

EVS vacancies in Russia for 2015-2016!

SFERA is an international youth movement supporting voluntary activities. SFERA is a non-governmental organization that helps to organize international volunteering projects in Russian Federation and send Russian volunteers to other countries.

Support of the volunteers

Before the project starts, we make a connection between EX-volunteer who had already been in the country of the chosen project and worked in the hosting organization and the future EVS volunteer, so that they can have a real exchange of information. Moreover, the hosting organization and contact point outside EVS will give all information about the project, so that the volunteer will get a good overview about the project, its aims and her role.

When arriving in the hosting country, volunteer will attend an On-Arrival Training, with elements of intercultural learning, more about the mentality/culture/language of the country and contact points for crises.

After half-time of the EVS project, the volunteer will attend the mid-term meeting; with similar elements as in the on-arrival training.

The hosting organization will plan together with the volunteer those aims and what they should/would like to do in their project exactly after getting to know the organisation. There will be regularly meetings with the mentor, who will also keep an eye on the well being of the volunteer!



The volunteer will be supported by coordinator of the project (person from Hosting Organization), mentor (Russian volunteer) and person from SFERA (contact point outside EVS).

Mentor is always motivated Russian volunteer with some knowledge about Russian culture, history, city, local community. Mentors are responsible for private life of volunteer; they help volunteer to be involved in local life (invite volunteer to local events, show good places in the city, show volunteer parts of Russian culture).

Conditions

- The volunteer should be aged between 18 and 30 years old.
- The projects last either 10 or 12 months.
- The working hours are 25-30 hours per week (5-6 hours per day). Weekends are free, and volunteer is entitled to 2 days off each month, which can be used separately or accumulated and used as a holiday.
- The volunteer gets 55 euro pocket money directly to the personal account from the sending organization.
- The volunteer lives either in host family or shares apartment with other international volunteers. In both cases volunteer has his/her own room and is provided with necessary kitchen equipment, bed linen, etc.

- The volunteer gets 100 euro per month for food and his/her transport costs around the city (home-work-home) are covered.
- Health insurance is provided by EVS grant and volunteers have access to wide variety of medical institutions in the city in case of illness.
- Volunteers are obliged to take part in on-arrival training and mid-term evaluation together with all volunteers hosted in Russia at the same period.
- The volunteer will have a language course, organized by hosting organization.



VISA

According to Russian law, foreigners can get 1-year visa to Russia ONLY if they're students (therefore, invited by educational institution) or employees officially hired by organization. Volunteering doesn't fall into any of these categories therefore maximum visa we can provide is 90 days, after that volunteer has to go back to home country and apply for a new one. The trip takes 10-14 days and travel costs are covered by the grant. Time spent to obtain the visa isn't counted as holidays.

Application procedure

SFERA promotes available vacancies via network of partners, youthnetworks web-site and own web-site. Moreover, description of each hosting organization is placed in database on the web-site of European Commission. Volunteers are asked to apply with specific form of CV and ML. Skype interview is held. If the hosting organization accepts the volunteer, following procedures for EVS placement are held. Beginning date of the project is stated in advance - however, the duration can be determined during communication of volunteer, SFERA and SO.

1. Karelian regional public youth educational organization "Centre" Initiative"

About the organization: <http://www.centrinit.ru/>

The Centre "Initiative" is a Karelian regional non-profit youth educational organization specializing in foreign languages courses for Petrozavodsk citizens, in Russian courses for foreigners, in educational exchanges and volunteering programs abroad and in volunteering projects in Karelia. The Centre "Initiative" has good experience of implementing local social projects aimed at promoting of volunteering and intercultural communication. Participation of EVS volunteer will make our work and our projects wider and more intensive. Mission of the organization is to help young people realize their potentials for successful integration into modern society.

