

Project Title: **Mediterranean: sea of peace**
Number of project: 2017-3-IT03-KA105-012636

DESCRIPTION OF “MEDITERRANEAN: SEA OF PEACE” PROJECT

Introduction

The project Mediterranean: Sea of Peace focuses on the widespread phenomenon of the exodus of thousands of migrants from their countries to the coasts of Italy and Greece. The choice of the title was guided by the life experience lived in these years with asylum seekers hosts in our structures and it was guided by the will to give a new face to the Mediterranean Sea, which has been crossed for around 20 years by now and has seen in the last years an increasing of bad endings of the “journeys of hope” faced by the migrants. With the name “Mediterranean: Sea of Peace” it was consciously overturned the Mediterranean’s present idea as a “sea of dead”, just to show it as a “sea of Peace”, sea that connects, allows exchanges and meetings, allows to come in contact with a “different one” that is, first of all, a human being. It’s no coincidence that partners involved in this project come from countries overlooking the Mediterranean Sea (Greece, Egypt, Italy): it was intended to create a solidarity and welcome network, able to break down barriers and boundaries. In particular, Mediterranean: Sea of Peace’s objectives are: - To give recognition and emphasis to human rights, to their protection; - To raise awareness of the local population to the theme of hospitality; - To focus on the phenomenon of migrations, hospitality and coexistence with foreign communities. The general aims of the projects are: enhancing personal skills of volunteers, promoting the active participation of young people in European territory, increasing awareness of intercultural dialogue, solidarity and social inclusion. The project involves 6 volunteers interested in immigration, in promoting human rights and with propensity to intercultural relations. They have to be moved by an open attitude and by the desire to understand complex realities. The activities will be implemented in Italy and Egypt. In Italy 4 volunteers will be involved: the 2 volunteers that are going to stay at House of Peace will be involved in Intercultural workshops, in activities with migrants and in research activities, documentation and awareness on the issue of migration. The 2 volunteers that are going to stay at Annunziata’s House will be involved in first aid activities, in fun recreational and literacy activities and in raising local awareness activities. In Egypt, 2 volunteers (1st in April and 2nd in October) e will be involved in refugees’ integration activities, in online documentation and promotion of volunteers’ activities, in development of new ideas and laboratories. The volunteers will be supported in the opening phase of their service and they will gradually acquire autonomy. At the end, they will gain enough confidence to suggest own projects and ideas. The mentor’s supervision will be constant during the all service.

The expected impact on the participants is the acquisition and development of intercultural communication skills, of communication, the ability to work in a team, to solve problems, to manage conflicts and the development of mediation. The volunteer will develop ability to adapt, sensitivity to social injustice, to violation of human rights, to marginality linked to migrations. The project will enrich even the everyday work that the organisations run in the fields of communication, awareness, peace education, breaking down barriers, integration. The presence of European youth in the local communities is also a strong proof of intercultural dialogue and local people will be enriched in social issues’ awareness. In the long term the hope is to spread the consciousness of the possibility to handle positively the cultural differences and to enhance them; the wish is to help to build an open society, that respect and receive the “strangers” as something precious.

Place

Cairo – Egypt
Some villages outside Cairo city – Egypt

Procedure of selection

- Volunteers send CV and motivation letter (in English) to the sending organization
- The sending organization make a first pre-selection of the candidacy
- The volunteers will have an interview on skype with the hosting organization
- The hosting organization will inform the selected candidate

Period of activities

02nd April 2018 – 02nd October 2018 (6 months)

(the mobility must last 184 days, excluding 2 travel days)

Volunteer profile

- 17 -30 years old
- Interest for migration and nonviolence
- volunteers who are dynamic, creative, sociable, willing to spend time with needy persons and patient in working with them
- people who have a strong motivation to develop intercultural and mediation skills
- inclination to live in a multicultural environment

Activities

Within this EVS the volunteers going to Egypt will be involved in the following activities:

1. Refugee Integration Activities

The volunteer will work and collaborate with the two refugees school: Good Shepherd and African Hope Learning Center which are located 10 minutes walk from Sting office.

Refugee students from both schools come from several sub-Saharan countries like Ethiopia, Eritrea and mostly Sudan. The age of the students varies from 4 years old (the schools also have kindergarten classes) to 18 years old.

The volunteer would have the chance to volunteer in person and lead weekly session (most of the time supported by the official teachers of the school) in handicraft, science, social science, art, computer, kindergarten, English. The timetable of the school.

According to the time tables of the two schools, the first lesson starts at 7.30 am and the last one at 5 pm.

Moreover, he/she will be responsible of the whole selection process of the Egyptian volunteers and will coordinate them mediating their relationship with the teachers and the two schools.

In addition to this, the volunteer will also have the chance to collaborate with Nile River School located in the village of Baharwa, near Al Ayat (Giza). Aayat district is an hour away from Moneeb metro station.

2. Awareness activities to host society including intercultural learning activities

The volunteer will have the chance to run different cultural activities: organizing movie nights, intercultural events, awareness session, trainings, workshops.

