

# ESC PROJECT

## "LET'S LIVE EUROPE IN SARTHE"

IS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS – 3 OPPORTUNITIES LEFT!



LE MANS, SARTHE, FRANCE // EDUCATION & YOUTH

11 MONTHS (ARRIVAL DAY: as soon as possible – END JULY 2024)



*“Let's live Europe in Sarthe” is a collective ESC project in the region of Le Mans, in France, that involves 14 volunteers in different places of volunteering, with a common goal: to educate on Europe, cultural diversity, mobility, and help people to get more easily in touch with Europe in making it more concrete by exchanging with people from different European countries. We strongly believe that meeting others can help strengthening open-mindedness, equality, diversity, and citizenship, and our team of volunteers is taking on this challenge all year long!”*

The House of Europe (“Maison de l'Europe” in French) manages several European mobility projects, in particular European volunteering projects (European Solidarity Corps).

This guide provides information about the 3 volunteer opportunities that are still available.

- Volunteering at the House of Europe (volunteer found)
- Volunteering at the social center of Le Grand-Lucé (volunteer found)
- **Volunteering at the rural boarding schools MFR (6 volunteer opportunities, 5 already found; except for MFR of Fye)**
- Volunteering at Joseph Roussel high school (volunteer found)
- Volunteering at the “Les Horizons” high school (volunteer found)
- **Volunteering at the municipality of the town of Le Mans (2 volunteer opportunities, 1 still available)**
- Volunteering at the municipality of the town of Rouillon (1 volunteer opportunity) (already filled)
- **Volunteering at the municipality of Saint-Georges du Bois (still available)**

## The role of the House of Europe

The House of Europe has a coordination role and provides the financial and administrative management of the project. Administrative work, management of accommodation and transport for the volunteers, payment of allowances, are as well organized by the House of Europe. Questions about daily life at the volunteering place, the missions and the activities are managed by the host institution and the tutor. The House of Europe has a supporting and mediating role. For every project, the volunteers have a tutor in each place where they daily volunteer.

## Aims of the projects

The goals of the different projects are very similar: the idea is to make people in our region Sarthe aware of the European Union, to encourage interculturalism and openness to others, and to make the (young) people you work with aware that European mobility is also possible for them. By welcoming European volunteers all year, the public of the different places will be able to deconstruct their prejudices and be less afraid of differences, while learning to interact with someone from another culture. All the volunteers are linked to develop common projects and enhance the presence of European volunteers in the region of Sarthe.



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

*Your food, accommodation, insurance, pocket money and your travel costs will be covered by the European Solidarity Corps program.*

**Travel:** You will be reimbursed on a base of a budget depending on your means of transportation and the country you are traveling from (from 180€ to 410€ for roundtrip.)

**Accommodation:** You will have your own room in a shared house near the center of Le Mans, with easy access to local transportation for your daily commutes. Common spaces are shared with other volunteers.

**Monthly expenses:** You will get each month money for your food, and pocket money, transferred in your bank account at the end of the month you have just done. Pocket money is 210€/month, and food money is either 210€/month + lunch offered at the school canteen on workdays or 240€/month if no lunches are covered.

**Language:** You will have access to the EU Academy platform for online French classes, and you will have the possibility to take part in French classes at the university of Le Mans.

**Dates:** 11 months mission from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August (arrival day in France: 22<sup>nd</sup> of August) to the end of July.

**Planning:** You will volunteer for about 30 hours per week smoothed over the year. You will not volunteer on weekends -excepts maybe 3-4 times during the year-. For every volunteering month you have 2 days off, so 22 days for the whole mission.

**Training:** The French ESC Agency organizes 2 seminars (one on arrival and one mid-term for about a week, with other ESC volunteers in France). All expenses are fully covered.

**Common project:** You will take part in common project in between volunteers and common meetings throughout the year.

**Insurance:** You will be covered by Henner insurance scheme from the European Commission.

**Local transportation:** You will be provided a card to use tramways and buses of Le Mans and surroundings unlimited + the mean of transportation for your daily commute + a bike + a discount card for French railways.

**Application process:** After reading our infopack, you want to be part of this adventure?

You can go on our website to download the application form : <https://europe-en-sarthe.eu/the-projet-lets-live-europe-en-sarthe-is-looking-for-new-volunteers/>

Application is complete with the application form, your cv, and a little video. Once complete, you can send it to [evs@europe-en-sarthe.eu](mailto:evs@europe-en-sarthe.eu)

Zoom calls will be organized to meet and check if the project is right for you 😊

# LET'S LIVE EUROPE IN RURAL AREAS

This project involves 6 volunteers from different European Union countries. Each one of them will volunteer in one of the 6 boarding schools who are local training centers for teenagers from the surroundings of Le Mans, in the department of Sarthe in France. The local training centers are called: the “Maisons Familiales Rurales” or MFR (literary translated as the “rural family houses”).



