

BASIC INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS of Területfejlesztők a Vidékért Egyesület

PÉCS: In general what we can tell you, that Pécs (with 140.000 inhabitants) is a very lively and very cultural city, our volunteers are usually happy with staying here, and everyone can find his/her interest/activities/relationships/learning etc., if not, we are here to help you. The city has a special Mediterranean atmosphere, usually the climate is pleasant, and the summer is hot. Pécs is also called a “university city”. The oldest university in Hungary was founded in Pécs in 1367. Today, the University of Pécs has 10 faculties every year the city fills up with students, 4,500 of whom are foreigners from all over the world.

Financial issues, living and transportation: Volunteers receive app. 210 EURs pocket money, plus 140 EURs for household costs (in the local currency which is HUF and totals 135,000 HUF per month) at the beginning of the month, from which household money has to be proven by VAT invoices. The volunteers should accept that the money they receive and the living standards are a little bit above the Hungarian average of a worker - even their colleagues, although they work 40 hours a week and have families to sustain. Therefore, the volunteers should adjust their necessities to the circumstances that we can offer them.

Accommodation: Volunteers are going to live all together in the VOLUNTEER HOUSE PÉCS, in double-bed rooms. There are 2 bigger houses that have 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, community spaces. There is a small house with 2 rooms, 1 single, 1 double, a bathroom and a small kitchen. This will be the one where the volunteers from the University will be placed. All houses have a Wifi. Volunteers share rooms, 2 volunteers are staying in one room. This is a new initiative from the coordinating organisation, so we would like the volunteers to be creative and patient in the use of this new space.

The location of the house: it is 5 min. walk from the city centre, the library and the concert hall. The bus stops, shops, post office, ATM are close as well. The address is 7626 Pécs, Ady E. u. 39.

Costs of living and repairing things in the house are done by the coordinating organisation, however for damages originated in the misuse of equipment has to be paid from the pocket money of the volunteers. Volunteers have to live together based on house rules set at the beginning of the common living, including cleaning schedules, basic rules. There are also special rules according to Hungarian legislation and avoiding problems with neighbours.

Public transport: You will get a monthly ticket to the local buses (in case of losing it, you have to pay to get another one). There are no long distances in the city, you can even get around on a bicycle, which the volunteer has to buy for him/herself if he/she needs it. You can buy used ones in good condition, we also help you with that.

Doctor, medical care: Volunteers need to have a *blue EU insurance card (EHIC)*, otherwise costs have to be paid by the volunteer in advance (if you are not eligible for an EHIC you will need a copy of the letter of your social security office stating the reason why you are not eligible). For further information, you will receive it from your sending organisation according to the rules of the programme. We help at the beginning to meet the General Practitioner GP that is the starting point at almost every treatment, after a while we ask for appointment, but volunteers will have to go there on their own if they are well enough.

Support: Volunteers are supported by 2 coordinators, an administrator and a mentor besides their colleagues in their workplace. Regular meetings with the mentor are obligatory, handling invoices to the administrator once a month is also obligatory. You can ask for help from your coordinators when

needed. Mentor is for personal support (helping to solve problems, or listen to you, or getting over homesick) and for supporting your learning paths.

Working hours, vacation and holiday: Volunteers work maximum 38 hours a week, mentor meeting and language class included. The volunteers have 20 days of vacation.

Communication: Main channels of communication is WhatsApp, we will create a WhatsApp group for the volunteers, and we also use chat (in this way it's easier for us to have a feedback and to see if you have read a notification/post with important information).

Language learning: Volunteers will have access to the online tool for language learning called OLS, if you require, we have a good Hungarian teacher for group lessons, but it is for your own cost.

Travel costs: We do not buy tickets for the volunteers. When we have all the travel documents at hand (with VAT invoices) we reimburse the money up to the amount included in the ESC Volunteering Agreement (180 Euro AT / 275 Euro DE, IT, ES, ... consult your coordinator).

Practical information: The volunteers should bring towels, bed clothes and sheets with them. The volunteer will sign a Volunteering Agreement that has equal legal force as an employment contract, and will be taken strictly.

YouthPass: At the end of the project each volunteer will receive a certificate „YouthPass” that certifies your year abroad and your acquired competencies during their experience. The volunteers will have to commit themselves to the project by staying until the very end of the project. If the volunteer leaves earlier, no YouthPass will be issued for him/her by the coordinating organisation.

For more information, please contact evs.teruletfejlesztok@gmail.com, or Tóth Viktória coordinator, WhatsApp +36202460780

