EVS vacancies in Russia for 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 3, 6, 9 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
- 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 (can be downloaded here). Selection of candidates is made by hosting organization representatives. If needed, phone or 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.

Good luck!
At the moment we’re looking for volunteers for the following projects:

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

About the organization:

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.

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 -01/02/2016-01/11/2016.
2. **Gorodets psychoneurological internat**

**About the organization:**

Gorodets psychoneurological internat is state budgetary institution of Nizhny Novgorod region, which is part of the system of social care. It’s over 50 years old, there’re 600 people living in the establishment, there’re 365 employees. The main aim of the establishment is realization of the right of elderly people and disabled people for stationary social care.

There’re several departments in the institution:

- General department
- Rehabilitation department
- Charity department
- Intensive care department
- Department for elderly people
- Dormitory for young disabled
- Department of supervision of disabled by social care specialists

There’re several types of medical care provided in the establishment.

Main aim of the institution is complex rehabilitation: social, medical, labor, sport etc.

**About the city:**

Population of the town is 34000 people. This cute little town is extremely famous around the whole Russia for its handicrafts richness. The town is very old and now is a big touristic center for those who want to experience real Russia. It is located 53 kms from a huge city Nizhny Novgorod, and has all the charm of historical "true" Russian town. So, living here allows you to experience life of a true Russian town and have easy access to all the advantages of a big city located just 53 kms away. Located on the shore of huge river Volga, it’s also important transport hub. Around Gorodets there's also the biggest artificial lake of the region - so called Gorky sea, which starting from spring becomes very popular destination for local people. More information can be found here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gorodets,_Nizhny_Novgorod_Oblast.

In Gorodets there's everything you need for quality living - sport clubs, numerous museums, bars and clubs, cultural centres, shops and hospitals and banks, however the town is small and it's easier to get to know local community better and get acquainted with the people.
The primary activities of the volunteers are:

Therefore there're 4 main parts - creative work, occupational therapy, sport and general assistance (individual work - walking and communication).

We think that volunteers will be involved into care for disabled people, like walking with them outside for example (sometimes staff of organization don't have time for everyone, however fresh air is very important for rehabilitation). We see a volunteer as a friend to the accompanied disabled person, someone who'll be able to spend time, to listen and to talk. Talking and sharing thoughts, maybe some concerns and problems probably has great positive effect on the psychological state of our clients and we really believe that volunteers who are usually open-minded and friendly people will be able to become such friends to our clients. Volunteers will also be involved into numerous creative activities which we offer - painting, sewing, creating poems, various handicrafts etc. This is part of socialization of disabled people, so called socio-cultural program, as clients need more "live" communication while doing their regular activities and volunteers will be accompanying them in this. This can be both individual and group work, depending on desire and abilities of the volunteer. Apart from that, volunteers interested in sport can spend time with our clients in the sport hall, in the gym. Also, our clients are involved into certain activities aimed at developing their domestic skills and into occupational therapy, therefore volunteers can be involved in this too, helping with some gardening work, small cleaning, showing how to deal with domestic stuff etc.

Volunteers will have opportunity to choose what fits them best and be involved in it. We're also open to new ideas and suggestions from them. We'll be looking for balance between regular and creative activities of the volunteers.

We're planning to have balance between volunteer's learning and service and not just ask volunteer to be involved into routine tasks, but also to offer them space for self-development and realization of their own ideas on our base.

Selection's process:
Our ideal volunteer should be open-minded and easy-going, open to new activities and most importantly ready to work with disabled people, so he/she should be tolerant to them. If there's experience of working/communication with disabled, it'll be a plus, however it's not a pre-requisite. Volunteer should be open to Russian culture, willing to learn the language because it'll be the main communication language. The most important criteria is strong motivation to do voluntary service and learn a lot from the project!

Volunteers needed: 2.

Starting date - 01/02/16-01/11/2016.
3. Interregional youth social movement of support of voluntary initiatives “SFERA”

About the organization:

Interregional youth social movement of support of voluntary initiatives “SFERA” has been established in 2001 by uniting the efforts of youth non-governmental organizations from different subjects of Russian Federation. The geographical representation of “SFERA” movement is constantly expanding and nowadays it is represented in 15 regions.

The aim of the organization is development and support of youth initiatives by providing young people with access to volunteering regardless of nation, religious, social status and disadvantages. The main activities are: international voluntary workamps, EVS and other long-term voluntary projects for youth, educational activities for youngsters and organizations involved in social service, promotion campaigns of volunteering, charity and social services. The most of the organizational activities allow to exchange experiences, knowledge and skills between youth from EECA, European Union and other countries of the World in order to inspire a sense of solidarity, tolerance and mutual understanding.

