

ESC individual volunteering project in France with Concordia Rhône-Alpes and the MFR du Domaine de la Saulsaie

"Animation and intercultural exchange in a French high school"
8 months project
October 2023 – May 2024

Concordia Rhône-Alpes, 2016-1-FR02-KA110-012049, as coordinating organization, proposes an ESC volunteering project in the hosting organisation called **MFR du Domaine de la Saulsaie**, from **October 2023 to May 2024 (8 months)**.

The Domaine de la Saulsaie MFR (Maison Familiale et Rurale) is an associative establishment that belongs to the movement of Maisons Familiales et Rurales that trains 70 000 young people from 14 years old to bachelors' degree every year. France holds more than 400 MFR in total.

The Domaine de la Saulsaie MFR develops trainings from second year of highschool to technical diploma in agriculture (2 years after highschool) in services to individuals, horticulture and vegetable gardening, organised as:

- From age 16 to 18, Services to Individuals and to Territories.
- From age 18 to 20, BTS, Development and Attraction of Rural Areas.
- From age 15 to 18, Management of Agricultural Exploitation
- From age 15 to 18, Horticulture

For each subject it is possible for the students to complete half of their education at school and half during an internship in a professional environment.

The MFR welcomes an average of 180 young people every year.

Part of the training modules proposed at the MFR are related to general topics (french, mathematics, history, biology, ecology, physical and sportive education...) and others are more linked to professional issues.

The MFR has a network of local partners: institutions (city council...), firms, associations... with available placement for internships, and also different organisations that propose workshops about a specific topic.

In several workshops, students are invited to work on projects related to mobility, which stands as an important issue for the MFR organization. All the students get the opportunity to do an internship abroad for a 3 or 4 weeks duration. For example, some students of SAPAT section use to leave every year for 3 weeks in Denmark or Norway, doing an internship in organizations dealing with little children or elderly persons. Other youngsters leave at the end of the year to get involved in international volunteer workcamp. Therefore, the cultural and linguistic (in English) support constitute a real need for the MFR students. The trainers have been invested on this topic for a long time now, with in addition for 3 years now the benefic support provided by the EVS and now ESC volunteers.

Project environment



The main part of the ESC project will occur in the **MFR du Domaine de la Saulsaie, situated near the Montluel village**. For the weekends (from Thursday evening until Monday morning) and holidays, the accommodation of the volunteer will be in a residence shared by **Concordia's volunteers, in Lyon**.

Montluel is a french village in the department of Ain that belongs to the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. The inhabitants of Montluel are called the Montluistes. Montluel enjoys a privileged position because it is located between the urban area of Lyon and the Ain countryside. The climate is semi-continental with Mediterranean influences: summers are hot and sunny, and winters are cold. Montluel is also located next to the Dombes region, famous for its thousand's little lakes with rich flora and fauna. The village is quite large, and it is divided into three areas: the town, the wooded hill of Côtière and the plateau.

Montluel is only 23 km away from Lyon, 44 km from Bourg-en-Bresse and 39 km from Villefranche-sur-Saône. Montluel is located 10 minutes from the motorway A42 to Geneva and it is crossed by the RN84. The departemental couches (line 171 from Montluel to Lyon) and the Rhône-Alpes TER train allows you to reach Lyon or Ambérieu-en-Bugey following the RN84.

In 2014 Montluel registered a population of 7036. The majority of the population works in the urban area of Lyon.

The MFR Domaine de la Saulsaie is situated quite far away from the center of the village of Montluel. It's located in a really rural place, without regular public transports.

The office of Concordia Rhône-Alpes (the coordinating organisation) is situated in **Lyon**, the 3rd biggest city of France, at the East. Lyon benefits from a temperate climate and offers all kinds of services and the access to leisure is well developed. It's a city really touristic, with a strong cultural heritage.

Tasks and activities

The volunteer will be asked to support the MFR's staff, to favour intercultural and linguistic awareness among the students and to support the organisation of pedagogical activities.

