

Infopack for **EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2017** with



Associação Mais Cidadania (AMC) is a European Non-profit NGO that operates in Bairro Alto, Lisboa (Portugal), since 2003.

**Our mission is...**

...to promote Citizenship through cooperation with local and international partnerships

...to train youngsters and young adults to share competencies and skills as a tool to serve society

...to contribute for a responsible and active involvement of citizens in civil society and in the construction of solutions for the challenges of modern society

**We believe...**

...in the strength of non-formal education as a methodology to acquire new competences and know-how both at personal and professional level

...in the potential of cooperation with an efficient and active network

...that every individual can and should contribute for a better world, to turn the society more participative, solidary, inclusive, democratic and human.

**Find and follow us here:**

**Website:** <http://www.maiscidadania.pt/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/maiscidadania/](http://www.facebook.com/maiscidadania/)

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[tiago.lila@maiscidadania.pt](mailto:tiago.lila@maiscidadania.pt) – **short-term** EVS volunteers candidates

## PROJECT NAME AND CONCEPT

**G.I.V.E. (Global Illimited Volunteering Energy)** is based on the idea of building a global community under the principles of Global Education.



“education that opens people’s eyes and minds to the realities of the globalized world and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all. Global education is understood to encompass development education, human rights education, education for sustainable development, education for peace and conflict prevention and intercultural education; being the global dimension of education for citizenship.” Maastricht Global Education Declaration (2002).

This **EVS** project **aims** to:

- use Global education to foster citizens’ awareness on social justice and sustainable development;
- help youngsters, organisations and communities to understand the complex realities and processes of today’s world and develop values, attitudes, knowledge and skills that will enable them to face the challenges of an interconnected world;
- promote acceptance of otherness and interdependency thus creating the conditions for others to express themselves and build behaviour of solidarity;
- promote the values that EU was built in: **“The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.”** Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.

## DATES AND PLACE

The project will take place in **Lisbon area, Portugal**, from **January to December 2017**.

AMC is the Coordinating and Hosting organisation for **G.I.V.E. (Global Illimited Volunteering Energy)** project.

## PLACEMENT: +SKILLZ (youth centre) ANIMATION

The volunteer will work in a voluntary environment and s/he will never replace the professional staff of the hosting organization.

Notice that your project is short-term, which means that you will probably leave when your adaptation process is finally concluded: try to adapt your expectations in advance! See it as a great first EVS experience ;)

Check out about what happens in +Skillz in their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaisSkillz>



## CONTEXT

**Bairro Alto** is one of the historical neighbourhoods of Lisbon, built in the beginning of the XVI century just outside of the city walls. It stands on a hill and this is where its name comes from: it means Upper District. For many decades, a neglected area, that people from outside would avoid, connected with drug trafficking and prostitution, it began to turn into the nightlife hub of Lisbon in the 80's. Nowadays, it is a thriving area, with commerce, art galleries, many bars and restaurants. During the night, its streets are full of people drinking outside, having dinner and dancing in the small bars.

The population of the neighbourhood was, until some years ago, very aged: people who have been born and lived all their lives in the same house. It was a preferred area for students from other parts of Portugal to stay as well. Currently, it is a favourite spot for tourists to rent houses, with the consequent rise in the prices of the houses, which has expelled many locals. There are many youngsters living in and around Bairro Alto, from different cultures. The school that serves the population of Bairro Alto, Escola Passos Manuel, has currently a percentage of 20% of foreign students (from Brazil, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Russia, etc.). The school dropout rate is around 15% and there are dozens of youngsters without occupation.



A street in Bairro Alto

## AN EVS VOLUNTEER IN +SKILLZ

The youth centre project is based on building life projects with and for youngsters coming from diverse and susceptible family backgrounds, some of them having with no or little family support. The main feature of this placement is the act of being at the youth center: able to listen and interact with the youngsters and attending to their individual needs regarding activities and topics. The work can vary and should be adaptable to the interests of the youngsters.



