

AMPLIFY 2.0

European Solidarity Corps - Volunteering Project in Palermo  
from 30/03/2020 to 30/10/2020

## InfoPack



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Erasmus+



## INTRODUCTION

**Dear volunteers,**

Welcome on board!

Following you will find a description of the organization, project, venue and all necessary information on the programme of this ESC Volunteering Project. Furthermore, there will be available a short compendium of the weekly activities, travel information and guidelines for other practical aspects.

## THE HOST ORGANISATIONS

The **H.R.Y.O. Human Rights Youth Organization** is non-profit, non-governmental organisation founded in Palermo in 2009 with the aim to strengthen the Human Rights at a local and global level.

**Vision:**

HRYO believes in a world governed by peace and mutual understanding. We see education as an essential aspect towards creating a reality that promotes and protects human dignity, all aspects of equality and sustainability.

As an organization we see the importance in supporting local action and developing the potential of a single human being, for small changes lead to big process.

**Mission:**

Our mission is to facilitate, through various means, the fulfilment of Human Rights and establish an international network of organisations and individuals who are actively contributing to their local context.

We seek to actively work towards a culture of peace by promoting and taking part in non-violent action towards the liberation from oppression in any form. While taking action we promote, encourage and celebrate the value of diversity of people in society.

**Goals:**

1. To restore Human dignity by using non-formal educational projects that respond to the needs of society and the individual;
2. To break down prejudice by connecting different realities and facilitate an intercultural dialogue;
3. To raise awareness of oppression and suffering and the issues surrounding them;
4. To establish a network that supports local movements in conflict zones;
5. To create, facilitate and communicate a pathway towards a culture of peace, respect and sustainability;
6. To be of influence in the change of law, rules and policies that protect the Human Rights;
7. To establish a local Human Rights Centre that educates about and promotes the integration of Human Rights with daily life;
8. To promote culture as a tool in the acceptance and understanding of diversity;
9. To create a department specialised in issues that affect the position and role of women in society;
10. To use a holistic approach in the achievement of tolerance amongst the new generation;
11. To promote peaceful action towards liberation from the influence of mafia and organized crime;
12. To be a leading example in all of the above.

## THE TEAM



**MARCO**  
PRESIDENT OF  
HRYO -  
FINANCIAL  
MANAGER



**SENEM**  
CO-DIRECTOR  
OF HRYO -  
PROJECT  
COORDINATOR



**MELANIA**  
PROJECT  
DEVELOPER -  
LOCAL  
INITIATIVE  
ORGANIZER

## THE PROJECT

**AMPLIFY 2.0** is a Volunteering Project on the themes of Community development, Rural development and urban re-generation, and Culture that includes a 7-month-long mobility experience of three young participants from France, Malta and Spain aged between 18 and 30 years.

The project aims to achieve a useful, virtuous and ethical growth path for young European volunteers from different backgrounds and cultures; we will thus be able to value practical work as an element of change in society; be active in those areas on the margins, launching a clear message to young people: "By acting concretely, micro and macro problems can be solved."

The **long-term objectives** of the project are:

- Creating bonds between young people and their environment; raising awareness of their own personal and cultural identity.
- Revitalizing disadvantaged districts by recognizing historical and present values of the neighborhood and its residents.
- Promoting initiatives engaging young people to interact with people from different backgrounds, ages and cultures in order to make them active citizens who would act responsibly to build a more sensitive and inclusive society.

While the **short-term objectives**, which are mostly related to the self-development of the volunteers, are:

- Improving their socio-cultural competences, those identified in 8 key competences summarized by the Youthpass and not only;
- Fostering active participation and responsible citizenship;
- Boosting a deep reflection on the influence of prejudices and stereotypes in our societies and encouraging them to take action against discrimination;
- Broadening their horizons through working and living experience in an intercultural environment that fosters self-reflection and better understanding of one's own culture and identity;
- Raising awareness on environmental and economic sustainability;
- Enhancing their knowledge about the fundamental human rights;
- Giving them the opportunity to learn and practice different social intervention tools, such as Meet me Halfway Festival.

The project will favor the growth of volunteers in two aspects:

1. General, connected to the macro social competences, to the activity plan, within the context of the HRYO, which deal with local and international activities with a wide network of care and individuals;
2. Specific, connected to the micro competences of each project based on the non-formal education method, ie on the 8 key resources for the development of youth for each volunteer.

Within our organization the volunteers will come into contact with the entire world of the third sector we work with. In order to favor the social integration of our volunteers, both during and after the activities, they are committed to the initiatives carried out by the network, so as to give visibility to their project. Volunteers are placed within our team at 360°, developing a strong team spirit. They will assimilate the way we work, our strategies and the approach to local situations, becoming familiar with our mission and vision.

