

2007-DE-112
CVJM Ulm e.V.

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Location	Ulm (Germany)
Theme 1	European awareness
Theme 2	Media and communication/Youth information

Project environment

A. Project environment: profile of the organisation and local community

The project environment offered for EVS project is the city of Ulm. Ulm has about 115000 inhabitants. It is on the left bank of the Danube which is also the boundary between Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

On the right bank of the Danube there is Neu Ulm with its 170.000 inhabitants.

Ulm is an university city specialized in scientific and medical fields. Besides centres for technology and research there are also big machinery industrial settlements.

Ulm is a well known cultural centre not only at regional level: Münster, Theater, high schools and professional schools in different fields, music school, wide cultural offer for young and elder (e.g. Roxy und Ulmer City-Festival).

Moreover Ulm offers a very good train connection to the main city in Germany and a good public transport net.

In its suburbs there are a lot of interesting places to visit.

B. Proposed activities for EVS volunteers

To the volunteer of the EVS program we offer a stay in a 3-room-apartment that is in the building next to our house. The apartment is shared by 2 other young people.

This is a good starting point both for work and for the spare time, because the apartment is in the very centre of the city. During the working time the volunteer has a free internet and e-mail access in order to contact his/her family and new or old friends.

Taking part to language courses or other activities it is easily possible thanks to the wide cultural Ulmer offer.

The first point of volunteers' activities is to work in our Youth- coffee-house during the lunch time (lunch for students) from Monday to Thursday. The focus of the volunteers work is to be there for the young visitors and to

listen to their dreams, wishes, problems and plans. After the working time the volunteer undertakes the leading of apprentices and voluntary co-workers in the coffee. Important for the coffee is also its role as info-point. Therefore it is important to keep the "Info-Wall" up to date.

The volunteer has the possibility to bring his/her own ideas in organising cultural events, for example parties (foam-party, single-party). New ideas are welcome.

TEN SING is a group of about 40 teen-agers who make first of all music (choir and band). It doesn't matter if one is musical or not to take part in Ten Sing, because you can learn it there. Ten Sing group is self organised by different workshop groups: the organisation team prepares the program of practical meetings, weekend seminars and concerts. Other workshops like dance, theatre or media-input develop themselves according to the demand, sometimes also supported by other volunteers.

Other activities, which welcome volunteers engagement, are summer camps.

The volunteer can take days of holiday only during the close-times of the café JAM (these times are normal the official holidays of schools).

C. Volunteer profiles and recruitment process

The volunteer must be interested in learning German. At the beginning it would be enough if she/he has a basic knowledge in German. For us it is also very important, that the volunteer is communicative and at the beginning it is possible a communication in English too. Through a good language integration we hope that the volunteer can get in touch with young people in the same age or younger than she/he.

We have a steady contact with our partner organisation, so that they are well informed about our organisation as regards EVS. We also try to keep a contact with people that made their EVS year by our organisation and get through them and their experiences new candidates among their friends.

We are open to sending organisation of any kind. We are part of a christian Youth Organisation, therefore we haven't got any preference among the different christian organisations.

D. Special needs (if applicable)

E. Risk prevention, safety and protection

A crucial point to prevent risks is represented by regular talks and a process aimed to a reciprocal acquaintance and trust. The mentor takes time for it and can therefore see possible crucial points of the volunteer. In order to avoid crisis (e.g. homesick) it is important that the person trusts the colleagues and knows in any details his/her duties. Through regular talks and reflections about the experiences we try to avoid crisis and misunderstandings.

Motivation and EVS experience

Since 2002 we took active part in EVS project as Partner (Host) organisation. With our partner organisations in Norway, Spain and Slovakia we got only good experiences and we co-worked in a good way. One of the main point of our project for youth work is to make possible and improve meeting between young people coming from different countries and different social and cultural environments.

The good terms established between the girls and boys that made their EVS for our organisation and the Ulmer groups are showed by the meetings organized in the origin country of the volunteer. We are now (Spring 2007) planning a meeting for young people in summer 2008 with our Partner organisation "Interjovenes" in Cartagena - Spain. The next volunteer starts in the middle of September 2007. From now on we want to start also as Sending Organisation.

Description of the organisation

The YMCA in Ulm runs together with Evangelischen Jugendwerk Ulm the youth- and student café JAM (Jugend am Münster). Here we offer a simple lunch for students every week from Monday to Thursday. About 100 youth avail this offer daily. In the afternoon and evening the Café JAM is runned by young volunteer coo-worker. Since its opening in 2001 JAM has been a very important meeting point for young people in the city.

A pedagogic coo-worker or our staff is regularly engaged in realizing cultural programs for young people with their cooperation. They realize for example concerts, disco happenings or theatre pieces. Among these activity I would like to mention also a special group of boys and girls that, under the name TEN SING, take part to a year-cultural project for youth. This group meets once a week to prepare concerts. Moreover 2 persons of our permanent staff are responsible for youth work for the Protestant Church in the suburban Ulmer area.

Both organisations (Evang. Jugendwerk Ulm and YMCA) organise many activities and stays during Summer and Winter holidays. Our offer concerns for example 1 or 2 week-holiday-stays with a group, whose organisation is made in cooperation with youth. Also here at least one person of our permanent staff works as leader, coordinates the work of youth and teaches them how to co-work as leader of a group.

One more crucial point of our activity concerns the organisation of annual "appointments" such as collecting old paper, selling oranges to collect money for a special aid project and a flea market.

The permanent staff of YMCA Ulm is composed by 4 people that work as volunteers for the organisation. Once a month a board meeting session takes place, where every point (from the organisation to the concept) are discussed, approved or discarded.

Youth that take part to the activities and programmes offered by YMCA come from every social class. It happens very oft that young people of the upper class let themselves easier involve in taking active part with the voluntary work. It also happens frequently that unemployed youth or young people that quitted the school and do not have already found their way pop in regularly in Café JAM, where they find people ready to help and advise.

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