



The House of Europe in Mayenne (France) is looking for a European volunteer, from September 2016!

Project environment

The House of Europe in Mayenne is located in Laval which is the county town of Mayenne but which is also a provincial town with a "human size" (51 000 inhabitants only). The county is very rural but also very dynamic (partly thanks to an active associative fabric) and open to international exchanges, which offers a profitable environment for our activity and projects. The volunteer will be accommodated in the city center of Laval, in a home for young workers (5 minutes walk from our organization) where he/she will also be working half of his/her voluntary service. In this way, she/he can benefit from activities proposed by the city (sport and cultural associations, cinema, student bars...) and public transportation (Laval conglomeration is very well served by the bus network). Moreover, Laval railway station offers the possibility to go to big cities relatively quickly (it takes 45 minutes with the train to go to Rennes or Le Mans and one hour and a half to go to Paris).

We preferred to choose an accommodation in a home for young workers to facilitate the volunteer's social integration. He/she will have his/her own room but he/she will be surrounded by (French and foreign) young people and will have the possibility to participate in sport and cultural activities proposed by the home for young workers.

In counterpart, the volunteer will be asked to respect the rules of the home: respecting schedules for meals, avoiding making noise after 22:00, etc. He/she will benefit from an Internet connection in his/her room.

Throughout his/her EVS, the volunteer will benefit from French lessons (2 hours a week + 2 hours of oral conversation each week if she/he wants) given by an English-speaking professor of the EuroMayenne Association to facilitate the communication. EuroMayenne is an organisation which proposes French courses to the foreign people living in Mayenne, that way the volunteer will meet people who are in his/her situation. Thanks to these lessons, the volunteer can acquire a good level of French, which will certainly be an asset for his/her career.

We will propose to the volunteer to spend some weekends with our employees' families, members of the association or even friends so that he/she has the opportunity to share French families' daily life, to visit the region (and Paris as one of us goes regularly there) and to meet people so that he/she doesn't feel lonely. Finally, the volunteer will take part into the meeting of European volunteers in the region "Pays de la Loire".

The volunteer will be invited to take part in our associative life, to discover our diverse activities, our small team and our partners. He/she will work with the 4 permanent employees of our organization as well as the members of the Board who participate in the preparation of the activities of the association. He/she will work 35 hours a week from 9:30 till 12:30 then from 13:30 till 17:30. As the House of Europe is closed 2 weeks in December-January, the volunteers will have holidays at this period.

He/she will not only live at the Residence for young workers "Pont de Mayenne" but she/he will also work there as a volunteer. He/she will work in tandem with the sociocultural activity leader. This home hosts young workers who are between 16 and 30 years old. Some of them come from different countries around the world.

His/her working hours there will be from 15:30 to 22:30.

The volunteer will work from Wednesday to Friday at the "House of Europe in Mayenne" and from Monday to Tuesday at the "Residence Pont de Mayenne".

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Proposed activities for the EVS volunteer

The European volunteer at the Europe House, Maison de l'Europe en Mayenne will be involved in different projects that will take place from September 2016:

- Creating activities about the European Union and its cultures (including the country and culture of the Volunteer) for children and teenagers, held in schools, youth organisations, summer camps...
- Creating activities about European citizenship for young people aged 17-25 in secondary schools, rural schools, "Missions locales", youth organisations, etc.
- Informing young people on European mobility programs and European citizenship during youth forums organized in the county.
- Informing and organizing actions related to the European Year led by the House of Europe and Habitat Jeunes (European Year to end violence against women)
- Preparing and leading events organized by the Europe House
 - "Noël en Europe" (Christmas in Europe) which will take place in December in Laval. This event enables people from Mayenne to know more about Christmas traditions in different European countries. Each year a country is highlighted during this event. Moreover, stands representing different European countries will also be set up. In this way, the volunteer will be able to present his/her own country.
 - Europe Day events in Laval in May 2017: proposing activities for children, presenting his/her country, etc.

All these activities aim to inform young people from the county about European citizenship, to deepen their knowledge of the EU and its cultures and to develop intercultural exchanges. The participation of a young European volunteer in the preparation and in the running of such events would be an added value for the team of the House of Europe in Mayenne. It will also enable the volunteer to take part in a wide variety of tasks, and be practically involved in the implementation of European projects.

The volunteer will take part in our information activities about European mobility programs, including EVS - with young people (in youth clubs, schools, youth information centres ...), he/she will also take part in educational activities about the European Union and its cultures in schools and recreation centres, and in the organisation of specific events about the EU (European Café, cultural events ...). He/she will be in contact with our partners and local young people and will be involved in the development of information tools, entertainment activities, etc. Through these experiences, the volunteer will meet a lot of people of different nationalities and backgrounds, build a network, deepen his/her language skills and learn personally and professionally through the intercultural exchange.