About the city: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petrozavodsk>



Our implements following activities:

1. Development and implementation of social projects aimed to promoting volunteering in Karelia Region. For 7 years we have implemented 16 projects, with the support of the republican authorities, public organizations, Russian and foreign grants. Within the non-profit projects, more than 1000 young people were trained and they provided social services to more than 10 000 representatives of different target groups.

2. International volunteer projects in Karelia. Since 2006, we organize social projects in

Karelia with the participation of foreign volunteers. Every year we make Language Camp "Northern Theatre" for children from the city Pitkyaranta, rehabilitation camp for children with disabilities on the basis of the fund "Kentavr", an international volunteering camp "Meeting of cultures: mix of cultures» in Petrozavodsk.

3. "Centre" Initiative" published 5 manuals. 5 events of national importance were held: the conference "Volunteer movement in Karelia" (2005), 2 meetings of the Republican volunteers (2007, 2008), 2 contests "Volunteer of the Year" (2007 and 2008), we are working on registration Karelian Center of volunteering.

4. Youth cultural exchange programs, including the possibility of obtaining additional and higher education abroad for youth.

5. Foreign language courses "No to the language barrier" for young people and adults. There is a language Studio - Club, which can be visited for free. Every year more than 250 people improve their language level during language courses.

6. School of Russian as a Foreign Language «Enjoy Russian». Over 7 years of school existence, more than 500 foreign nationals from Europe, USA, Mexico and Japan have improved knowledge of Russian language, got acquainted with the traditions and culture of Karelia.

The primary activities of the volunteers are:

- create opportunities for schoolchildren, young and adult people to meet people from other countries for learning more about their cultures from first hand
- provide the opportunity to get acquainted with a new foreign language or to practice foreign languages
- encourage interested participants to enhance their awareness of languages and cultures
- promote intercultural dialogue, understanding and exchange among young people

- preparing the events of the “Language Club” for young and adult people (choosing the main theme, making up the scenario, looking for interesting materials, preparing some decoration). We’re planning to organize the following events: the day of national games, the mind game for children, the international camp for children, the international summer school, the events connected to different holiday (April Fool’s Day, Earth Day), the events for children “Young Learners”, working with children from orphanages of Karelian region and children with the physical and mental disabilities;
- preparing and carrying the series of master classes of different languages with the native speakers (English, German, Turkish, Spanish, etc.)
- preparing and carrying out the events for schoolchildren (choosing the main theme, making up the scenario, looking for interesting materials, preparing some decoration)
- organizing the work of the English Discussion Club (choosing topics, leading the discussions).



Selection’s process:

All the candidates are presented to the hosting organization and they volunteer is selected on the following criteria:

- motivation to work with youth and children;
- readiness to learn Russian and to communicate in Russian; Knowledge of Russian is advisable.
- readiness to promote culture;
- organizing skills; creativity and artistic skills (drawing, singing, dancing) are welcome.

Volunteers needed: 1.

Starting date - 01/11/15-01/09/2016 or 01/02/2016-01/12/2016.

2. Nizhny Novgorod region non-governmental organization of assistance to children and youth «Veras»

About the organization: <http://veras.nnov.ru/>

The primary objective of the organization is creation to children and young people with disabilities equal opportunities of participation in the life of society, their social adaptation and integration into society.

In February 2004 for the first time in the city of Nizhny Novgorod on the basis of the municipal establishment of help to children and family “Zhuravushka” has opened Service of social adaptation of children and youth with disabilities “Steps”. 14 children and young people from 5 till 20 years, having autism, Down syndrome, learning and other combined limitations, daily visit day-stay groups of the Service “Steps”, where they are engaged in creativity, transactions, visit musical occupations, exercise room, bowling. The majority of these children and young people have never attended any educational establishment before, as they were recognized to be “unteachable”; many have never been somewhere outside their flat and the yard, communicating only with close relatives.

Specially worked out comprehensive program of rehabilitation and social adaptation “Steps” enables these children and young people to receive adaptive training, to be integrated step-by-step into society, to develop skills of self-service. This program is based on the attitude to the person with disabilities as to the individual, who, except for elementary needs, has also rights to education, self-expression, communication with other people and development of the personal potential.