MFR hosts young pupils having difficulties with the French traditional school system and who are looking for a new way of learning. The MFRs are in our region Sarthe and each MFR is in a different village. The 6 volunteers will be accommodated together in a house in Le Mans, the biggest town of the department, but each of them will have to go by car or by public transportation to its MFR. Some MFRs provide a car to the volunteer to go to the MFR (1-hour round trip per day). Other volunteers need to take the train (2-hour round trip per day).

One of the challenges of this project is to bring Europe in rural areas toward pupils who have no knowledge at all about Europe and its countries. Therefore, the transports issue is important, and all applicants must have a driving license.

In the MFR, young people and adults find a pleasant environment especially adapted to develop their abilities. The school ensures the pupils full boarding and organizes lots of collective activities so that everyone works with one another. It also tries to open pupil's minds to cultural life thanks to activities led during the day or the evening and prepares youngsters and adults to a successful integration into society in which they can find a place and take responsibilities. The volunteer will be asked to organize and lead some of these collective activities.

The volunteers will follow and help the “moniteurs” (teachers) in their daily tasks. The “moniteurs” stay all day long at the MFR. They have various functions: they facilitate good relations in the group, they teach, they take an active part in the education aim while supporting each youngster's project. They are qualified to implement the alternance training system and they know very well the “Maison Familiale Rurale's” environment, youngsters, their families and the training managers.



In the MFR's you will sleep once or twice a week at school, after leading activities in the evening. Also, you will have lunch (and dinner and breakfasts) at the MFR canteen.

#### Missions for you :

- You will be considered as a full member of the team and will be included in the daily work of each center.
- You will develop your sense of initiative, gain new skills and knowledge through the organization of different activities for the MFR (workshops, courses, individual support, sports, games, presentations, lectures)
- You will work with teenagers by using non-formal learning's methods.
- During the project, you will mainly be in touch with the young people that are hosted in the MFR, and you will be as well encouraged to submit and implement your own projects, with possibilities of partnership with other local organizations.
- You will act as an ambassador of your country, and thus you will promote values such as diversity and interculturality.
- You will organize and lead some of the collective activities.

MFRs are all based on the same system, 50% of the time in school, and 50% internships. They propose several degrees:

- Orientation classes, to get a first diploma and discover a working environment, for 14- and 15-years old pupils.
- Professional baccalaureate in different fields.
- Higher education program (not in all MFRs).

Watch the full movie about the project: <https://bit.ly/2OnQx8q> or take 7 minutes to watch the sum up: [https://youtu.be/1JkSD\\_derOQ](https://youtu.be/1JkSD_derOQ)

**The MFR of Fyé** welcomes young people from aged 14 to 20 (80% of them are girls). This is a rather small MFR (80 students) with a very friendly and familial atmosphere. Main focuses: Healthcare and services / Social / Agriculture.

- Orientation classes.
- Professional baccalaureate degree called SAPAT to prepare young people for several care-based jobs, such as working with children, caring for the elderly and the disabled people, activities related to tourism, community center activities...

➔ 37 minutes commute with the train from Le Mans to La Hutte Coulombiers (3km from the MFR).

➔ <https://www.mfr-fye.fr/>

This mission is for you if: You are willing to spend your time with teenagers and get to know them / You are creative and autonomous / You don't mind long days with transportation / You are willing to share about your culture, your country. / You value non formal education / You are open-minded, and outgoing / You are willing to learn and use French daily.

# THE TOWN OF LE MANS

The mission is a mix with two services of the city, the Childhood Youth and Sport Service, and the Education Service. The volunteer will be on mission on 2 distinct structures: In the morning at Education, and in the afternoon at EJS during school term.



**The Childhood Youth and Sports Service (EJS) of the City of Le Mans is made up of 3 departments, Youth, Childhood and Sport, and has 200 employees. Within this large service, it is the youth center made up of 25 agents, who will physically welcome the volunteer.**

Three main axes on which the volunteer will be involved guide the work of the service:

1 - Highlights: major events that have become unmissable for 13–30-year-olds are offered by the Youth center of the City of Le Mans. These events are prepared in direct connection with the young people themselves who are involved in the construction of the projects.

2 - Activities: The Childhood, Youth and Sports department offers sports and cultural activities to be as close as possible to the expectations of young people. It promotes their practices while transmitting the positive values of cohesion and solidarity of each discipline.

3 - Initiatives: The Childhood, Youth and Sports department supports and accompanies projects and initiatives young people. It values their resources and develops autonomy and the spirit of initiative by considering them as fully-fledged actors in their lives and their territory.

