

Call for participants

NATURE OF EVS

A space for inspiration, motivation and nurturing of EVS (European Voluntary Service) support persons.

We invite everybody who works with EVS: ex volunteers, coordinators, mentors, trainers, national agencies staff to come for big RE-process: Review your motivation, Rethink your work, Restart your learning process, Rejuvenate your body and Recharge your batteries.

Think of it as a week in a natural spa centre. What would you need for your well-being? Reflection? Information? Networking? Inspiration? Great food? All this will be there. We will provide a very rich programme in which everyone will find their own space. AND - after a very successful first run of the course (Czech Republic, July 2015), and with a lot of valuable feedback, we move to ITALY now!

Nature of EVS is a one-of-a-kind training course which aims to explore in depth the European Voluntary Service (EVS) as a journey for personal transformation and complex growth of all the actors involved, with focus on sustainability and service to ourselves, communities and environment.

WHERE and WHEN?:

9th - 16th November 2015 (including travel days) in central Italy, in the self-managed hostel of Sermugnano: <http://www.muovimente.it/ostello-sermugnano/>

FOR WHOM?

Nature of EVS is a training course for 24 ex volunteers, youth workers, trainers, project coordinators, mentors and National Agencies staff, who:

- are involved with the European Voluntary Service,
- want to deepen their understanding of the nature of EVS as a life journey and experience of service,
- are ready to explore and reflect on these topic in an experiential training course, in a community setting and in closer contact with nature,
- are able and ready to work in English and to attend to the full duration of the course,

OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the complex story of EVS in connection with main aspects of human life, natural cycles and mythology.
- To explore community life and service as a tool for EVS projects beneficial for all actors involved.
- To create space for networking and sharing about EVS and its meanings from different points of view.
- To experience personal strengths and shadows as EVS actors, to learn from it and get inspiration for future work.
- To collect useful tools and motivation for developing EVS into a meaningful sustainable experience in participant's realities.

KEY PROGRAMME ELEMENTS:

We will strongly adapt the programme to the group of participants. However, elements will include reflection on the EVS cycle as a “**Hero’s Journey**” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monomyth>), using **The Way of Council** (http://www.heart-source.com/council/way_of_council.html) as communication practice, building and experiencing **community, challenges in learning**, using **Nature** as a guide, communication and partnership, **storytelling**, the role of **spirituality and rites in education** (and EVS)... and much more.

The course will be based on non-formal education and experiential learning. We will experience different learning and sharing settings, in connection with nature and more traditional ways of living, and use these elements as important components of our learning processes. We invite participants with different levels of experience (from EVS veterans to newcomers) and a substantial part of the program will be based on sharing experience and exchanging good practices and inspiration.

TRAINER TEAM:

Bara Bláhová - Czech Republic, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/BaraBlahova/>

Carmine Rodi Falanga - Italy, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/CarmineRodi/>

Helena Kosková - Czech Republic, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/HelenaKoskova/>

Honza Látal - Czech Republic, trainer profile: <http://trainers.salto-youth.net/JanLatal/>

Want to read about the first edition of the course? Check the blog:

<https://carminerodi.wordpress.com/2015/08/02/nature-of-evs/>

WHERE DOES OUR EXPERIENCE COME FROM?

We have been working on all different positions in the EVS support cycle: all of us have been working as EVS trainers (in average more than 10 years), and some of us have also worked as EVS coordinators, mentors, accreditors, project evaluators and having done EVS ourselves :)

COSTS:

Programme, accommodation, food and travel costs will be financed by Erasmus+ grant.

Participation fee will be based on a sliding scale (according to your choice), from 50 to 120€.

Once selected, the booking of your travel arrangements **or** the payment of a 50 € non-refundable fee will serve as a confirmation of your place.

APPLICATION FORM:

Apply online at: <http://goo.gl/forms/xX1CGel9E9> (to be submitted by October 1st latest).

All applicants will be informed about the selection results by October 6th, and will have one week to confirm.

CONTACT: natureofevs@gmail.com