The volunteer will be trained by our activity leader to lead and present activities about Europe and the European mobility programs and European projects. He/she will be able to gain a good knowledge of the EU, communication tools, the French language and our culture, but also an extensive network in France and Europe.

Finally, the volunteer will be asked to propose activities, to create and lead them. The initiative of an activity or an event related to the volunteer's culture may be included in his/her tasks.



With the Habitat Jeunes Laval, a home for young workers, the volunteer will be part of the team to develop activities with residents.

He/she will participate in the residents' committee, monthly meetings to gather information about the expectations and needs of residents, participate in the sports activities (badminton, basketball, football ...). He/she will participate in, and propose (inter-) cultural activities and times of exchange between the young residents. He/she will participate in the development and implementation of specific projects related to the environment, international solidarity, citizenship and European Union.

The volunteer's tasks will be:

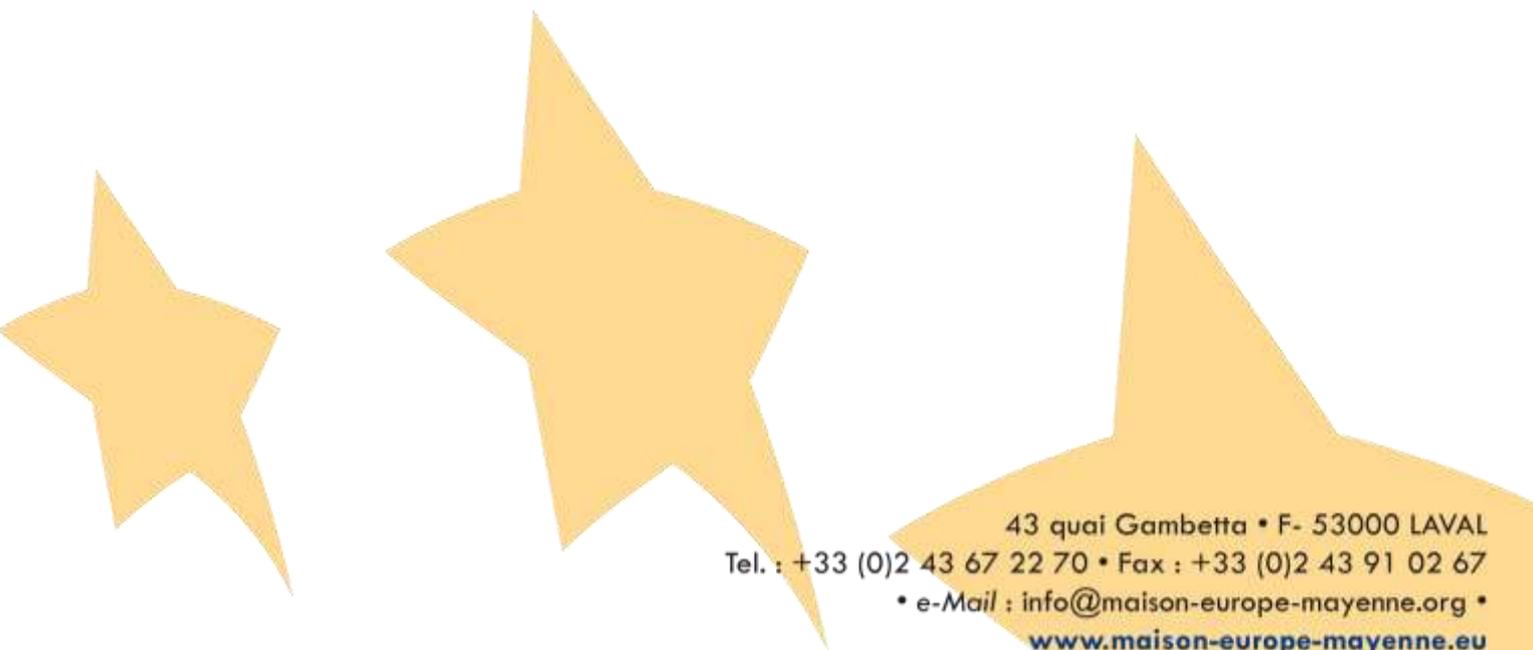
- to propose, organise, and run activities to raise awareness about European citizenship and social projects in the frame of the European Year of Development
- to encourage and promote group cohesion and the integration of young people (especially foreigners)
- to propose activities to discover a new country (show a film, organise a typical meal, events, debates ...)

Volunteer's profile:

- Motivation and interest in the European Union
- Experience in the field of intercultural exchanges
- Experience in the field of youth animation
- Basic level in French
- Good knowledge of German
- Interest/ value of such a project for the young person's own project(s) and career

If you are interested, send us your application (cover letter + CV) at the following address:

sve@maison-europe-mayenne.org



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