“SFERA” movement operates at European level by organizing common projects and events with permanent partner organizations from all over the Europe. There are 83 permanent partners from all EU member countries and all EECA countries as well as from other parts of the World.

Furthermore “SFERA” movement is a Coordinating Comettee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), a member of Alliance of European Voluntary Organizations, a member of National Youth Council of Russia (NYCR) and a partner of Service Civil International (SCI).

Since 2007 “SFERA” is one of the official multipliers of Youth in Action programme in EECA countries.

Organization has a democratic structure with the board which consists of young activists experienced in organizational activities. The staff of the organization also consists of young people. Nowadays there are 11 staff members and 7 permanent volunteers in “SFERA”.

About the city:

The project is located in Nizhniy Novgorod, which was founded in 1221 and has a population about 1 500 000 people nowadays. This is the fourth large city in Russia situated at the intersection of 2 huge rivers – Oka and Volga. Nizhniy 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 Nizhniy Novgorod land – Khokhroma, Gorodets, Metal decoration etc. The great Russian poet – Pushkin had lands here. Nizhniy Novgorod region is a motherland of great Russian Saint – Seraphim Sarovskiy, so this is a place of pilgrimage of Orthodox believers.

Nizhniy Novgorod has quite strong relations with Germans, because of the twin city – Essen. There are some cultural centres in Nizhniy 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 Nizhniy lead a measured mode of life; their life’s temp is not so intensive like in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. But, on 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.

**The primary activities of the volunteers are:**

The theme of the project is youth, youth communication, cultural exchange, development of tolerance and solidarity between young people. The volunteer will organize different activities for different groups of youth. As well volunteer can be asked by the staff of SFERA to help them in other issues. Besides, volunteer will have a chance to organize activities for staff of SFERA explaining them about the experience of work with youth in the same organizations all around the Europe.

During the programme, we expect the volunteer to take up and initiate own activities. The volunteer will be given the possibility and responsibility to initiate and execute his/her own projects. Any support necessary for his/her activities will be provided by us.

The main goal of volunteer’s work in supposed project is promotion of youth international projects of non-formal education for youth, development of workcamps program among NGOs and involvement of big number of Russian young people into workcamp activities in the third Russian city – Nizhniy Novgorod.

Examples of typical tasks for the volunteer are:

- to search for places for the presentations, organize different promotion actions, organize and participate in the presentations of workcamps, work with local volunteers, who are going to help in the SFERA office;
- lightening of possibilities of cooperation with Russians for foreign NGOs, schools and universities;
- consulting and other kinds of support for young people and organizations which will initiate participation in supposed programs;
- to lead primary consultations and first coming consultations in the SFERA office, prepare materials for the presentations, make a data base of all possible workcamps;
- to help future volunteers to tell them what is workcamp and volunteering in general, to choose project, to fill all necessary documents in, to fill in the volunteer data base;
- to promote of the workcamps in Russia on national and international level;
- SFERA has a web site (in Russian and in English) and the volunteer will update the page, to upload some news about workcamps in Russia;
- to contribute with the hosing organization in order to help them and control that everything were ready in time;
- to give them informational support, to prepare some useful links about Russia, to control that all volunteers receive all necessary documents like invitation, visa and info sheet in time;
- in the period when SFERA leads the workcamps. The EVS volunteer will go to some of our workcamps to be a co-campleader.

The volunteer will have chance to organize own mini project on the base of any NGO in Nizhniy, which will be created according to the interest of the volunteer.

**Selection’s process:**

Volunteer candidate has to be, first of all, interested in making social service and has to be ready to face a difficult social adaptation in the country with very big cultural difficulties. The volunteer has to love to work
with wide auditoriums and to be ready to find contact with young people with different background and abilities in communication.

It would be nice if the volunteer will be interested in Russia as country, in Russian culture and language and if s/he would like to break stereotypes about Russians.

All the candidates will be selected on the following criteria:

- motivation to work with youth;
- readiness to learn Russian and to communicate in Russian;
- readiness to promote European culture;
- experience in voluntary work in his/her own country.
- the most important criteria is strong motivation to do voluntary service and learn a lot from the project!

But at the same time SFERA will give opportunities to volunteers, who don’t have so much international experiences. The volunteer doesn’t have to be professional in the topic of the project. Because the project will give the experience of international work for the volunteer, as well as practise in communication with people from different background. During the project the volunteer will practise public presentation skills, project management, individual consulting, work in a team. Besides the volunteer will improve his/her linguistic skills.

