

I'M [EA]N

SHARING LIVES FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY

* INFOPACK *

➤ Description and objectives

The project **I'M [EA]N: sharing lives for an inclusive and intercultural community** welcomes and promotes a challenge of social inclusion of cultural minorities thanks to youth protagonism through volunteering and socio-educational animation. 12 young people from different European backgrounds will have the opportunity to live in a multicultural environment and in structures that work each day for the creation of open and supportive communities alongside young people, migrants and asylum seekers who experience new integration processes in rural and urban contexts of the Italian territory.

The volunteering experience will be more deep and incisive thanks to a narrative and sociological research path, aimed to realize *Living Library events*, with the objective of creating safe spaces of dialogue that can give voice to all those misunderstood and hidden stories , without the interference of media gimmicks or political exploitation.

The expected results are therefore measured on the acquisition of new skills, attitudes and values that place the young person in the condition of being a conscious and visionary protagonist of a new social model based on solidarity, inclusion and participation.

Volunteers will experience integral growth and development path that will enable them to become more self-consciousness, developing their sense of belonging and responsibility towards the host communities and consequently towards the origin communities, as well as welcoming skills and appreciation of diversity. Communities

will increase their ability to welcome and educate. The project will be a good example of innovative learning path for emotional and community learning.

➤ Placements

The project hosts **12 volunteers** (youngsters from 18 to 30 years old) in **7 different placements**:

- **Agape Ecumenical Centre**
- **Radio Beckwith Evangelica**
- **Il Passo Social Point (CSD)**
- **Migrant Service (CSD)**
- **GET - Giovani e Territorio (CSD)**
- **Community Center (CSD)**
- **Casa Valdese di Vittoria (CSD)**

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Agape Ecumenical Centre, is located in the small village of Prali (Turin). Agape Ecumenical Center is a place that arises after the Second World War thanks to volunteers with the aim of creating a place for meeting and exchange. Agape welcomes many people every year and offers a wide variety of activities for children, young people or adults. 14 thematic fields are organized during the summer and winter to deal with many different topics through non-formal education (education, training, gender issues, politics, theology, volunteering, etc ...). Volunteering is a fundamental part of participation in activities and is a fundamental element of the history of the center. Those who frequent this reality are called to live an experience of community coexistence in sharing and collaboration, which it promotes the development of many key competences in building an intercultural society, first of all emotional and democratic resilience. Community life is managed and conducted by operators experienced in group management and volunteering, who constantly support the growth and evolution of the group, which often develops a community identity very strong and motivating.

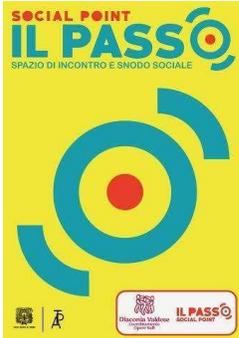


website: www.agapecentroecumenico.org
facebook: [Agape Centro Ecumenico](#)

Radio Beckwith Evangelica is a local media channel for an inter-cultural and plural communication of local contexts, located in the small village of Luserna San Giovanni (Turin). It is based in Villa Olanda, a structure that includes several services and offices: the refugee and asylum seeker service of the Waldensian Diaconia, the youth service, the volunteering office and the offices of the LAG Ecartons and Waldensian Valleys, a company that coordinates projects to enhance the local area. RBE benefits positively from co-presence of these realities and intends this coexistence as a wealth to be told through its work. RBE works in close collaboration with the territory, is a communicative reality strongly linked to the community context (rural and Protestant religious minority) and it is the spokesman of his various souls. The radio also produces videos of events developed on the territory which are then shared on social channels, giving much emphasis to enhancement of the territory and the community side that characterizes it.



website: www.rbe.it
Facebook: [Radio Beckwith Evangelica](#)



Il Passo Social Point is a social centre, located in Turin, in a poor and difficult neighborhood of the city where is a high percentage of migrants. This placement is a diurnal centre that offer many types of activities for the local community. It has both services addressed to young people than to migrants. The centre also host external groups wishing to organize events for the local community to foster the construction of a multicultural society.

Il Passo Social Point have also local volunteers and volunteers from the Italian national civil service. Here the challenge is the integration of service beneficiaries into the urban context but also the research and development of virtuous dynamics in order to unite all the reality of the neighborhood in a

multicultural urban context.



