

# CHALLENGE *Accepted*

A learner-centred approach to understand personal challenges and apply creative problem solving skills for International Voluntary Service (IVS)

## WHEN AND WHERE?

'Challenge Accepted' is a training programme that is composed of the following phases:



*July 2024:*

online preparation for the participants



*18-25 August 2024:*

training course in Estonia located in the Northern Europe



*August - December 2024:*

implementation of the lessons learnt



*December 2024:*

online evaluation session



**SIW**

# WHY SHOULD YOU ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE?

There is a need for International Voluntary Service (IVS) actors to:



Understand your **personal challenges** in being active in IVS activities



Learn to collaborate, ask for help, how to support each other, think out of the box, test and make mistakes, and **take ownership when you face challenges**



Discover **creative ways** to get to know (more confidence in) **your strengths, values and talents**



Be empowered in taking action of small **everyday steps to implement solutions** in your IVS practice with the aim to make more and better impact in society

## Background

International volunteering offers youth all over Europe - and beyond - the opportunity to meet, work and live together. To create, to explore and to be challenged. To discover similarities, contrasts and to be surprised.

International volunteering is all about dealing with the unexpected - and actively pursuing it for the exciting opportunities it holds. Anyone that volunteers or works in IVS faces a diversity of challenges that they have to respond to. **The project 'Challenge Accepted' therefore aims to increase creative problem solving skills in IVS.**

## EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

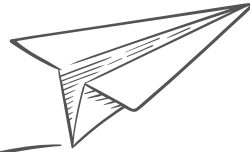
Expected 'Challenge Accepted' participants consist of anyone involved in organising international volunteering or working (voluntarily) in an IVS organisation. We are looking forward to receive your application if you are:

- Based in an EU programme country.
- Interested in gaining creative problem solving skills.
- Committed to actively participate in all phases of the project.
- Excited about the idea of spending one week in Estonia with an international group from all over Europe
- Minimally 18 years old by August 2024.
- Able to speak sufficient English to be able to express yourself during the project.



Participants with fewer opportunities are highly encouraged to apply.

# ARRANGEMENTS



- Accommodation and meals during the training course and evaluation seminar are provided
- There is no participation fee
- Compensation for visa costs for participants from Turkey (capped by EUR 100 each)
- Travel compensation: actual bus/train/flight costs with a maximum (distance calculated from the place of residence to Piirsalu, Estonia, for the evaluation seminar on [Distance Calculator | Erasmus+](#)):

## PLEASE DO NOT BOOK

any tickets until your participation in 'Challenge Accepted' has been confirmed!

Distance traveled	Non-green travel	Green travel*
10-99 km		EUR 23
100-499 km	EUR 180	EUR 210
500-1999 km	EUR 275	EUR 320
2000-2999 km	EUR 360	EUR 410

\* This maximum applies if you travel at least one way by shared car, bus or train

## About



ESTONIA

Piirsalu is a small place in west side of Estonia, where you can become one with the flat land and nature that is peculiar to Estonia. The training takes place in the center of Piirsalu village, in a building that is on the list of heritage protection because of its architecture, which is designed in 1985.



## About



SIW

SIW Internationale Vrijwilligersprojecten (SIW International Volunteer Projects, the Netherlands) is a non-governmental, non-profit voluntary service organisation and member of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations. SIW aims for (young) people to discover their impact abroad. This is achieved by bringing volunteers into contact with different cultures in the Netherlands, and all over the world with partner organisations that are part of Alliance, CCIVS and/or SCI.

## ABOUT

# CHALLENGE *Accepted*

'Challenge Accepted' is a project that is supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project is coordinated and implemented by SIW in close collaboration with its partners. The training course will be facilitated by:



*Isabel McLean*

is active in the field of IVS and non-formal education since the year 2017. Projects in different countries are mostly related to communication or entrepreneurship, leadership, and conflict management skills. Passionate about intercultural exchange and learning.



*Frank Elsdijk*

Curious, creative & engaged. 7+ years experience as a teacher in Social Work, 10+ years experience in Participative Theatre, 17 years experience in IVS. Loves a challenge.



*Liis Leppmaa*

a teacher on a daily basis, approaching everything creatively, a fan of non-formal learning and self-development, volunteers' tutor and project manager in the host organization.



*Rob van Leeuwen*

a passionate in improv theatre, non-formal education and international volunteering, which started by a learning process as a volunteer in South Africa and Indonesia.



## WHATS NEXT?



Apply by **27 April** through the [online application form](#).  
Results will be shared shortly after.

**Any questions about 'Challenge Accepted'?**

Contact Rob van Leeuwen through: [rob.van.leeuwen@siw.nl](mailto:rob.van.leeuwen@siw.nl) !



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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# NEED FURTHER CONVINCING?

Here are quotes from participants of the previous SIW Erasmus+ training 'Challenge Accepted':

We felt comfortable to 'come as we are' and bring our honesty and vulnerability, as well as questions, concerns and challenges. The trainers were responsive to our feedback, needs and the changing environments.

Thank you for reminding us we are able to accomplish more than we can imagine

I learnt that challenges we experience in life are like chicken nuggets, we think we have the biggest one, and then it's not that big anymore

Loved it! It's an amazing way to meet new interesting people from all around the world and the workshops were great and helpful.

I think challenge accepted provided a lot to think about and some strategies to help overcome personal problems that hinder my participation in IVS projects.

I joined the project with a personal challenge. I go back home with confidence to solve it.

Participating to this TC has been an amazing experience. I'd recommend it to everyone who needs to face their own challenge

This program is amazingly structured in order to give you the tools for diving deeper into the causes and possible solutions for the different types of challenges that one could face within the voluntary field but in the everyday life.



Have a beautiful day ~

ARE YOU SO INSPIRING!