The volunteer activity plan is aimed at the development of the following **competences**:

- Cultural awareness and expression: During this long-term mobility experience the volunteers will improve their cultural and diversity awareness by understanding the local population's way of life. The knowledge acquired through active community engagement will lead to an intercultural comprehension and mutual understanding of the local population's needs.
- Social and civic competences: By developing sensibility for cultural traits the volunteers will understand how these are affected by overall socio-political structures. This will motivate them to expand their knowledge of democracy, justice, equality, citizenship and civil rights.
- Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship: This experience will stimulate the volunteers' sense of initiative and entrepreneurship as they will try to develop opportunities for community and reach out locals to participate in proposed activities. The volunteers will experience how initiative and entrepreneurship can lead to tangible changes in the city environment. Through the volunteers' active involvement in issue-tackling activities, an attitude of initiative and action-taking will be built and reflected upon.
- Inspiring community change: As the field work will require continuous contact with the local population, the volunteers will give them a sense of environmental and societal responsibility. A fundamental competence here is an active approach to learning and problem solving in accordance and mutual cooperation with the community. Through the direct participation, they will gain an understanding of how small but concrete changes contribute to a bigger change.
- Organizational skills: The volunteers will improve their organizational skills through the overall realization of the activities, e.g. teamwork, time-management, selecting and recruiting the work space etc.
- Communication in foreign languages: Working close with the local population will improve the volunteer's Italian skills and challenge them to formulate their ideas and concepts in a foreign language.
- Creativity: For the practical execution of the volunteering activities, as well as the work of developing attractive content, a creative approach is required from the volunteers.
- Environmental consciousness: Through the activities at Terra Franca, the confiscated asset from the Mafia, volunteers will develop the meaning of concepts such as: social inclusion, correct use of natural resources, critical thinking, as well as creativity and practical skills.
- Marketing: The volunteers will become aware of social impact visibility of the action and learn to disseminate the good practices created during the activity.
- Digital skills: The volunteers will develop their skill of using a wide range of contemporary digital and social media tools.

#### **Local context:**

HRYO has been given the custody of a piece of land, which was confiscated from the Mafia criminality, in the Cruillas district of Palermo. The Municipality of Palermo has entrusted this confiscated good to HRYO as the leading partner of a rich local partnership (including Libera, Palma Nana, Laboratorio Zen Insieme, Maghweb and Forme - all experts in different fields from the antimafia movement to environmental education, and from communication to non-formal learning) for a duration of 10 years for working towards its

restitution to the local population who directly or indirectly suffered from the oppression linked to the presence of the Mafia.

**Project background:**

HRYO has an ongoing project titled "Amplifying voices for social inclusion (Amplify)" which is a two-year-long KA2 Strategic Partnership for exchange of good practices in the field of Adult Education.

The main idea of the project is to share good practices identified by the partners from Italy, Malta, Poland and Sweden within music, creative drama and human library which will finally be brought together during the Meet me Halfway Festival's 2020 Edition in Palermo-Italy to combine the methods together and to give it a European dimension while combating against social exclusion at local level.

Meet me Halfway Festival is an annual festival organized in an underdeveloped district in Palermo with the aim of introducing citizens into human rights and peace concepts and encouraging them to participate in the intercultural dialogue. Through this festival we give a voice to the marginalized groups and civil society actors working on social inclusion and the intercultural dialogue in Palermo. It contributes to raise awareness on certain problems of the specific district which is different every year and chosen carefully to host the Festival. HRYO, together with other local stakeholders, through this festival which is never the purpose itself but the process, achieved its main objective to call attention of both public institutions and civil society actors around the problems of those districts and to create a bottom-up initiative.

**Volunteers' involvement:**

The volunteering activities will be realized in the context of "Terra Franca" and in the framework of the "Amplify" Project and will be consisted of the preparation and implementation of the Meet me Halfway Festival which is planned for 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 in Palermo. Through this combination, we believe we can provide a varied learning process that will make the experience of volunteers a unique project of its kind. On the other hand, the presence of volunteers, their initiatives and activities, are going to play a fundamental role for the animation of the place. Participating in the organization and realization of the festival, they will be encouraged for the active participation in social and civic life and the development of inclusion and outreach of disadvantaged people and underprivileged neighbourhoods.