**The Education department of the City of Le Mans operates with 950 people. All its activities are offered during the 36 weeks of school, and during school holidays. On average each year, schools in the city of Le Mans educate 11,155 kids.**

It will be proposed to the volunteer to act alongside the municipal agents but also to intervene with the young public in as part of the following municipal activities:

1 - During extracurricular times: before and after school, the City of Le Mans offers to welcome children, families can use this service. On average, 1,700 children attend after-school care every day.

2 - Wednesday afternoons: the leisure centers welcome 3–15-year-olds on Wednesdays during the school term. The children take part in educational, sporting, and cultural activities. On average, 800 children attend leisure centers every Wednesday afternoon.

## Missions

- *Your role will be to propose after-school-activities to the children of primary schools.*
- *You will be in contact with teachers and students in secondary schools to promote the European Union, solidarity and mobility programs.*
- *You will help to organize youth activities, events and festivals taking place during weekends (about art and music) or school holidays (organization of sport courses, photo-press-radio sessions, and other).*
- *You can contribute to inform and organize your own activities for young people (exhibitions, language exchanges, video contests...) in the Youth Information Point of the city and you will invite to share about your experience as European volunteer.*

*This mission is for you if: You are comfortable with kids and teenagers as an activity leader. You are willing to speak French. You are flexible and eager to discover lots of different activities and meeting new people.*

# THE TOWN OF SAINT-GEORGES-DU-BOIS

*Saint-Georges-du-Bois is a French commune in the Sarthe department, in the Pays de la Loire region. Located 8 kilometers from Le Mans, this peri-urban town has about 2,200 inhabitants and hosts many services: bakery, restaurant, bar-tobacco shop, supermarket, medical and paramedical office, pharmacy, dentist, nursery school, etc. It is part of the urban community of Le Mans Métropole. It's the first time the municipality of Saint-Georges-du-Bois will be welcoming a volunteer, as they are the latest hosting organisation to join our project in 2023, motivated by the experience in other towns nearby.*



Under the authority of the mayor and the municipal council, municipal services are divided into several poles:

- The Trompe-Souris school welcomes 220 children from 3 to 11 years old, divided into 9 classes (3 kindergarten classes and 6 elementary classes).
- The school canteen serves children meals prepared on site by the cook and his assistant cook. The school restaurant highlights quality products (organic, Label Rouge, etc.), favoring short circuits, which has allowed it to be rewarded by obtaining the maximum level of labeling of the Pays du Mans.
- The extracurricular reception allows children to be welcomed before and after school (from 7:30 a.m. in the morning and until 6:30 p.m. in the evening). The team in charge of taking care of the children offers a variety of activities adapted to the age of the children.
- The town hall, located in the center of the town, is the privileged place of information and information for citizens. The administrative services offered concern civil status (marriages, deaths, births), town planning (requests for building permits), the Post Office (sending and receiving mail and parcels), and all the problematic everyday situations that require an accompaniment.
- The cultural space, located opposite the town hall, houses the library (loan of books to the inhabitants of the town) and organizes various cultural activities, particularly for the children of the town. It is labeled Point Europe by the Maison de l'Europe "Le Mans – Sarthe".
- The technical services are responsible for the maintenance of municipal buildings and green spaces (flowering of the municipality, size and maintenance of municipal roads and paths).

The European volunteer hosted in the municipality will be integrated into the operation of cultural, school and extracurricular services. The common thread of his presence will revolve around activities with children in order to



contribute to their openness to a European culture in general and to the country from which the volunteer will come from.

***The volunteer will work on two main sites:***

- *The Trompe-Souris school group: this site brings together the nursery and elementary schools, the school canteen and the extracurricular reception.*
- *The Communal Cultural Space, for activities related to the library.*

The activities offered during the presence of the European volunteer will be geared towards cultural openness, solidarity and mutual aid. The municipality has already experimented with welcoming Ukrainian families and the children of the municipality are encouraged to meet Ukrainian children at school. The presence of a European volunteer will broaden the scope of interactions and the discovery of another European culture.

These exchanges and this openness will also benefit the entire population, through the activities that may be offered by the volunteer within the cultural space.

The municipality wishes to carry out these activities and these exchanges with a national of another European country, and not by using a French trainee. Indeed, the nature of these activities and the richness of the exchanges, the discovery of a culture and a foreign language are at the heart of the mission that the municipality wishes to develop in connection with the House of Europe.

## */ Mission /*

- Setting up individual or group activities.
- Designing educational projects with the other animators present in the structure.
- Organization of an activity program.
- Setting up activities and games with the material provided.
- Sensitization and mobilization of the public and partners on the different projects.
- Accompaniment of the different persons.
- Interaction and exchange with the different actors of a project and with the colleagues of the team.

***This mission is for you if: you are not afraid to be the first volunteer, you are flexible and willing to help the hosting organisation on this first project. You are eager to work in different teams. You want to spend time with kids and teenagers. You are interested in discovering the life of a small french town.***