



# GENERAL INFO SHEET

## Workcamps

## WELCOME

Dear volunteer,

We are happy that you have chosen to take part in one of our workcamps and we hope that you will have a great time in Italy! This little leaflet will help you prepare for your camp with some general information about Legambiente and voluntary work.

Please read it carefully!

You will also get a specific info sheet about your project approximately 4 weeks before your camp starts.

Have a great time and see you soon!

The Legambiente Team

### Contact

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## Who is LEGAMBIENTE?

Legambiente is an Italian non-profit organization founded in 1980.

It's the most prominent and widespread environmental association in Italy with two headquarters in Rome and Milan, 20 regional coordination offices and more than 600 local groups of volunteers.

Legambiente is a pacifist and independent movement and is not related to any

Italian party or institution. It's supported by more than 115,000 members, donors and by projects and businesses that are in line with the organization's principles.

### KEY MISSIONS

- Scientific environmentalism to build policies and to advocate change towards
- local, national and international stakeholders and institutions
- To engage communities, stakeholders and people and enable them to be the leading actors of change

- To drive the economy towards new models of green and circular economy
- To improve the quality of life for everyone (environmentally and socially)

## TOP ISSUES

- Climate change
- Renewable energy
- Biodiversity protection
- Marine litter
- Circular economy
- Environmental and social justice
- Volunteering
- Education
- Air, water and soil pollution

## TOP TOOLS

- Campaigns
- Research and studies
- Projects
- Legal disputes
- Advocacy and lobby
- Italian, European and international networking
- Communication



## What is the ALLIANCE?

*The Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations* is an international non-governmental youth organisation that represents national organisations which promote intercultural education, understanding and peace through voluntary service. Each member organisation runs international volunteering projects in their own country and exchanges volunteers with the other organisations. Take a look at this short video to learn more about volunteering with the ALLIANCE. The network has many different working groups and runs several campaigns every year to promote its main principles, such as inclusion, gender equality and sustainability.

## Who is involved in a workcamp?

- **The volunteers**

There are usually 10 to 15 volunteers in each workcamp. Legambiente always tries to have a balanced group (balance between genders, countries, ages etc.). Everyone should participate in group life, bring their own ideas and help each other out. Everyone is expected to take part in all the chores the group has (this does not only mean the work project, but also cleaning of the accommodation, taking turns in cooking for the whole group etc.).

You might meet people in your workcamp group with a very different gender identity, sexual orientation, cultural or social background, religion and beliefs than your own. You might also meet volunteers with different physical and health conditions than you. We expect you to be open-minded and respectful of everyone's identity and abilities even if they are unfamiliar to you! Keep in mind: A workcamp is the perfect place to learn more about the world and its people, so be open, respectful and curious.

- **The local hosts or project partner**

Legambiente usually cooperates with a local group. They need your helping hands to finish a project for the local community – constructing a playground, renovating a youth centre or supporting the children's summer holiday program. They also seek the support of volunteers for protecting the surrounding nature - working in the forest, helping to preserve the local wildlife or restoring peatlands. Besides, they highly value the international encounter and are happy to host young adults from all over the world! Since the community profits from your work, they provide an accommodation for you; and of course, they are responsible for organizing your work project.

- **The camp leader(s)**

There will be one or two camp leaders. The camp leaders are here to support the group in organising free-time activities as well as to handle the finances for food and activities. The camp leaders generally have more responsibility; however, you should know that they are still volunteers just like you! If you have any problems, the camp leaders are there to help you and support you. You will receive the contact information of your camp leader(s) in a separate info sheet.

- **The local community**

In most workcamps, you will get in touch with the local residents through your work. Often, young people in villages will have a very different life from yours. Getting to know the locals can be as exciting as getting to know your fellow volunteers! Please understand that the level and intensity of contact with the citizens / local youth depends entirely on the local possibilities and on your own involvement!

## Language

The language in the camp is usually English. It is important that you speak at least basic English! The local community is often not very skilled in English or other foreign languages, however. So do not expect that you will be able to easily communicate in English with all local inhabitants. Your group leaders can support with translating between Italian and English.

## Work and free time

Usually, you will work around 30 hours a week (for example, six hours a day, five days a week).

Remember that you are a volunteer, so you will not be paid for your work.

The nature of the projects varies greatly between different workcamps. However, all projects share the commonality of serving the local community. It is important that you are motivated to do voluntary work. Please keep in mind that workcamps are always an adventure and a learning experience. We ask that you are flexible and prepared to work on different tasks. Tasks may change depending on the weather, and there might not always be the same amount of work to do every day.

Usually, there will be 2 free days per week. In some workcamps, you might have less free time than this. Keep in mind that free time is organized according to the work activities of the workcamp. How you spend your free time depends a lot on you and the other members of the group! It also depends on the location of the camp and the local possibilities, of course. There will not be a set programme of leisure activities. All volunteers are asked to participate in decision making processes about the group's leisure activities, so bring your ideas! It is always possible to go for walks, make campfires,

sing, talk, play games, do sports and so on. In addition to that, you can take excursions to see local sites of interest or visit near-by towns or museums. Please note:

Internet access will not always be provided!