3. Online documentation and promotion of volunteer activities

- Maintaining a blog
- Announcing Facebook events
- Social Media contents

4. Develop new ideas for children activities to be run at Sting premises or elsewhere

- English club
- Kids camp
- Workshops for children
- Art activities
- Calligraphy workshop

These activities target children from Egyptian neighborhood belonging to very different social class and some of them are implemented with different partners like Safarni (an Egyptian organization which designs and implements innovative intercultural programs where children connect with diverse people from around the world as a path to appreciate diversity in all its form) or Nile River School (a service project that has started 2011 in the village of Baharwa. The school is considered a main learning space for everyone in the village and offers an environment of learners and educator)

Accommodation and food

The volunteer will be accommodated with three other volunteers (two Italian girls and a French one) in a shared apartment in the heart of Downtown - Cairo, with individual bedroom, one shared bathroom, and one shared kitchen. The apartment rent, utilities (water, electricity, gas), maintenance and internet service are paid by the hosting organization as part of the budgetary allocation for local costs. The volunteer, along with other volunteers, are responsible for cleaning, cooking, and saving energy (gas, electricity, and water) of the housing facility. The volunteer will be provided with food allowance every month in the equivalent amount of 65 €, where he/she will be responsible for own meal purchase and preparation.

Language course

The volunteer can participate in Egyptian language course (held in Sting's office) since the official Arabic language (called Fusha) will not be too much use in Egypt so we will focus on the Egyptian dialect. On a weekly basis, the volunteer will be provided with 2 hours guided session (8 hours per month). This will enable the volunteer to acquire basic skills in communicating in the Egyptian dialect.

Pocket money and other budget issue

The volunteer will receive 2 € per day as established from Erasmus+ Programme. He/she will receive the correspondent monthly import at the beginning of the month and in equivalent Egyptian pounds based on the average exchange rate of the month.

Daily work, day off per week, holidays

Working hours will be approx. 35 h / week with 5 working days / week, including 2 hours per week for linguistic support. Working hours are from 9:00 AM - 12:30 (morning), 1:30 - 5:00 PM (afternoon). If the volunteer is working during the weekends, there will be free days during the week upon agreement with him/her. In Egypt the days off from work are Friday and Saturday. The volunteer will also have 2 free days per month, taken separately or collectively throughout the volunteer service period and upon agreement with the Responsible of Project.

Insurance

The participant will have a CIGNA insurance which covers all his/her needs for all the duration of the mobility.

Expected learning outcomes

The project aims to enhance the awareness about the importance of participatory practices and cooperative relationships to achieve peace and human development, which cannot be separated from respect for diversity and attention to the environment.

In the long term the hope is to spread the awareness that a positive management is possible and to value the differences, even when they create some conflicts.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Sting for Consultancy and Design is a social enterprise, delivering consultancy services for development endeavours in Egypt and the Middle East. Our core services are capacity buildings, development of training manuals as well as project design and management. Furthermore implement non-profit and self-funded activities and project. Mainly we coordinate volunteers and deliver extra-curricular activities at an African refugee school in our local community.

Our mission is to enable individuals, organizations and communities to realize and utilize their full potential and cultivate sustainable change on the personal, professional, and societal realm. With non-formal education at the heart of all our programs, our core areas of focus are youth and women empowerment as well as integration of refugees. In our local community activities at the Refugee school, we focus on enhancing the experience and learning of the students as well as creating spaces for positive interaction between refugees and Egyptians as a first step to battle the stereotypes of African refugees in Egypt, who are subject to discrimination on an everyday basis.

We have implemented a number of projects for women and youth empowerment in collaboration with: British Council, Save the Children, Care International, Catholic Relief Services, as well as National Council for Women and Ministry of Youth in Egypt. In our projects we focus on Leadership, Active Citizenship, Effective Debating, Dialogue, Civic Engagement, Building Interpersonal Skills and Skills in Project Management as well as Promoting Values such as Diversity, Tolerance, Peaceful Coexistence and Participation. Additionally, Sting is active in the field of Erasmus+ under which we send and host EVS volunteers as well as participate in Youth Exchanges, Training Courses, Seminars, etc. In collaboration with our Italian partner, we hosted a seminar on good practices in EVS projects with a special focus on the South-Med region.

Project environment

Cairo is the capital of Egypt: with a population of 6.76 million spread over 453 square kilometres, is the largest city in Egypt. The city is the centre of the region's political and cultural life: is famous for its own history, preserved in the fabulous medieval Islamic City and Coptic sites in Old Cairo.

Through firmly attached to the past, Cairo is also home to a vibrant modern society. At the first glance his chaos can be a little overwhelming but little by little, this city will shows his charm and will feel like home.

Sting's office is located in Maadi. It can host between 10 to 15 workers and the worked space provides every comforts (bathroom, kitchen, coworking space).

The area is one of several great Cairo neighbourhoods: a quiet modern suburb and culturally diverse. Maadi is a place of distinctive gardens, and trees embracing most of the private homes and there is a rich refugees community, too due to the presence of the two refugees schools (Good Shepherd and African Hope Learning Center) located just 10 minutes by walking from Sting's Office. There are many restaurants and interesting shops selling beautiful locally crafted items. In Maadi it is also easy to catch a felluca on the Nile and enjoy a beautiful ride on the river. The apartment is located in Downtown (whose centre is the plaza of Maydan Tahrir): a bustling, chaotic and noisy district of shops, restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments, as well as museums, gardens, and art galleries. Thanks to the metro, the volunteer can access every area in Cairo (and easily reach Sting's office in just 30 minutes).