About the city: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nizhny_Novgorod



Our implements following activities:

- affiliation of parents for protection of rights of children with features in development;
- social and psychological rehabilitation of children and youth with disabilities, as well as their parents;
- creation of centers of social adaptation for children and young invalids,
- organization of support employment, vocational training of the young people with disabilities;
- organization of seminars for specialists,

parents, teenagers and young people;

- holding conferences on exchange of the experience;
- attraction of the societies' attention to problems of people with disabilities, development and promotion of the community based rehabilitation programs.

The primary activities of the volunteers are:

Our organization can offer a wide range of activities for EVS volunteers. First of all, they can help in the day-stay centre where children and youngsters with different disabilities stay during the day. The tasks for the volunteer are: playing with children, helping them in socially-domestic adapting, making small workshops on handicrafts. Our pedagogues are ready to teach volunteer working with our children. We have a thoroughly prepared program of activities for developing children's intellectual and speaking abilities, and volunteer will help in carrying out different lessons and give personal assistance to children. If the volunteer can play any musical instrument, he could arrange musical hours for children.

During summer holidays, our children go to the summer camp “Young Nizhegorodets” (about 60 km from the city). There’s a possibility that the volunteer will stay there with children, carrying out the same activities, but mostly outside.

Nowadays we’re also launching a pilot project, within the program of which people from 18 years suffering from autism are taught to live independently and integrate into the community. Help of the volunteers might also be needed there. Volunteer together with the pedagogue would accompany our clients, helping them with cooking, walking with them, going with them to the shop etc.

But the work of our organization is not just everyday working with children, we’re also always ready to develop and go further. Thus, volunteer will have the opportunity to take part in our conferences, help with fundraising and take part in numerous events we’re organizing (sport, cultural, educational, etc.).

We involve volunteers into our day-to day activities and normally they're working in one group during their whole project - depending on the age of children. First we discuss with them what age group they think is most suitable for them, and if they don't feel like it's ok for them, they go to the other group where it's most comfortable for them.

Selection’s process:

Volunteers will be selected on the following criteria:

- readiness and motivation to work with our target group - disabled people (it would be favourable if volunteer was planning to work in this field in the future or worked before). Volunteer should fully realize all possible difficulties he may face in the beginning of the project
- readiness to work hard, because it’s not so easy to work in conditions different from the ones he had in his own country
- readiness to learn Russian and to communicate in Russian.

Volunteers needed: 3.

Starting date - 01/11/15-01/09/2016 and 01/02/2016-01/12/2016.

3. Special (correctional) Primary School № 365

About the organization:

Special (correctional) Primary School № 365 was founded in 1993 for children with problem with musculoskeletal system, including cerebral palsy. At the beginning, there were two pre-school groups that were visited by 22 children. Then the need became wider and wider, the new equipment appeared, innovative methods of correction, training and education of children with disabilities started to be used.

Currently, in the institution there are 5 groups of preschool for children from 1 year 6 months and 4 classes of primary school. In school friendly staff is working. It is the teachers (educators, teachers, speech therapists, teachers, speech pathologists), and health professionals (doctors, nurses) staff. All together we have 65 qualified employees.

The school's main aim is to create conditions for improving the quality of education, health improvement and recovery processes during the transition to new models of education for children with developmental problems.

About the city:

The project is located in Nizhny Novgorod, which was founded in 1221 and has a population about 1 500 000 people nowadays. This is the fifth largest city in Russia and it's situated at the intersection of 2 huge rivers - Oka and Volga. Nizhny Novgorod is a capital of Volga Federal district and this is a trade and industrial centre. A lot of traditional Russian arts were born in Nizhny Novgorod land - Khokhloma, Gorodets, Metal decoration etc. The great Russian poet - Pushkin had lands here. Nizhny Novgorod region is a motherland of great Russian Saint - Seraphim Sarovskiy, so this is a place of pilgrimage of Orthodox believers.



