

# VOLUNTEERING IN DAILY EDUCATIONAL CENTERS FOR CHILDREN



Who: 2 volunteers

Where: La Comunità Cooperativa Sociale Onlus - Genova, Italy

How long: 12 months - February 2019 - January 2020



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

**laComunità** 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

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).

CED is a semi-residential service offering daily hospitality for minors living in complex and high-risk contexts, for those it is possible to perform safeguard action also at home because parents, despite having great difficulties, maintain a highly significant relation with children and are available to undertake a process of parental capacity empowerment. CED are implementing protection services that can prevent minor's institutionalization, activating de-institutionalization processes with the minor's family involvement.

CED usually hosts children living in the nearby who are having personal, relational, behavioural and developing problems; who are in need of individual educational interventions; who are placed in complex family and social situations, with high educational distress but not requiring removal from the family; whose families are available to undertake a process for parental capacities empowerment. CSDE works in a high risk area, trying to avoid the breaking of family ties and to reconstruct, sustain and develop all relationships involving the minors, so to invert the tendency towards marginalization. Through daily educational action, it provides special and flexible tools able to accompany the minor and his/her family also through temporary crisis.

Taking in charge methodology for minors and family within CSED refers to a relational and participatory approach where the relation is not only the object of the intervention but one of its most important working tools. Obviously all actions do not concern only minor and his/her attending the centre, but the overall eco-systemic dimensions useful for the improvement of parents-child relation and the reinforcement of resilience capacities within the family unit: a space for listening with free access for parents once per week, family-groups for confrontation and dialogue on parents-children relation.

La Comunità currently runs three CSED for Italian and foreign pre-adolescents and adolescents.

Volunteers will either be involved in all structures or in one/two, according to the number of minors hosted at the moment of the service and to volunteers' attitude.

### **Examples of daily activities include:**

- **recreational activities for children and adolescents such as games, and workshops**
- **Scholastic 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](mailto:sve@peco.genova.it) no later than January 20th. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a Skype interview.**

