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La Team ITALY

This project is part of the 'La Team' programme; a programme developed by the members of the European Conservation Volunteer Alliance (CVA) a network composed by 10 environmental organisations with the aim of carry out environmental conservation activities on European scale. One of the most important collective action by CVA's members was realised in October 2010, 'The Big Green Weekend' involved more than 3,800 European volunteers taking part in simultaneous volunteering projects in 10 countries throughout Europe.

The 'La Team' programme aims to develop new collective voluntary service practice by facilitating the development of opportunities for teams of international volunteers to work together on environmental projects throughout Europe. The 'La Team' concept is an example of a new cooperative approach in the youth field. It has been developed specifically to promote active European citizenship and foster mutual understanding between young people working as an international team and the communities in which they will work. 'La Team' provides opportunities for young people to gain a better understanding of environmental challenges at a local, European and global level and take personal practical action to respond to these challenges.

In this context, this EVS project can give an added value to the aim of the programme and can help environmental volunteers, of the 5 countries involved, in having a helpful and interesting experience in other European environmentalist organizations. Throughout this evs project, volunteers will work together in Teams on local levels. Five countries will run a 6 month pilot of this project in 2012.

Summary of the project

The 'La Team' project is part of an overall programme promoted by the CVA network, with the aim of carry out environmental conservation activities on European scale. The program covers a six month period where 4 volunteers from 4 different countries will work together with local communities and the hosting organisations to have high quality local and overseas experience to environmental volunteers, raise awareness of environmental issues and share competence on local operational practice among volunteers, organisations and communities.

It is a common structured programme comprising: a focused preparatory month, a four month EVS placement during which volunteers work as part of a European team carrying out environmental projects in the local community, and a concluding month, during which volunteers put into practice the skills and experiences they have gained during their EVS placement, for the benefit of their own communities and organisations.



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The 'La Team' Italy is a hosting and coordination project focused on the themes of the Environment, Volunteering and the development of European Awareness, both in terms of increased intercultural understanding and participation, and a better awareness of the European environment. The aim of the project is to share practices between European environmental organisations and raise awareness on climate change and global environmental challenges.

During the EVS placement, four volunteers from partner organisations in Estonia, France, Greece and United Kingdom will work together to carry out practical environmental tasks in Italy, supported by experienced, trained leaders.

The work will take place in Lombardy (north of Italy), in the "Palude di Brivio Oasis", in the natural forests that surround the Voluntary Service Centers, named "Case nella Foresta", in Bagni di Masino, Prim'Alpe and Valvestino. Volunteers will be hosted by Legambiente Lecco local group, in the wood houses of Primalpe, and they will have the opportunity to work closely with local community. Volunteers will carry out practical activities and a variety of office and administrative support duties, cooperating on projects and activities of Legambiente. The tasks of the volunteer include most aspects of nature conservation management.

Volunteers will cooperate and build teamwork in Legambiente voluntary activities: clean up, monitor and conserve natural areas, organize workcamps and cultural events, participate and contribute to Legambiente's campaigns.

Legambiente

Legambiente is a leading environmental organisation in Italy formed by 20 regional committees and more than 2000 local groups. Legambiente runs national and international campaigns aimed at reducing traffic and air pollution, pesticides use, or proposing new energy policy, enhancing use of renewable sources, energy efficiency and conservation etc. The common aim of environmental campaigns and projects is to raise people's awareness and to improve areas with a distinctive naturalistic and cultural feature, while helping solving environmental emergencies of our country. We have been organising a voluntary campaign for 16 years, promoting work-camps in many protected areas both in Italy and abroad, with the aim of raising public awareness on environmental issues such as forest-fire or habitat degradation, collecting information on natural resources, promoting green tourism, developing sustainable economy, helping people to be active for the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage. The main activities that volunteers carry out are related to paths maintenance, beaches and protected areas cleaning; furthermore, volunteers collaborate in fire prevention or raising awareness on environmental issues. Legambiente is



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a member of the European Environmental Bureau and of several voluntary networks, and took an active part to the European Voluntary Year 2011.

Service description:

1) The role and tasks of the volunteer(s).

The basic schedule is:

- Working for the conservation and monitor of natural areas in cooperation with Legambiente Lecco (the “Palude di Brivio” oasis and the natural forests that surround the Voluntary Service Centers, named “Case nella Foresta”, in Bagni di Masino, Prim’Alpe and Valvestino), restoring paths and signs, cleaning-up, building teamwork through voluntary service.

-Getting informed and participate to the running of the voluntary programme of Legambiente in Lombardy (named Volontariambiente), and the main running activities of Legambiente Onlus

-Collecting requests from and providing answer and information to tourists and sustainers of Legambiente local group.

- Supports to external events, such as exhibitions, conferences, seminars, group visits, voluntary actions, travelling campaigns.

-Taking part in planning meetings, seminars and training events

Possible personal implementations:

-Groups leadership in workcamps, voluntary actions and exchanges

-Speaker and trainer in seminars

-Production of informative printed material, web pages, press articles

-Responsibility of one session of some initiatives

The volunteers will have the opportunity of assisting Legambiente in our workcamps, so to understand the knowhow of our work. In this way they will provide a link between different european associations, in order to learn and share as much as possible from the organisation’s specific objectives, tools and actions



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2) Working hours, days off per week, holidays:

6 hours a day, 5 days a week. Two days off a week and 8 days holiday (2 per month of service) during the period to be taken in agreement with the mentor and in regards of the activities. Sometimes activities will take place in week-end, so that volunteer will take the days of during the week. However, because of unpredictable weather conditions and remote locations, participants are asked to be flexible.

3) Food, accommodation:

Volunteers will be hosted in the voluntary centre of Prim'Alpe in Lecco. Food and accommodation provision will be based on the principle of sustainability. Consumption of local products and recycling will be promoted.

4) Local transport:

Again, sustainability will be valued when it comes to transport. All transport costs during the programme are covered. Local groups will organize transports for any other activities.

5) Learning:

'La Team' is based on a principle of 1:4:1 with volunteers spending the first month of the project at his/her home country preparing for the project. During that time volunteers will receive trainings about EVS and principles of environmental conservation. All volunteers will undertake an on-arrival training course at the beginning of their placement. This will include organisational, practical and health and safety aspects of their work. Introductory language courses will be organised at the start of the placement to further facilitate intercultural learning.

During the placement, La Team have developed a system based around learning in four key areas:

- Work field
- Social field
- Intercultural field
- Project management

The project partners have developed a workbook for the 'La Team' programme which guides volunteers through their learning in these areas throughout the different stages of the project duration and encourages them to reflect upon their progress and build on their experience. During a final month at home following the EVS placement, volunteers will be



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supported by the sending partner to put their learning into practice to positively address the local environmental issues identified in their pre-placement month. Returning volunteers will evaluate results, feeding into workshops, seminars and a CVA conference.