils we have **many parks and outside gyms** that are accessible all year long!

***REMEMBER!!!** Latvia is a Northern country, so **winters are really cold and** as Ventspils is a town by the Baltic sea **wind is strong all year long.**

STEP BY STEP HOW TO APPLY?

1.



Fill out our Application form in English and don't forget to add your CV :)

2.



...or get in touch with our partners from your country.

3.



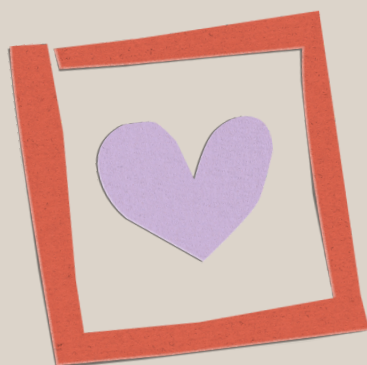
We will contact candidates that we will find suitable.

Interviews will take place via video calls

4.



Got some questions?
For more information don't hesitate to contact us:
info@attistibasfabrika.lv



SEE YOU IN VENTSPILS



biedrība Attīstības fabrika



Association_"Attīstības fabrika" - <https://www.facebook.com/attistibasfabrika>



www.attistibasfabrika.lv



info@attistibasfabrika.lv