## THE WEEKLY PROGRAMME\*

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	<p>10:00 – 13:00 <b>Community mapping:</b> To identify community assets and potential partners in action planning, the volunteers together with a political scientist/sociologist will collect data and create a map of community assets and resources within Cruillas district</p>	<p>10:00 – 13:00 <b>Networking activity:</b> support in the development of the local network for the preparation &amp; implementation of the MMH Festival which will then include the planning of the content and programme of the 3-day-long activities</p>	<p>10:00 – 13:00 <b>Visibility activity:</b> Preparing promotional materials and activities for the Volunteering Projects under Erasmus+ Programme and for the promotion of volunteering in general, as an opportunity for personal and community development</p>	<p>10:00 – 13:00 <b>Outreaching activity:</b> support in the creation of a local community around the Terra Franca in view of the MMH Festival as a tool to rehabilitate a confiscated good from the mafia which needs to be returned to the collective use</p>	<p>10:00 – 13:00 <b>Cleaning activity @Terra Franca:</b> for a greater environmental impact on Palermo's urban areas, the volunteers will provide visibility and an ensuing feeling of responsibility by keeping clean the shared garden and taking care of the plants whilst connecting with the local population</p>	<p><b>FREE</b> **</p>	<p><b>FREE</b> **</p>
Lunch Break							
	<p>15:00 – 17:00 <b>Weekly HRYO staff meeting</b></p> <p>17:00 – 18:00 <b>Meeting with tutor</b></p>	<p>15:00 – 18:00 <b>Italian language course (OLS)</b></p>	<p>15:00 – 18:00 <b>Human Library:</b> support in preparation of the initiative as a part of the MMH Festival by searching for "human books", creating content for the social media channels; contribution to the realization of the event by giving logistic support; completing the post-event tasks such as organizing and archiving materials, organizing evaluation meeting</p>	<p>15:00 – 18:00 <b>Italian language course (OLS)</b></p>	<p>15:00 – 17:00 <b>Italian language course (OLS)</b></p> <p>17:00 – 18:00 <b>Meeting with mentor (once in two weeks)</b></p>		

\*This is a draft programme. It can be modified according to the needs and interests of the volunteers and/or the Receiving Organization as far as the learning objectives remain the same.

\*\*There is a possibility that the dates of our annual events and/or international projects will fall on a weekend. In this case, the participants are requested to work during the weekend having the possibility to take 1 or 2 days off during the week.

## THE VENUE

### PALERMO

Palermo is the cultural, economic and touristic capital of the Sicily Region. It is a city rich in history, culture, art, music and food. Here are some facts about Palermo:

- Located on the island of Sicily, Palermo has a population of 850,000.
- Spoken languages: Italian and Sicilian.
- Public transport: Moving around with public transport is problematic, to say the least. You can only know when you'll go out, but you'll never know when you'll reach your destination. AMAT operates bus and tram services around the city, with one-off tickets priced at €1.40 (valid for 90 minutes after validation). Tickets can be bought at newspaper kiosk, tobacconists or directly on board for a bigger charge (not always available).
- Driving and Parking: Crossing the streets is often an adventure. Driving the streets of Palermo can be nerve wrecking for the inexperienced and fainthearted. Expect long queues at traffic lights, drivers sounding horns at each other, and scooters darting all over the place. You often find people 'working' in the streets by helping you to find a parking spot. They expect you to pay a small amount of money for their service (0.50ct /1,-)
- Shops and businesses tend to open mid-morning and close for lunch at 1 pm, to then resume operations at 4 pm.
- Water: The tap water is potable but the quality is not the best in the historical area of the town.
- On this website: <http://palermo.use-it.travel/> you can find USE-IT map of Palermo. The content and suggestions in this map are coming from the young locals of Palermo, their recommendations make it possible for you to act like a local too!
- The working venue will be variable according to the activities to be run.

## LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

### PREPARATION

The Sending organizations will arrange the preparation before the departure of the volunteers which is linked to both the content of the project and the practical aspects. So, the Sending organizations will buy the tickets according to the agreed dates.

About the visa, HRYO will share with the Sending organisations the responsibility of ensuring the volunteers' regular entry in Italy. HRYO will support the volunteers who need a visa by preparing necessary documents such as the official invitation letter to the Italian Consulate in their Country to be sent by the Italian National Agency.

The Coordinating organization will activate the insurance through the convention with Cigna Health Insurance for EVS projects, and request from the local authorities the free European Health Insurance Card if the volunteers already don't have it.

## **FOOD ALLOWENCE & POCKET MONEY**

All the financial aspects related to the project and issues related to food and pocket money will be defined in the Learning Agreement which will be prepared during the preparation phase and signed by all the parties (Volunteer, Sending and Coordinating Organizations) before the departure of the volunteer.