## Location and Accommodation

Most of our workcamps take place in rather small villages. The accommodation will be either in a school, a gym hall, a youth center, a cabin, a hiker's lodge or something similar. In some cases, you will sleep and / or live in tents. The accommodation will be basic, but always suitable for a group to stay for a few weeks. Do not expect luxurious housing, however.

Usually, camp beds will be provided, otherwise it will be mentioned in the specific info sheet. Sometimes it is not possible to split the group; therefore, volunteers of all genders might share the same room. If you would feel uncomfortable about this, please contact us beforehand to know more about the accommodation in your camp. Usually, all domestic tasks will be managed by you, the volunteers. Every volunteer will be expected to share these tasks such as cooking, cleaning the accommodation, going grocery shopping and doing the dishes. The more recipes you bring (and the better your cooking skills), the better your food will be!

## What will be provided, what do I have to bring?

### We provide....

- the accommodation
- budget for food
- budget for free-time activities (your free time activities will partly be paid by the budget but you should still bring some pocket money with you)

### You need to bring...

- European Health Card (if you live in the EU)
- sleeping bag (unless indicated otherwise in the specific info sheet)
- towel
- pocket money (e.g., to go shopping, for extra activities.)
- swimsuit
- rain jacket
- warm jumpers
- long trousers
- suitable clothes and shoes for working (your clothes will get dirty for sure!)

- flask (your own water bottle)
- for cultural exchange: Music that you like, photos, recipes, information about your town/country,
- motivation and an open-mindedness

## How to get to your workcamp?

You will organize your trip to the workcamp yourself. Bear in mind that some workcamps are located several hours away from international airports. You will find more information about reaching your workcamp in the specific info sheet about your project, but you can already start planning your trip to Italy.

Sometimes, the site of your workcamp cannot be reached easily by public transport or on foot. In this case, there may be some arrangements made for picking you up at the nearest train station or bus stop. If there are pick-ups, you will need to arrive at the times given to you (indicated in the specific info sheet). You should plan to arrive at your workcamp during the course of the first day, ideally in the afternoon. Once you registered for your camp, who should plan your trip to the camp location?

- **When should you arrive at the camp?**

No worries, here's what you do: Have a look at the camp description, which you probably read when you signed up for the workcamp (if you don't have it anymore, ask your sending organization about it). The closest train stations and closest airports are indicated at the bottom of the description.

## Other information

- **You want to book your tickets soon, but you don't have the specific info sheet yet?**

You can book your tickets to the closest train station. The last part of your journey will be from the train station to the camp. For this last part, please wait for the specific info sheet to make any travel arrangements (you do not have to book these short trips in advance).

- **Not sure about the travel dates?**
  - First day = arrival day to the camp (afternoon)
  - Last day = departure day from the camp (morning)

**Ex: 06.07.2023 - 18.07.2023: you will arrive on July 6th to the camp and depart on July 18th, 2023.**

- **Can you stay in the accommodation outside of the camp dates?**

Accommodation cannot be provided before and after the official camp dates, but in bigger cities you will find cheap places to stay.

- **What else should you know?**

Please note that there is often no internet connection at the camp site (and it is very likely that your internet via phone won't work very well either in rural areas).

### **Volunteering in a workcamp means...**

to invest yourself, for 2 or 3 weeks, in an international group and contribute to a manual, social or cultural working project.

... to make a commitment to provide a service to a community. So, although the work is voluntary, once you registered for it, people rely on you! You committed yourself to work and are expected to go through with it.

... to participate in group life, respect the culture and personality of the other volunteers, to be open-minded and to make the workcamp a great experience for everyone.

... to get to know yourself and the world around you, to develop skills and competences that are useful in your social and professional life and in your role as an active citizen.

... to get to know new people and make friends from all over the world.



**You want to see MORE PICTURES of Legambiente workcamps?**

**Then follow us on INSTAGRAM and/or FACEBOOK!**

**Facebook.com/**

**Instagram.com/**

**CONFIRMATION FORM**

**Leg name and date of the workcamp:**

**Meeting point:**

Please return this form to Legambiente as soon as possible. It should be emailed to [incoming@legambiente.it](mailto:incoming@legambiente.it)

Thank you!

**I confirm I will be attending the project**

Name and surname:
Contact telephone number:
Email address:

I will arrive at the meeting point on time:	YES	NO
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**My travel plans are as follows:**

Arrival station or airport in Italy:
Time Arrival:
I will travel to the meeting point by:

**I have special needs** (ex. allergies, diet, diseases, etc.):

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*WE SUGGEST CHOOSING, IF POSSIBLE, A MORE ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY TRANSPORT TO REACH THE LOCATION OF THE CAMP. FLYING MAY LOOK CHEAP, BUT THE PRICE WE PAY IN TERMS OF POLLUTION IS MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE.*

**Date:**

*Signature*