In particular the activities will deal with:
(50% of missions):

- Intercultural awareness
 - Be an ambassador of his/her own country.
 - Organise intercultural evenings to make the students discover their own country and other European countries. Present the differences in these countries concerning certain topics like geography, culture, current laws... in order to discuss with students about the French system.
 - Participate to workshops that prepare students to leave for an internship abroad (help with the CV, cover letter, intercultural preparation...).
- Pedagogical and other activities
 - Linguistic support in collaboration with the English teachers during professional English classes (with the European section).
 - Support with accompanying students during school trips or professional events
 - Participate in visiting internships of the students

- Organise from time to time thematic evenings for the students during their leisure time
- **Mission Euro App Mobility - Erasmus+ (50% of missions)**

- Participation in meetings at the regional/national level
- Translation of courses into English and participation in the creation of distance learning materials
- Creation of training activities in English for teaching staff + facilitation of workshops.

The MFR Domaine de la Saulsaie is a work-study establishment offering a BTSA Development, Animation of Rural Territories. The MFR wishes to strengthen its internationalization strategy thanks to ERASMUS+ by offering students (initial training or apprenticeship) mobility schemes. The beneficiaries concerned will be the students of the class group (between 10 and 15 young people aged between 17 and 28) and the staff.

The objectives are to:

- Strengthen the skills of learners and staff
- Develop lasting international strategic partnerships.
- Implement quality international mobility.
- Experiment and innovate at the pedagogical level.

For this, the MFR will organize in the short and medium-term outgoing and incoming mobility via hybrid, internship, and combined mobility for students, training, teaching, and combined and hybrid mobility for staff. Partnerships with higher education institutions and companies will be created or developed. In the longer term, the MFR will engage in strategic cooperation partnerships.

The expected results are:

For the students of the MFR: better employability, curiosity and progress in professional practices and in the English language, ability to undertake and curiosity for learning, strengthening of European citizenship.

For the staff of the MFR: A perspective on their professional practices, a better understanding of European training systems, and innovation in their teaching practices.

The expected results for the MFR are: A better federation of the various actors around European and international mobility projects, A multiplier effect of mobility among all actors, The sustainability of partnerships, and An increase in the attractiveness of training.

The detailed activities will be defined both by the volunteer and the MFR's staff, according to the volunteer's skills and interests.

Requirements

- Adaptation, sense of organisation and anticipation.
- To be communicative and easy to approach by youngsters.
- Speak good English and have a basic knowledge of French or be really motivated to learn French.
- Motivation for the topics of youth activities and French pedagogical and educational system.
- Availability for a 8 months project starting at the beginning of October 2023.
- To have the driving license and feel comfortable with driving could be helpful but it's not mandatory.

Practical conditions

- **Working Hours:** The volunteer will work 32 hours per week, distributed in 4 days a week. From Tuesday to Friday (He/she will have 7 weeks of holidays (when the MFR will be closed) + the national holidays.
- **Working and living conditions:**

Accommodation and food will be provided. The volunteer will have two different accommodations available. The main one will be used during the days of his/her missions, from Tuesday evening to Friday, inside the MFR du Domaine de la Saulsaie, in Montluel.

The other one will be available for weekends (from Friday evening until Tuesday morning) and during his/her holidays, and will be situated in a sharing apartment in Oullins 15 min away by metro from Lyon.

In the MFR, the volunteer will live in an equipped student accommodation, in a private apartment in a specific area separated from the students' rooms. The volunteer will also have an equipped kitchen with a fridge, electric oven, dishes, cutlery, coffee machine at his/her disposal.

A TV and an Internet connection will also be available in the apartment.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided by the MFR, except on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday morning.

MFR staff will arrange and furnish the living space according to the expectations of the volunteer at his/her arrival.

To be noticed: the MFR is situated in a rural place, without daily public transport, except the school bus on Monday and Friday. Depending on the situation, a car can be lent to the volunteer on the evenings to be more free to move around.

In Concordia, the accommodation of the volunteer will be in a flatsharing residence in Oullins "So Coloc". Nearby the residence there are public transports and all kind of conveniences. The volunteer will share this flat with up to 7 young people (french and/or Erasmus students, ESC volunteers). In the flat, there is a shared living room and a shared kitchen all equipped as well as two bathrooms. Wi-Fi will also be available.

- **Budget:** Concordia will provide every month to the volunteer **9,00 euros** for the 3 days per week spent in Lyon + for all the holiday weeks. In addition, the volunteer will get pocket money from Concordia (**7,00 euros per day**).

Application deadline: 01/09/2023

Please send your CV and motivation letter to:

Lucie ROZIER

ces.rhone-alpes@concordia.fr

and write „Animation and intercultural exchange in a French high school“
in the subject of the e-mail + specify your sending organization.

NB after receiving the applications, we may arrange Skype/Phone interviews