## **ACCOMODATION**

Volunteers will be hosted at the HRYO Guest House. Our association in order to accommodate them in the best way has created a Guest House in a Liberty neighborhood of Palermo. The location we have chosen is justified by the fact that the street is bordered by Liberty Street, one of the main streets of Palermo provided by a large number of services, and bordering Notarbartolo Street, which is also one of the main streets of Palermo where there is Metro-line, Tram and Train Station. Also not far from the apartment there are some of the historic houses and gardens of Palermo where one can enjoy their leisure time. Besides, it is covered with all the essential facilities, mini markets, restaurants, bakeries, pharmacies etc. The Guest House is approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup> and it is composed of an entrance hall, kitchen, two bathrooms, 5 large bedrooms and a living room. It has an electrical installation certificate, R.C. insurance, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, heating. This space we have created is a living space, where our guests can get in touch with all the different cultures animating our association.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The Receiving organization will provide the volunteers with bicycle and/or bus pass for the main lines of the city.

## **SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTEERS**

During the service, a whole range of instruments and tools will be available for the volunteers in order to facilitate the activities and at the same time ensure the safety of volunteers. HRYO, as receiving organization, will be responsible for ensuring safety and security of the volunteers. They will work in an adapted working environment which fits the purpose of their tasks.

HRYO will provide supervision and support to the volunteers, not only for the work to be done but also in their free time (such as suggestions for excursions, meeting people, etc.). Furthermore, it will assign a mentor to the volunteers in order to give them a personal support. The nominated mentor will be a member of another organisation among our local network who is experienced in working with young people with fewer opportunities. Nominating an external resource as the mentor, HRYO aims to foster the social integration of the volunteer and strengthen the capacity of conflict prevention. The mentor will provide personal and learning process support to the volunteer, helping him/her to structure the learning plan. In the final step of the experience the mentor will support the volunteer in collecting all the competences, skills and knowledge acquired in order to fill out the Youthpass Certificate.



## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### HOW TO REACH PALERMO CITY CENTRE?

- From the **Airport of Palermo** you can take the shuttle bus “Prestia e Comandé” just outside the airport. There is a bus every half hour. The price is 6,30€ for one way, 11,00€ for return ticket. Here is the schedule:  
[http://www.prestiaecomande.it/plugins/tratte\\_1\\_0/pdf-prestia/5.pdf](http://www.prestiaecomande.it/plugins/tratte_1_0/pdf-prestia/5.pdf)
- From the **Airport of Trapani** you can take a bus run by “Autoservizi Salemi”. The price is 11€ for one way. Here you can find the schedule:  
[http://autoservizisalemi.it/new/orari/ASALEMI\\_Birgi\\_Marsala.pdf](http://autoservizisalemi.it/new/orari/ASALEMI_Birgi_Marsala.pdf)
- From the **Airport of Catania** you can take a bus run by “SAIS”. The price is around 15€ for one way. Here you can find the schedule:  
[http://wwwnew.saisautolinee.it/public/userFiles/catania-palermo-in-vigore-30-05-2016\\_1.pdf](http://wwwnew.saisautolinee.it/public/userFiles/catania-palermo-in-vigore-30-05-2016_1.pdf) (**Attention:** The last bus is at 22:00!)

## FINANCIAL ASPECT

- Accommodation, at basic level under budget conditions, will be covered by the Receiving organization for the duration of the voluntary service.
- Travel expenses will be either covered by the Sending organization or reimbursed to the volunteer according to the limit provided by the European Commission through [distance calculator](#):
  - For France: € 275
  - For Malta: € 180
  - For Spain: € 275

NOTE: In case that the prices are higher than this limit, the participants are expected to pay the rest.
- The reimbursements will be done through bank transfer upon the delivery of all travel documents, such as ORIGINAL tickets, invoices, receipts, boarding passes, etc.  
NOTE: There **WILL NOT** be reimbursement in case of missing boarding passes.
- Taxi will **ONLY** be reimbursed in early hours in the morning or late hours in the evening when no public transportation is available. In this case, the participants are requested to provide us with the receipt which is issued to the name of their Sending organization specifying the Grant Agreement Number of the project.
- The travel must be realized by the participants on the most possible direct way within maximum 4 days (**ONLY 2 days before + 2 days after the activity**). In case of longer stays or indirect travelling there is no chance of reimbursement of travel costs.
- The volunteers will receive a monthly payment\* of € 300 in total:
  - 150€ as pocket money for which they will sign a declaration upon its delivery,
  - 150€ as food allowance for which they will have to bring us back the receipts.

\*To be defined better in the Learning Agreement.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SICILY!**

