

VOLUNTEERING IN RESIDENTIAL CENTERS FOR CHILDREN and ADOLESCENTS INCLUDED UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS



Who: 2 volunteers

Where: La Comunità Cooperativa Sociale Onlus - Genova, Italy

How long: 12 months - February 2019 - January 2020



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

la Comunità onlus
cooperativa sociale



About us



The Cooperative La Comunità is a social enterprise active in Genoa since 1979 in the field of educational activities to combat and prevent minors' distress and sustain fragile families through the design and management of socio-educational, animation and cultural services.

It works in cooperation with other cooperatives, volunteering organizations and public institutions.

Our work focuses on the promotion of children and

families' active participation in care intervention. With this approach, the cooperative's work doesn't limit to the provision of services, but aims at building a culture based on solidarity and hospitality and to value families and citizens' potential contribution to social life. Furthermore, the management of socio-educational services aims at people's social reintegration and the creation of opportunities for its happening reducing the risk of social exclusion.

The cooperative offers project design and management of socio-educational services in different areas:

children and childhood, adults in difficulty, elderly people and community development.

ESC volunteers' activities context

Since 2014, La Comunità is part of the "Emergenza Sbarchi" (Disembark emergency) project run by Prefettura, thus managing hosting placements for asylum seekers. It also runs a CAS (Centri di accoglienza straordinaria - extraordinary hosting centres) for asylum seekers. In these centres professionals are supporting people in understanding Italian reality, in their legal process for asylum request and in schooling and training paths aimed at social and working integration.

Concerning high threshold services for minors, La Comunità has two different kinds of services: Daily educational centre (Comunità Educativa a ciclo diurno - CED) and socio-educational centres (Centro Socio Educativi - CSDE). Concerning residential high threshold services for minors, La Comunità is managing a CEA (Comunità Educativa d'Accoglienza Residenziale- Educational Residential Centres) in Municipio Centro Est in

Genova, placed in Via Edilio Raggio which is hosting 9 minors aged 6-18 years old under Genoa Municipality accreditation and authorization. CEA are hosting male and female minors who are living in a risky or prejudicial situation with personal distress situations and also with severe behavioural problems who are taken in by social services and for whom a temporary separation from natural family has been assessed as needed to guarantee the supreme interest of the child.

CEA is operating in intensive and highly risky educational situations, with the aim of trying to reconnect, sustain and develop all relationships involving children and adolescent users. In the CEA they can live, grow, study, have fun and create significant relationships with peers and educators. Activities are structured in a way to guarantee both group and autonomous spaces to the users.

La Comunità has recently opened up a residential centre for unaccompanied foreign minors called "Tuin - Il giardino" in Genova, where 16 minors are living and developing their personal project towards the reaching of the coming of age with the support of educators in cooperation with Genoa Municipality.

Examples of daily activities include:

- **recreational activities for children and adolescents such as games, and workshops**
- **Scholastic and linguistic support for children and adolescents**
- **Overall support to children, adolescents and staff members in the daily activities such as pedagogical support, short trips and visits, sport activities, taking care of the common spaces and sharing meals.**

Local context

Genova (Genoa) the most important port of the Mediterranean and one of the most important ports in Europe, it is the sixth most populated city in Italy and is part of the industrial triangle that connects Turin and Milan. Its privileged location, as the "door to the Mediterranean", has made Genoa one of the most prosperous financial and commercial centers and one of the most influential of the West.

The city of Genoa has in recent decades been going through a time of economic and social hardship caused by the de-industrialization and impoverishment of the economy in general. For this reason, the Ligurian capital has undertaken in the last 20 years a significant process of urban renewal.

The activity of La Comunità is spread all over the city in different neighborhoods. EVS volunteers will live in the city center in an apartment provided by the Supporting Organization P.E.CO. and use local transports.

Volunteer profile and selection process

The ideal volunteer is autonomous, mature and responsible, open to share and meet other people and, above all, motivated to join our activities. Volunteer should be aware of its extremely important role in the centre and available to cooperate to the educative and

training process of La Comunità. Since this involves a delicate role in contact with young people that often come from complex family situations, the volunteer must be fitted with qualities such as tolerance, patience, firmness, creativity, and above all excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates should send their CV, motivational letter and filled in questionnaire to the supporting organization (P.E.CO. - Progetti Europei di Cooperazione) at this email address: sve@peco.genova.it no later than January 20th. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a Skype interview.

