



Infopack

EVS IN A SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR MINORS IN PUTIGNANO, ITALY



Hosting Organization: A Modo Loro
When: September 2018 – August 2019
Who: 2 Volunteers
Where: Putignano (Bari), Italy

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

A Modo Loro is a social Cooperative based in Putignano, in the province of Bari. It has been active since August 2013. A Modo Loro directs its services in particular to minors, through the activities of the socio-educational Center and, in summer, through summer camps. Moreover, the Cooperative also offers some services addressed to individuals, such as the assessment of learning disabilities; speech therapy and psychomotricity.



Since September 2013, A Modo Loro has been managing a socio-educational day Center which hosts 30 children with socialization problems and children exposed to the risk of marginalization, in constant collaboration with the local institutes that deal with children (Social Services, local health services, schools, Juvenile Court etc.). The Center offers the possibility to dine, study, play and perform laboratory activities.

The Centre also pays special attention to children with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), through diagnostic assessments, rehabilitation and after-school activities specialized in SLD. After-school activities provide educational support to students who have difficulties at school, in order to achieve adequate levels of performance and promote better school and social integration.

The activities of the Center are oriented primarily towards four specific areas, through prevention and educational development interventions:

- 🌸 the field of social disadvantage and poverty which includes all those who live in suburban districts or who, for reasons related to the context or to particular existential paths, have a disadvantage in access to resources compared to other individuals of the same community;
- 🌸 the field of school dropout, specifically related to the spread of the phenomena of abandonment and discontinuity in schooling, and which is, at the same time, an indicator of social disadvantage, but also a trigger of marginality and social exclusion;
- 🌸 the field of the maximum solicitation of personal resources of each child;
- 🌸 the field of learning disabilities.

The main activities of the Center concern:

- 🌸 welcoming and assistance at the beginning and the end of the service;
- 🌸 school support, in particular referred to the method of study and understanding of the text;
- 🌸 specific educational workshops to support individual educational path of each student (metacognitive, graphomotor laboratories, those related to self-esteem etc.);
- 🌸 organization of educational and recreational activities structured on objectives of socialization and development of creative and proposal abilities;
- 🌸 canteen service;
- 🌸 scheduled meetings with parents for the evaluation and assessment of individual situations;
- 🌸 informative meetings with parents and teachers to ensure the continuity of the educational method;
- 🌸 information-training activities and support for parental skills, on SLD and other issues.

In summer, A Modo Loro organizes the summer Center, during which it alternates activities to promote social inclusion and integration in Putignano districts, outdoor activities (especially in nature), free games and trips out of town and to the seaside.

PROJECT CONTEXT

Putignano is a town of almost 30 thousand inhabitants, located in the south of Bari and about 2% of inhabitants have foreign origins.



It is famous for its Carnival, one of the oldest in Italy. Putignano, until a few years ago, was strongly oriented to the industry, especially in textile and dairy. The economic crisis brought many of the oldest companies to close. Nevertheless, the town continues to demonstrate its inclination to economic dynamism, investing in tourism linked to carnival events that include the biggest parades of carnival floats in the winter and also many smaller cultural events, such as Propaggini and Summer Parade.

Morphologically, Putignano spreads over three hills, about 370 m above sea level; for this reason many city streets are often steep enough to make it difficult to use bicycles for trips. Urban mobility is made possible thanks to bus lines that daily ply the streets. There is also the South - East railway station connecting Putignano to seaside. **Putignano is about 40 km far from the regional capital Bari, to which it is connected both by the South - East railways and by the bus lines.**

Also it is only 20 km far from Monopoli, a tourist resort on the Adriatic coast, and 13 km from Alberobello, the famous city of Trulli.

The Cooperative works with the inhabitants of remote areas, in contexts of poverty, unemployment and marginalization.

The Centre seeks in particular to reduce the high school drop-out rate, which can lead to the emergence of deviant behaviour.

Children who attend the structure are between 6 and 18

years old and come from complex family situations, economic and cultural disadvantage. They also have learning disabilities that cause them emotional distress and frustration, greatly increasing the chances of a school defection.



Moreover, in recent years the phenomenon of migration in this area has grown extensively. The arrival of foreigners is frequently subject to negative attitudes of ignorance, fear, and the strong stereotypes and prejudices of the local community.

MAIN ACTIVITIES IN WHICH VOLUNTEERS WILL BE INVOLVED

Volunteers will be involved in the following activities:

- 🌸 Support in the afterschool programme: open Monday to Friday from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Here we offer scholastic support to around 30 children and adolescents, in particular to children who live in suburban districts and are exposed to the risk of marginalization;
- 🌸 Participation in the specific educational support to children with Specific Learning Disabilities;
- 🌸 Support in the organization of educational and recreational activities structured on objectives of socialization and development of creative and proposal abilities;
- 🌸 Presence to the canteen service with the educators, children and adolescents of the Center, as an important occasion of socialization, providing good models for the minors;
- 🌸 Support in the organization and implementation of "R...estate a Putignano": Summer camp activities offering educational and leisure time activities to children and youngsters. In this

period the activities will be mainly carried out during the morning and the seat will vary as a function of the program; it is in fact provided for seaside camps, trips and tours.



ACCOMMODATION & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A Modo Loro will locate a flat in Putignano for the 2 EVS Volunteers with a double room, a bathroom and a kitchen. We will also provide an amount that will be sufficient to go shopping and eat at home in the evening and the days of rest. Lunch of working days instead will be provided in the canteen.

A Pocket money of 5 euro per day will be provided monthly.

The travel expenses will be refunded on the basis defined by the European Commission.

HOW TO APPLY

Send as soon as possible the CV and the application form to candidature.sve@associazionejoint.org with the subject line "Application for A Modo Loro EVS". Only shortlisted people will be contacted to arrange a Skype interview.

Thank you everybody for your interest and time,

GOOD LUCK!