[Facebook: Il Passo Social Point](#)

Migrant Service is a service located in Luserna San Giovanni, a small village near Turin. The service is located in *Villa Olanda*, a old villa where Diaconia Valdese develop many activities both for refugees than for youngsters. In the centre *Villa Olanda* are living some refugees: this is the biggest hosting centre, otherwise refugees are usually hosted in small apartments to let them better be integrated in the local communities. The centre offers different workshops, such as sewing, cooking, music workshops or to learn how to repair bicycle or how to use computer. The service propose educational paths in the local schools to raise awareness between young people about the phenomenon of migration. Many events are also organized at local level to foster integration and inclusion.



Facebook: Servizio Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati - Diaconia Valdese

GET- Giovani e Territorio operates throughout the territory of the metropolitan city of Turin and in particular in the Waldensian Valley. It is located in *Villa Olanda*. GET carries out aggregation and education activities for children, adolescents, young people and families with the aim of promoting the value of the relationship with others, education to difference, social inclusion and active citizenship. It Works in synergy with public entities, local administrations, schools, training agencies, churches and associations. The main activities organized by GET include summer camps for children up to 13 years, the "teen space" for adolescents aged 11 to 17; numerous activities for the schools as for example training, counseling and after-school. The European dimension is also very important, which GET cultivates through the implementation of Erasmus Plus youth exchanges and international training.



Website: giovanieteritorio.org

Facebook: Diaconia Valdese - Giovani e Territorio

Community Center Milano is part of a national network of community centers, and is a service born thanks to the collaboration between Diaconia Valdese and Oxfam. It is one of the seven community centers currently active in Italy. These are places of aggregation, information desks and reference points of a national network, which operates locally. The community center offer orientation, administrative and legal advice, mediation linguistic and cultural, recreational and educational activities, with particular attention to migrants and to vulnerable people. This center offer a physical and relational environment aimed at put people at ease to bring out expressed and unexpressed needs. It's a space for active listening, comparison, redefinition of needs in a path of recognition and growth for the acquisition of greater autonomy. The Community Center of Milano is also a reference for the community and represent a changing space that adapts to the needs of the people who live it, change with them and reshape according to needs.



Facebook: Community Center Milano

Casa Valdese di Vittoria operates in the Municipality of Vittoria, in Sicily. Established in 1933 as a residential structure for the elderly people, following changed conditions, the Waldensian house was transformed into a structure dedicated to welcome migrants, specially refugees and asylum seekers. In 2014, the Waldensian House became the center for the integrated reception project of the Municipality of Vittoria. The structure currently has a capacity of 48 places and the beneficiaries are placed in structures where they can experiment and live independently. Since December 2016, in addition to the ordinary project, the structure start to host asylum seekers and protection holders that are affected by physical and mental vulnerabilities/ disabilities, for an availability of 23 places. In the last year the requests to insert young men, minors and women who have left their country and are carriers of invalidating diseases have increased. The mission of Casa Valdese is to welcome young people and support them in a

rehabilitative and social integration path, to enhance the autonomy and regain the dignity marked by a difficult journey and by a labeling migratory path.



[Facebook: Casa Evangelica Valdese](#)

➤ Activities

Each of the 12 volunteers will have the opportunity to live and train in a context of community and multicultural life, crossed by challenges that lead to questioning and participate actively. The service will be characterized by activities directed to support the work of the reception structure and by activities of reflection and reworking of the personal path at an emotional, professional and relational level.

- volunteers at **Agape Ecumenical Centre** will be involved in a communitarian life and working path and will support the management and organization of the placement activities: seminars, camps and thematic workshops for diverse target groups and on different topics (education, politics, volunteering, interculturality)
- volunteers at **Radio Beckwith Evangelica** will support the Radio in the work of representing all the diverse aspects of the local communities. They will help in the programs creation, in the communication of local events and in the involvement of the population in activities to promote local environment
- volunteers at **GET – Giovani e territorio** will support the educators in the activities of animation, training and awareness raising aimed at children and



adolescents in the territory of the Waldensian valleys and the city of Turin. They will be involved in a very stimulating and dynamic environment.

- volunteers at **Migrant Service, Il Passo Social Point, Milano Community Center** and **Casa Valdese di Vittoria** will support the placements in the management of integration and welcoming paths for migrants in communitarian contexts, rural and urban ones. They will help in the organization of leisure activities, meeting and dialogue for the local population.

Together with the experience of volunteering, it will be developed complementary activities which will give to the volunteers the opportunity to act as protagonists in the creation of a constructive and inclusive intercultural dialogue, developed on several levels and with different means of communication. This will also allow the connection of the various volunteering experiences, the perception of collective responsibility and the strength of a share volunteering program.