In the soviet times Nizhny Novgorod (Gorkiy) was a closed city, so people did not have many chances to communicate with foreigners. Nizhny Novgorod has quite strong relations with Germans, because of the twin city - Essen. There are some cultural centres in Nizhny Novgorod - Alliance Française, Japanese centre, Swedish centre, Czech and Austrian centres etc. So foreigners can find people speaking on their mother tongues there.

Inhabitants in Nizhny lead a measured mode of life; their life's temp is not so intensive like in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. But, at the same time, there is a lot of opportunity for self-realization and emotional life here - extreme sports, night clubs, museums, theatres, parks, fitness centres, libraries etc. Everybody can find a way to be satisfied in his interests and hobbies.

Our implements following activities:

- Forming the optimal level of preparation of pupils to study in the next stage of general education.
- Improving conditions for maximum correction and compensation of disturbed psycho-physical features of pupils and students.
- Stimulating creativity of teachers to create educational programs and professional development and promotion of the positive experience of staff.

- Expanding rehabilitation route for graduates of institutions due to their inclusion in mainstream education (inclusion and integration).

Work of the school includes:

- Education of public (governmental) education programs;
- Correction classes with teachers;
- Rehabilitation activities, which are carried out by medical staff working in the school;
- Determination of rehabilitation route for pupils.

Forms of teaching children in the school are very different. There are lessons with a teacher, private lessons with a teacher, speech therapist, and lessons with educational psychologist. These are mini-group classes, where children learn about teamwork, get communication skills.

The primary activities of the volunteers are:

Volunteers will acquire a range of knowledge, skills and experience including a much greater understanding of issues affecting disabled children. They will also gain improved interpersonal skills and the ability to interact with a wide range of people, as well as specific skills (for example, volunteer will learn how to teach small children, how to deal with them, how to keep their attention for long time). They will have the chance to learn about Russian culture but also other European cultures and learn from people with different backgrounds.

Possible tasks for the volunteer in the project are:

- to develop mental and social skills of children through their communication and common activities with volunteers;
- to help children with crafts and sport lessons;
- to organize creative workshops for children;



There are optional tasks for the volunteers. S/he can organize English clubs, games for the children, if the volunteer has enough knowledge. And also volunteer can be asked by the staff of organization to help to prepare materials for lessons, games, manuals etc. as well as to translate necessary information about organizations into English or volunteer's native

languages to make that information available for international community (if the volunteer has skills to do it).

Selection's process:

The selection process involved a written CV, Motivation letter and possibly skype interview. All the candidatures will be discussed by hosting organization and we'll make a decision based on results of interview and CV/motivation letter.

Volunteer doesn't have to have any specific skills or knowledge for this project. Criteria for selection will include:

- motivation;
- readiness to learn Russian and to communicate in Russian;

- flexibility;
- openness;
- interpersonal skills;
- patience and warmth;
- wish to work with children with disabilities.

The most important criteria is strong motivation to do voluntary service and learn a lot from the project!

Volunteers needed: 2.

Starting date - 01/09/15-01/06/2016



If you're interested to apply for our projects, please send application form (can be downloaded [here](#)) to sfera.evs@gmail.com by 21th of April. Please mention the name of organization that you're applying for.

IMPORTANT! Last page of the application form is to be filled in by your sending organization. Without it, application will not be considered. If you don't have it, you can search for it here http://europa.eu/youth/evs_database

We also invite you to watch 24-minute movie about life of our EVS volunteers in Nizhny Novgorod <http://mirtv.ru/programms/13243/episode/9724938>, as well as about EVS day in Kirov <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfoXBR10lmU> and video-gift from our EVS volunteer in SFERA office ReelikaPaju (Estonia) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSU55ASAbBg>. This will probably give you a better insight in what's going on here ;)

With any questions please write to sfera.evs@gmail.com(Maria).