

Mustamäe open youth center

ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Tallinn Mustamäe Open Youth Centre is a municipal organization working on a local level. Mustamäe Open Youth Centre was established with the decision of town council on the 4th of April 2001. The main directions of activities are: organizing and developing youth work in Mustamäe; taking active part in social life concerning children and youth and processes around them; spending time with friends, gaining new skills, developing international relationships through non-formal learning and implementing projects for and with young people; crime and drug abuse prevention; co-operation with specialists who work with children and youngsters – teachers, social workers, police etc.; developing a system of volunteers to help children from risk families.

Project context

Mustamäe Open Youth Centre is open from Monday to Thursday 09.00 - 20.00 and on Friday 09.00 – 18.00. Sometimes events also take place on Saturdays. The staff of Youth Centre consists of experienced specialists, who are accustomed to work with children and youngsters. The youth are not charged for most of the activities. Our target group is young people aged 7 – 26. We are open to any young person without prior conditions of his beliefs, abilities, skills, knowledge and financial resources.

The children and the youngsters can study, communicate and play with other children, volunteers and youth workers in the centre.

There are 2 target groups: children aged 7-13 and youth aged 14-26. The first group is very active in participation in various kinds of projects such as competitions, town camps, outdoor activities, concerts, artistic activities, prevention projects, tournaments, excursions etc. Second target group is more independent: they visit the gym, practice dances in the hall of mirrors, participate in different projects (local and international) raising awareness through international non-formal learning supported by European Commission's Youth in Action Programme / European youth programmes. One of our methods aimed at intercultural learning and youngster's personal development is outdoor experimental learning etc.

The centre receives most of its materials and finances from the Municipality of Mustamäe as well as from various projects.

Half of the children in the centre speak Russian, half of them Estonian as their first language. Facilities in the centre include two big rooms for board games and for communication on the first floor, TV, computers, table football, table tennis, WII game etc. Also there is a room for youth workers, a kitchen and shower. On the second floor there is an art-room, gym and the hall of mirrors. There are also two rooms for youth workers.

The centre is located in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia which is the most developed city in Estonia, founded about 1000 years ago. It is now a very beautiful modern city with ancient buildings & fantastic sights, a popular tourist destination. Tallinn is situated on the coast of the Baltic Sea and has population of about 400 000 people. The spoken native language is Estonian but English, Finnish and Russian are also widely understood. Tallinn combines a lot of enterprises, businesses, organizations, etc. Governmental institutions and representatives of international organizations are situated here as well. Detailed information to be found on www.tallinn.ee.

The centre is located in the district of Mustamäe, 20 min (by public transport) from the Centre of Tallinn. The population of Mustamäe is ca 64 000, 12 632 of which are young people aged 7-26.

Mustamäe is one of the 8 administrative districts of Tallinn. The smallest by area (covering only 8.1 km²), it is at the same time the second largest district by population with 64,327 inhabitants.

Mustamäe Open Youth Centre is located 5 km from the city centre and bordered by the districts of Haabersti, Nõmme and Kristiine. Local housing is mostly represented by 5-9 story-

high panel blocks of flats, built in the 1960-1970s. Mustamäe is usually referred to as a bedroom suburb. Other important areas and buildings in the area include the Tallinn Technical University, numerous scientific institutions and part of the Kadaka industrial region. There are a lot of shops and local transport services: buses and trolley-buses. The volunteer will be based in Tallinn.

Proposed Activities

Proposed activities for EVS volunteers:

The role of EVS volunteer in our organization is to bring it's own creativity and work with the youth.

The Centre will provide volunteers with the opportunity to create and realize his/her ideas: a place, children and the youth, needed materials, support from the tutors, experienced tutors, knowledge and skills.

It will also be a great opportunity for the volunteer to get to know Estonian country and culture, as the Centre is organizing outings and excursions for the children, and it is possible to involve volunteer in this as well. There is also a possibility for the volunteer to develop his/her skills and personality through different kinds of activities that the Youth Centre offers.

Volunteers will have the opportunity of developing independence and self-confidence, to learn about youth work and youth worker competencies, conflict management, team-work, group-dynamics, decision making, communication etc. There is also educational value for volunteer, through experiencing social, pedagogical and youth work, and being part of different kinds of projects and activities in the Mustamäe Open Youth Centre.

Profile of Volunteer and Recruitment Process

To us, the most important quality is that the volunteer really wants to work with children and youth. Previous experience is not necessary but could help. Volunteer is expected to be flexible, tolerant, open-minded, friendly, have positive attitude and be a helpful and creative person. He/she has to be active and ready to take initiative and responsibility.

Volunteers are asked to fill in an application form, which will be the base for making the selection. A telephone interview is foreseen as well. The staff of the project will choose the volunteer whose profile and interests match the best with the activities of the project.

Risk Prevention, Protection and Safety

The host organization will ensure:

- 1) that the volunteer's work is safe and has been assessed for risk
- 2) that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards
- 3) that the volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment if needed
- 4) that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the staff.

The volunteers will have an experienced supervisor who will always be ready to help or just give good advice about everyday life in our city and country, help the volunteer to understand the new environment, new people and feel more comfortable. Volunteer will have the opportunity to learn Estonian or Russian language. Accomodation for volunteers will be organized by our coordinating organization NGO

Noortevahetuse Arengu Ühing ESTYES: the volunteer will live in apartments with convenient transport connectivity to the workplace, each volunteer either in a separate or shared room. Apartments are fully furnished with beds, bedclothes, bath/shower & equipped kitchen. As an alternative, the volunteer can live in a student hostel or in a respectable local family with the same conditions. Food will be prepared by the volunteer at home, money will be provided by our coordinating organisation. In addition, volunteers will be paid a monthly allowance according to EVS financing rules.