

# SCHUMAN VOLUNTEERS

Work with kids with disabilities, organize activities devoted to nonintercultural education develop formal and and new competences ioin our European Solidarity Corps \_ project "Schuman Solidarity Crew" from September 2021 until the end of May 2022!

Project "Schuman Solidarity Crew" involves 18 Schuman Volunteers (15 volunteers have been already recruited ) who are hosted in 9 different hosting organizations. At the moment we have 2 vacancies in special kindergartens for kids with disabilities:

- Special Kindergarten 245 in Warsaw for visually impaired children
- Special Kindergarten 213 in Warsaw for children and youth with physical and intellectual disabilities

Within the whole project volunteers will be hosted in 9 different hosting organizations:

- 2 special kindergartens for children with disabilities (Warsaw),
- special kindergarten for visually impaired children (Warsaw),
- regular kindergarten for children with special nutritional needs (Warsaw),
- primary school with integrative classes (Warsaw),
- Association of Developing Children's Activity "Chance" NGO focusing on providing best possible development, increasing the educational conditions for children and raising the quality of work in early childhood education (Warsaw),
- European Integration Club at the School Complex in Wojkowice non-formal European education for members of European Integration Club and school students (Wojkowice in the Silesian region),
- Bilingual Primary School in Warsaw,
- The Polish Robert Schuman Foundation in Warsaw.

This project is a part of a 3-years long volunteering partnership coordinated by the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation. Detailed description of the organizations, volunteers' tasks and dates of the mobilities below.



### WHO ARE WE SEARCHING FOR?

Volunteers aged between 18 and 30 years, legally residing in one of the participating and partner countries. We seek a balance of varied ages, genders and nationalities amongst our volunteers. All candidates must be registered in <u>European Solidarity Corps database</u>.

No specific knowledge, skills or experience is required as the necessary ones can be acquired during the project. We are <u>not</u> looking for experienced volunteers but those who would learn a lot during the service in a particular hosting organization and are strongly motivated.

Apart from personal motivation of volunteers our requirement is volunteers' strong will of learning Polish language after selection procedure successfully ends. We need selected volunteers to know a few crucial phrases. Why is this important? Because they will work with children with disabilities and youth, which often do not speak English well or any other language.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

We ask each candidate to send to us our filled **APPLICATION FORM**. Candidates can add other documents/personal presentations/videos/photos/motivation letters to the application form, if they want but please know that applications without our form will not be taken into consideration. The recruitment procedure will take place through European Solidarity Corps portal.

Please send applications to: <u>volunteering@schuman.pl</u>. In the title please write: APPLICATION 2021. We will contact selected candidates and arrange online interviews.

#### **COMMON ACTIVITIES**

To integrate all volunteers, apart from activities in particular hosting organization, common activities for all Schuman Volunteers will be organized. All Schuman volunteers:

- will write blogs dedicated to their experience in the form of articles, photographs, audio/video materials. If you secretly dream of becoming a published author – you are in luck! Each month the volunteers write (at least) one article about their volunteering experiences in Poland. These posts are published on the Foundation's website and/or Facebook. Blogs of previous and current volunteers you can find on the website www.schumanvolunteers.pl,
- will organize local activities workshops/activities in cultural centers, libraries and ngos to share intercultural experience among people from small societies. They will present their countries, cultures, share volunteering experience and promote European Solidarity Corps during workshops/activities addressed to youth, people with fewer opportunities, seniors,
- will take part in the preparations of the Schuman Parade & Schumanville, events organized by the Schuman Foundation to celebrate Europe Day in the center of Warsaw. Volunteers together with their hosting organizations and the Schuman Foundation will plan & organize one tent in Schumanville devoted to European volunteering & raising awareness about the needs of people with disabilities,
- will take part in "internal on-arrival training" organized by the Schuman Foundation. The first days followed by volunteers' arrival to Warsaw will be spent altogether, not in particular hosting organization. Schuman Foundation will prepare integration activities, trainings and will deal with some organizational things,
- will participate in weekly meetings. Once a week all Schuman Volunteers living Warsaw (and sometimes also those in Wojkowice) will have a meeting in the Foundation and occasionally outside the Foundation to learn Polish, evaluate themselves, prepare common activities and just integrate. During the pandemic meetings are held online or in smaller groups.



## PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

**Pocket money:** each volunteer will get the amount of  $4 \in \text{per day}$ , so about  $120 \in (\text{in Polish currency} - \text{Polish złoty})$  per month – in cash or by a bank transfer (if they open a bank account in Poland).

**Food allowence:** each volunteer will receive about 100 € for food per month

**Local transport**: transport cards are provided – for volunteers in Warsaw a card for area 1 (strefa 1) is provided. The city has 2 areas of transport, however area 1 includes all main districts of Warsaw. In Wojkowice the volunteers will receive a travel card for all of the Silesian agglomeration. Small cities like Bedzin and Wojkowice are interconnected so when you go by bus you can hardly notice when one city ends and another begins.

Accommodation: The Schuman Foundation will provide accommodation for the volunteers – the volunteers will share flats. The apartments will be rented by the Foundation for the entire time of volunteers' mobilities and are equipped with all necessary utilities. Volunteers are obliged to keep the flat clean :) In Warsaw volunteers will live in 3 apartments. Up to 6 volunteers share the apartment. Often volunteers share a bedroom with another volunteer. Volunteers hosted at Wojkowice will live in Będzin, a town close to Wojkowice. It takes about 30 minutes to get from the flat to the school by bus. In Wojkowice 2 volunteers will share a flat, each will have own bedroom.