Volunteers needed: 1.

Starting date - 01/02/16-01/11/2016.
4. Nizhny Novgorod State Regional Library for Children

About the organization: http://www.ngodb.ru/

Nizhny Novgorod State Regional Library for Children is the leader among libraries in Nizhniy Novgorod region by quantity of children's editions in the Nizhniy Novgorod area. Visitors of the library are children of different age, and students.

Nizhny Novgorod State Regional Children's Library started activities on the base of library “KotMurlyka”, there were only 1,857 books. Since that time library took long way. Today, the Library has increased in 120 times. Nowadays it is big and friendly home for visitors. It’s amazing world of expression, information and knowledge. And library invites everybody to it, so children can get everything they need for learning, leisure and personal development.

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

The project is located in Nizhniy Novgorod, which was founded in 1221 and has a population about 1 500 000 people nowadays. This is the forth large city in Russia situated at the intersection of 2 huge rivers - Oka and Volga. Nizhniy 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 Nizhniy Novgorod land - Khokhloma, Gorodets, Metal decoration etc. The great Russian poet - Pushkin had lands here. Nizhniy Novgorod region is a motherland of great Russian Saint - Seraphim Sarovskiy, so this is a place of pilgrimage of Orthodox believers.

Nizhniy Novgorod has quite strong relations with Germans, because of the twin city - Essen. There are some cultural centres in Nizhniy Novgorod - Alliance Francaise, Japanese centre, Swedish centre, Czech and Austrian centres etc. So foreigners can find people speaking on their mother tongues there. Inhabitants in Nizhniy lead a measured mode of life; their life’s temp is not so intensive like in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. But, on 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.

The primary activities of the volunteers are:

- Preparation and realization of regional geographic club; It could be possible to involve group of children every Saturday for 1 or 2 hours at the same time and make a presentation about different countries, to play foreign games connected with Geography, to paint maps, to try to learn capitals of different countries, to make a workshops and creative time for visitors.

- Organization of a study group for the smallest readers of the foreign literature (English, German and French), especially the volunteers will work with the children, who is interested in English books;

- Participation in the actions spent by employees of library, such as «English together», «week of China», «The big wild read» and «Fairy tales of Astrid Lingren» For example: the staff of the library organizes “week of Japan”, they invite different groups of children from schools and orphanages to visit them one day of the week. Every day there will be presentations about Japan, workshops about Japanese culture and cuisine.
The volunteer can be asked to create the poster and to put it in the schools, to go to Japanese centre and invite people from the centre to participate and to make presentations about Japan. Volunteers can be asked to learn how to make origami and then to teach children how to do it. If the volunteers will have any ideas how to make event more interesting, the staff of the library will be open to realize it.

- Making of quizzes and competitions for the most active visitors of a department of the foreign literature; For example: after week of Japan, the most active children will be invited in the library to participate in the final event. There will be created two or more teams (depends of the quantity of children), questions will be asked one by one; all of them will be connected with Japan. Children will answer and which team will have more points will win. The winner will have a prize (for example tasty cake).
- Also, volunteers will have opportunity to realize their own small project with help of library staff. Realizing their own project can influence the community by this way as well as involve Russian volunteers to participation of this project. Youth in Europe are much more involved in non-fornal education than in Russia, and volunteers will try to smooth over these differences promoting European awareness by this way.

The project will give the experience of international work for the volunteers, as well as practice in communication with people from different background. During the project the volunteers will practice public presentation skills, project management, individual consulting, and work in a team. Besides the volunteers will improve their linguistic skills. The project will help volunteers to break stereotypes.

The volunteer would be an additional person who could add his/her ideas to create an intercultural and multilingual dimension for the library. Intercultural learning from the childhood can be only achieved by means of personal contacts and communication. The daily work with children offers a wide variety of exchange possibilities (music and songs, dance, story telling, literature).

Selection’s process:
All the candidates were presented to the hosting project and they selected a volunteer on the following criteria:
- motivation to work with youth and children;
- readiness to work hard, because it’s not so easy to work in the different conditions, with international team, with other educational system and in the other language;
- readiness to learn Russian and to communicate in Russian;
- readiness to promote culture;
- experience in voluntary work in their own country.

Volunteers needed: 1.

Starting date – 01/02/16-01/11/2016
If you're interested to apply for our projects, please send application form (can be downloaded here) to sfera.evs@gmail.com by 21st of September. 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=rfoXBR10ImU and video-gift from our EVS volunteer in SFERA office Reelika Paju (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).