Therefore each volunteer must:

- research, transcribe, record and rework biographical stories of marginalization and discrimination in the local community
- send transcriptions or recordings for the creation of artistically enriched podcasts to the Radio Beckwith placement, which will be transmitted with the aim of raising awareness of the collective imagination and drawing the emotional and civic attention of the community
- organize a local event in the respective placements that re-proposes the narration of the stories collected, experimenting with the structure and technique of the Living Library
- organize, in a synergistic collaboration with the other volunteers, a final Living Library event within the Cultural Festival "A Tower of Books" in Piedmont, presenting the living readings that arose during each experience through their voice, also including the possibility of a personal narrative, which can disseminate the volunteering experience as much as possible and encourage other young people to participate.



➤ Seminars

Diaconia Valdese, as coordinating organization, will offer to the volunteers 3 seminars for the long terms mobility and 2 seminars for the short term mobility

Long terms volunteers

- *On-Arrival Seminar* at the beginning of the project mobility
- *Mid-Term Seminar* in the middle of the project mobility
- a *Final Seminar* at the end of the project

Furthermore the volunteers will attend 2 more seminars organized from the Italian National Agency.

Short terms volunteers

- *On-Arrival Seminar* at the beginning of the project mobility
- *Final seminar* at the end of the project

➤ Logistics

DURATION

Long terms volunteers

The project mobility has a duration of 12 month and the start is expected in **autumn 2020**

Short terms volunteers

The project mobility has a duration of 2 months and the start is expected **between august and November 2020**



TRAVEL

The volunteers are asked to pay their own travel ticket. They will be reimbursed at the end of the service upon the delivery of all original ticket and boarding pass of their journey.

Following are the maximum amount of reimbursement foreseen for the travel for each participating country:

- From Spain, Hungary, Kosovo, Romania, Czech Republic, Turkey: 275,00 euro
- From Georgia and Jordan: 360,00 euro

VISA

There is a budget of 720.00 EUR (180 € each volunteer) to cover the visa expenses for participants from Kosovo, Georgia and Turkey. The participants have to keep all the invoices and tickets to give proof of the expenses. The volunteers will be reimbursed of these expenses at their arrival in Italy.

POCKET MONEY

The volunteers will receive 150,00/155,00 euro of pocket money, at the beginning of every month (5 euro per day)

FOOD, ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORTS

The volunteers hosted in *Agape Ecumenical Centre* will stay in a big house with other volunteers coming from Italy and other different countries. They will have their private room, they will share all common spaces (kitchen, living room, bathrooms). The house is equipped with all necessary furniture (also towels and sheets for beds). The food allowance is provided by the placement. The house is next to the placement so there is no need of transportations for the volunteers.

The volunteers making service at *Radio Beckwith Evangelica, Migrant Service, Il Passo Social point, GET- Giovani e Territorio, Milano Community Center and Casa Valdese di Vittoria* will stay in a house with other 2/3 volunteers, from other countries. They will have a shared bedroom (with maximum one other volunteer) and they will share the common spaces (kitchen, living room, bathroom). The house is equipped with all necessary furniture (also towels and sheets for beds). The volunteers will receive a monthly sum every month for the food expenses. From the apartment it is possible to reach the placement by feet.

LANGUAGE COURSE

The volunteers will have the access to the Online Linguistic Support that will help them in learning the Italian language.

Furthermore they will attend an intensive Italian course during the On-Arrival Seminar. They will also attend Italian lessons, once in a week, for the first months of their service.

INSURANCE

The volunteers will insured with *Cigna* insurance by their sending organization.

➤ Impact and results

The project aims to stimulate young people and communities who welcome them, in a process of growth that will increase both the capacity of inclusion and the sense of belonging. From their experience and re-elaboration, the volunteers will be able to acquire specific skills useful for their future as EU citizens, for their working or studying career. They will develop skills connected with emotional education and democratic resilience: open-mindedness, emotional flexibility and social variety. Volunteers will experiment an integral growth and development path that will enable them to become more self conscious, developing their sense of belonging and responsibility toward the hosting community and consequently toward the origin communities, as well as the welcoming skill and the appreciation of diversity.



Communities will increase their ability to welcome and train the younger generations. Good practices of the project will be held in the hosting organizations and will be shared in the sending organizations. The project will be a good example of innovative learning path for emotional and community learning.

COORDINATING ORGANISATION

CSD - Diaconia Valdese: is a no-profit organization belonging to the Waldensian church, the protestant minority in Italy. The organization itself is laical, everyone can benefit from its services regardless to which is the religious, political, cultural, sexual belonging.

The organization coordinates many services at a national level addressed to people in situation of need, such as disabled, elderly people, minors and youngsters, adult with fewer opportunities, refugees and asylum seekers.

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