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**City of Cournon d'Auvergne & CONCORDIA Auvergne  
- Open the European window on the youth in Cournon ! -**

### Concordia

Concordia is a national, French, non-governmental and non-profit making organisation, founded in 1950 by English, German and French youngsters. Their aim was to enhance the values of tolerance and peace after the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war by organising international work camps for young volunteers.

The main objectives of Concordia are the following:

- Education, by helping young people to grow up through the experience of collective living.
- Culture, by favouring youth exchanges on an international level, always emphasizing the values of peace, friendship and mutual respect.
- Social, in taking part in concrete actions of solidarity, as well as supporting a civic attitude.
- Social economy, in contributing to the realisation of local development, in favour of the environment, heritage, tourism and socio-educational activities.

The Paris head office supports the activities of the 9 regional offices, i.e the Auvergne, Aquitaine, Brittany, Ile-de-France, Midi-Pyrenees, Normandy, Picardy, Rhône-Alpes and South-East of France.

Concordia has the approval of the French Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of the Environment.

**Concordia Auvergne is coordinating this EVS project that will be hosted by our partner: the city of Cournon d'Auvergne.**

### The project environment

Cournon d'Auvergne is a city near to Clermont-Ferrand and counts around 20,000 inhabitants. Considered for a long time as a dormitory town of Clermont-Ferrand, Cournon is now asserting itself as a proper city possessing all necessary infrastructures, services and activities for its own development.

Despite its small dimensions, Cournon is an ancient town, founded between the 10th and the 11th century, with a lot of history. Nowadays, it is still possible to visit the old town, which preserves traces of the Roman occupation, the Middle Age and the "Ancien Régime". Cournon is also known for its natural wonders, which attract many visitors every year: "la rivière Allier", for example, one of the last wild river in Europe, harbours many animal and plant species, and it is protected as natural reserve by the European program Natura 2000. In the end, Cournon offers a wide range of cultural events and traditional fairs during the whole year such as "la Fête du cinéma" in July, "le Festival Puy-de-Mômes" in April, the ancient fair of Saint-Maurice in September, etc.



Clermont-Ferrand is the regional capital of Auvergne, its urban area gathers 300 000 inhabitants. Beyond an industrial past, the city gradually oriented its economy on the service sector. Development of important university poles was also targeted, and today Clermont-Ferrand hosts around 35 000 students whose 5000 from other countries. This high number of local and foreign students helps in the city dynamism, including artistic creation and spectacles, or numerous non-profit sportive and cultural organisations. Furthermore, the city centre is rich of a great historical patrimony such as the Clermont-Ferrand Cathedral, the medieval centre, etc.



The whole urban area has various recent equipment, enabling to access to a wide and numerous offer of live performances: the festival of Europavox, for instance, is a music festival held in May which aims to understand the diversity of European music production.

For those interested in nature, the urban area of Clermont-Ferrand is at the door of the Regional Park of the Auvergne Volcanoes, and close to the regional park of Livradois-Forez. It is very easy to go out of the city to reach and enjoy surrounding nature, notably with public transports.

Moreover, various organisations often propose outdoor leisure in the core of the parks.

## Role and tasks of the volunteer

The main role of the volunteer will be to bring a European and intercultural opening to the Youth Service's actions and of its partners, particularly the schools.

The volunteer will have an active role in the project, with a level of autonomy adapted to her/his needs. Nevertheless, she/he will always be supported by a professional of the Youth Service in her/his tasks. The volunteer will have referent persons from the Youth Service, in order to coordinate the project's different activities and to assure her/his well-being.

The main roles of the volunteer will be directly linked to running activities, raising awareness and mobilising the young people on **European and intercultural topics** (mobility, European and active citizenship, interculturality, etc.), and federative projects.

Thus, the volunteer will participate in global activities led by the Youth Service. She/he will first take part, then suggest activities in accordance with the Youth Service staff.

The volunteer will get involved in youth projects led by the Youth Service, according to her/his wishes and profile. During his/her mission, the volunteer will :

- collaborate with the local leaders, to develop new actions based on european and intercultural awareness-raising, and to get mutually richer with various experiences and opinions.
- create exchanges with the young people;
- mainly participates to activities led by the Youth Service, but it can also involve others services (cultural, school, sports). The volunteer works with local associations, secondary schools, scholar public in the frame of homework help...
- Share his/her experience in secondary schools (15-20 years old) or in the Youth Information Point for the 15 to 25 years old;
- Intervene in the animation center. The volunteer is not considered as a group leader but she/he comes to enrich the staff. She/he could be mobilized on complementary activities about discovery of other european cultures or about international exchanges.
- During school period, lead pedagogical activities proposed to children, from 15h30 to 16h30, on intercultural and citizenship themes;
- give school support to the pupils;
- lead activities in the leisure centre.

Activity times happen mainly after school all the week, on Wednesdays, Saturdays and during holidays. The rest of the time, the volunteer will prepare the activities and study the feasibility of setting up new projects. Indeed, after a period of observation, the volunteer will have the opportunity to suggest his own activities.

The goal is to bring open-mindedness towards the world to the young people of the town, and also mobility and interculturality, through regular contact with a young European volunteer and participation in related activities.

The volunteer will be supported by a professional member of the Youth Service staff in each of her/his tasks.

In the first period of service, the volunteer will discover and observe how the service functions and he/she will be involved in the staff's actions. Then, gradually, the volunteer will be encouraged to offer her/his ideas, which will be carefully considered by the staff. If they effectively match with the Youth Service's goals and are approved by the team, they will be confirmed.

At the end of the project, the volunteer will have gained the following competences:

- French language
- Skills in animation field
- Youth mobilization
- Discovery of the functioning of various types of youth organisations in France
- Discovery of the territory
- Work organisation and team work

## Practical conditions

- **Activity period :** From September 2016 to September 2017 (12 months)
- **Working Hours :** The volunteer will work approx. 30 hours per week, but will have to work more during the holidays.

- **Working and living conditions:** Accommodation and food will be provided. The volunteer will be accommodated in Concordia's apartment, in Clermont-Ferrand. He/she will have his/her own room and he/she will probably have shared bathroom/kitchen with another volunteer. In addition the volunteer will get pocket money (115€ per month). Internet access will also be available.  
The volunteer will have access to local transport to go from Clermont-Ferrand to Cournon in bus.
- The volunteer will be individually followed by a **dedicated mentor** from Concordia (the organisation that also coordinates the global EVS project).

### Deadline

The selection process has to end theoretically by mid-April, which means we are waiting for your application between now and **April 8th**.

To apply, you have to fill the [application form](#) online and send us your CV and any document showing your motivation you want to [cd.auvergne@concordia.fr](mailto:cd.auvergne@concordia.fr).

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