The youngsters and the team in a group picture



Visit to Sintra in the International Youth Day



The big saloon in +Skillz during a Bulgarian afternoon with food and dances



The miradouro of São Pedro de Alcântara, very close to +Skillz

**TASKS:**

- Actively participate in Portuguese Language Course (15 hours);
- Establish regular contact with Sending Organisation and provide written monthly feedback (both to Sending as well as Hosting Organisation);
- Regular meetings with the mentor (person appointed by AMC);
- Regular meetings with project supervisor (Tiago for EVS short-term projects);
- Actively take part in the trainings provided by AMC (On-arrival training, Youthpass and others that the organisation believes to be relevant according to the work led);

- Understanding and participating in the day-to-day life of **+Skillz**, interacting and being close to the youngsters, providing positive examples and guidance;
- Supporting all the activities developed in **+Skillz**;
- Helping in logistic way to the planning and implementation of animation activities (sports, school support, music and dancing, meetings, cooking, arts, visits, going to the beach, presentations, etc.); four days per week, participating in animation activities in the local school for one hour with the goal of attracting the young people;
- Participating in the day-to-day life of the youth centre at the side of youth workers in order to acquire the tools we give to youngsters and the methods we use, following our prevention approach in challenging neighbourhoods, achieving experience in the field of multicultural contexts;
- Promoting active citizenship through animation, artistic, sports and outdoor activities;
- Proposing, planning and implementing indoor and outdoor activities for youngsters, as well as alternative ways of spending free time for youth under the methodology of non-formal education (using your talents and interests);
- Working in team with the youth centre staff to develop theoretical and practical activities that can change according to the period (school time or vacations, for example);

## PROFILE OF THE VOLUNTEER

The way we define the profile for the volunteers is based more on motivation than on skills. We believe motivation to be the driving force of someone who intends to be an international volunteer: motivation to learn, to share, to listen, to acquire skills, to GIVE 😊

The volunteer should:

- Have between 18 and 30 years-old;
- Be available to be part of G.I.V.E. project during 2 months (in 2017) on a full-time project (up to 35 hours per week);
- Being from one of the partner countries in the project or have official resident permit;

- Able to live and work in a multicultural and cooperative environment;
- Available to learn about the work developed by AMC under the framework of Non-Profit Organisations;
- Willing to learn and develop the project under Non Formal Education methodologies;
- Able to work with everyone (all people involved from different teams and projects) with availability, interest, kindness and smiles;
- Interested in acquiring experience in local youth projects implementation;
- Willing to share personal interests, skills and values with other youngsters;
- Able to share the same values of G.I.V.E. project;
- Be empathic with others (within the team, volunteers, youngsters or other participants in local activities and daily life of the organisation but also in common living arrangements – the more personal side of the project at EVS flat);
- Interested and able to find solutions for the common good;
- Able to understand and accept the consequences of his/her behaviour;
- Willing to develop his/her autonomy.
- Respectful of the ways of work and methodologies of the youth centre and be willing to learn aspects of the daily management of a youth centre and how to work with adolescents in a risk prevention approach
- Interested in intercultural and intergenerational learning and dialogue, accepting its difficulties and embracing its challenges
- Artistic work and music specifically (there is a music studio in +Skillz and classes on fabrication of musical instruments) – do you sing? Do you play any instrument? Great! ;)
- Learning a new language and different cultures, communicating in English (even if basic) and developing the knowledge and communication in Portuguese

## CONDITIONS

- Travel costs to and from Portugal will be reimbursed within the available budget for the Erasmus+ Programme depending on the origin country;

- The volunteer will share a double room with another short-term volunteer in a flat with other volunteers (the flats are located in central Lisbon (around 30/40 minutes from AMC's office));
- S/he will work up to 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday and occasionally on weekends (time compensations will be arranged);
- Pocket money will be given at first week of the month;
- The money for food at second week of the month;
- Local transportation in Lisbon will be provided through a monthly public transportation card;
- Health insurance will be provided under Erasmus+ Programme;
- The volunteer will have a mentor helping her/him to develop the learning, social skills and improve the process of integration.

If you just read this and consider yourself as a person willing to expect the unexpected, this placement is for you!

We will be here waiting ☺

**“Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer”**

To know more about the life of EVS volunteers in AMC, visit the blog <https://voluntariosdobairro.wordpress.com/> where they share pieces of their experience ☺