Living costs (cost of water, electricity, internet, etc.) will be covered by the Schuman Foundation with a limit up to 90-110 złoty per month per person (depending on the flat and heating season).

**Language support:** language course will be provided by a certified Polish teacher – 1,5 hours a week for at least 2-3 months.

**Polish phone card**: will be provided by the Schuman Foundation :)

**Insurance:** Volunteers from the European Union are obliged to have European Health Insurance Card, if possible. If not, they are required to have a confirmation that they are not authorized to receive one. The volunteers will be also enrolled to insurance plan at CIGNA insurance company, which is valid only if EHIC is not applicable.

**Travel to & from mobility**: the costs are covered up to limits of the European Commission based on the travel distance. The volunteer is reimbursed for the travel tickets to Poland in Polish currency after arrival and the Foundation buys return tickets for the volunteer.

- ✓ For travel distances between 10 and 99KM: 20 EUR per participant
- ✓ For travel distances between 100 and 499 KM: 180 EUR per participant
- ✓ For travel distances between 500 and 1999 KM: 275 EUR per participant
- ✓ For travel distances between 2000 and 2999 KM: 360 EUR per participant

**Visa and visa related costs:** are covered. The Foundation & Supporting Organization will help to obtain the visa (if needed) and to register in Poland. The Schuman Foundation will reimburse the costs of visa after volunteers' arrival.

**Medical tests:** volunteers hosted in kindergartens and school with integrative classes will have to undertake sanitary medical tests, as it is required by Polish law. The Schuman Foundation will cover its' costs and assist in the process.



# **Special Kindergarten 245**

OID number: 065927-ORG-00008 Project duration: March – December 2021 We are searching for: 1 volunteer



Special Kindergarten number 245 takes care of visually impaired children from 3 to 6 years old. There are 40 children with various visual defects divided into 4 age groups. It's important to recognize that children in the kindergarten are not sightless, though all of them have some serious vision problems.

Kindergarten provides regular activities such as musical lessons, gymnastic, art, dancing, English classes but also special treatment for children who have been diagnosed with different visual defects. Children under professional supervision perform everyday exercises using specialist equipment. Kindergarten also provides professional psychological, logopedic and educational therapy.

## The volunteers' main task will be to:

- ✓ assist during the teacher-managed group classes or individual lessons. Volunteers will get specific guidelines and training to prepare them to work with children with disabilities.
- ✓ help teachers in conducting workshops and classes for children in different age groups.
- ✓ take part in therapies and professional lessons with experts.
- ✓ help kindergarten's staff in daily routine with typical self-care activities, such as personal hygiene, eating and dressing, midday nap.
- ✓ provide additional activities like presentations of their countries, thematic days, celebrations of holidays, local events for parents.
- ✓ prepare ideas how to improve or develop existing activities and conduct them with teachers. Time for playing is the time volunteers are welcome to propose their own activities like handcrafts, musical workshops, reading books. They can implement their own solutions and ideas with acceptance of the teacher.
- Assist during visits and activities outside of the kindergarten like going out to cinemas, theatres, museums etc.





## **Special Kindergarten 213** OID number: 065927-ORG-00005 Project duration: March – December 2021

We are searching for: 1 volunteer

Special Kindergarten number 213 in Warsaw is an educational institution for children and youth with physical and intellectual disabilities. There are 47 children and adolescents (from 3 to 25 years old) divided into 8 groups. All participants are children with disabilities accompanied by other developmental disorders, e.g. autism, genetic diseases, behavioral disorders and physical disabilities. The pedagogical team is supported by specialists that lead different therapeutic activities like speech therapy, sensory integration, physiotherapy etc. The kindergarten works at different times (there are groups working only in the morning and groups working only in the afternoon).

# The volunteers' main task will be to:

- help in two different groups of children 1 group of children with autism between 4-6 years old and 1 group of children with physical and intellectual disabilities. Each group is up to 6 children which creates an opportunity for establishing individual relationship during individual lessons, therapies.
- ✓ accompany teachers and experts with special activities like physiotherapy, sensory integration, fairytale integration, language therapies. Take a part in integration and didactic activities in group activities.
- ✓ propose own ideas on how to develop existing activities or create new ones for children. With teacher's help volunteers will add new content to weekly schedule. They will prepare presentations about their home countries or thematic days/weeks to promote culture of their origin.
- ✓ assist staff in their activities connected with daily routine: morning greetings, planning whole day using AAC methods (augmentative and alternative communication), assisting during the meals or feeding children, assisting children while going to the bathroom.
- ✓ occasionally go out with children to theaters, cinemas, parks or visit partner schools institutions. Once a year in spring time group of children visits seaside for holidays and volunteers will be asked to join them and help during this trip.



# **COORDINATING ORGANIZATION**



Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana will coordinate all the volunteers, will be responsible for coordinating the project, financial management etc. Foundation's office is located in Al. Ujazdowskie 37/5, in the heart of Warsaw.

The European Solidarity Corps team: Joanna Zalewska, Joanna Jendrośka, Iga Kamocka email: <u>volunteering@schuman.pl</u>

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