



## Volunteering in a Spanish ecovillage *European Solidarity Corps (ESC)*

### Regenerative Ecovillage Activities for Youth (REAY2)



This eight-month long-term ESC project was designed for six enthusiastic young people age 17-30 who are interested in ecovillages and sustainable living, and who want to gain experience and participate in regenerative farming activities, renewable energies and building maintenance, as well as in community-building, self-development and work in intercultural teams. During the eight months you will get to know the life of a spanish ecovillage and the European network of ecovillages.

#### **What is ESC?**

The European Solidarity Corps is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. It provides an opportunity to join meaningful work and experiential learning while your food, accommodation, traveling, pocket money, insurance and mentorship are fully covered. A person can only do one short term (less than 59 days) and one long-term ESC. You can register for the European Solidarity Corps when you are 17 years old, but you cannot start a project until you are over 18. European Solidarity Corps projects will be available to people up to the age of 30 years old.

#### **When?**

The ESC project will take place from 01/02/2019 -11/30/2018. Participants will take part for a period of 6 or 8 months, the starting date can range between 1 February till the 1 May.

#### **Where?**

The Ecovillages that will host the volunteers are: Arterra Bizimodu, Valdepielagos and El Molino de Guadalamesi.



The living conditions will be simple with the focus on low ecological footprint. You may expect shared housing and common facilities, natural rural environment and diverse social activities together with the group.

### **What?**

We offer two different activities in this project: 1. Agroecological farming, and 2. Ecological building and renewable energies. From these activities we expect the participants to gain the following overall competences:

- Knowledge and insight on topics around practical strategies for attaining sustainable community lifestyles in ecological, economic, social and cultural dimensions;
- Language skills, with an opportunity to actively practice English and Spanish;
- Knowledge about, and competency in using facilitation methods/tools for group processes
- Competency in multi-cultural cooperation and communication;
- Competency and experience in collaborative decision-making.

You may apply for one of the following activities in which you are expected to learn and acquire the listed competences:

#### **Activity 1. Agroecological farming**

- Skills related to and/or understanding different farming techniques such as regenerative methods, traditional methods, Permaculture design and organic farming;
- Practical skills related to the design and maintenance of a small scale food garden including soil preparation, planting and harvesting produce;
- Skills related to crop management, crop protection, management of soil quality and fertility;
- Knowledge on the implications of lifestyles in rural areas, and awareness of natural cycles.

#### **Activity 2. Ecological building and renewable energies**

- Skills related to and/or understanding different building and renovation techniques such as cob and straw building, improvements in energy efficiency through the use of solar heat.
- Practical skills related to the design and creation of energy efficient windows
- Knowledge and insights on natural building materials such as cob, cork, cellulose, wool, straw etc.
- Practical skills related to the use and maintenance of hand tools and small machinery



- Knowledge and insights on the use and maintenance of a hen house composter, biodigester, biomeiler and the making of biochar.
- Practical skills on how to generate energy resources through organic matter of animal and plant origin.

### **How?**

If you are interested in this ESC project, please send your CV and motivational letter to: [secretariat@gen-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@gen-europe.org)

The selection will be done after interviews with the candidates.

### **Relevant websites**

Global Ecovillage Network of Europe: [www.gen-europe.org](http://www.gen-europe.org)

Arterra Bizimodu: [www.arterrabizimodu.org](http://www.arterrabizimodu.org)

Valdepielagos: <http://www.ecoaldeavaldepielagos.org>

El Molino de Guadalamesi: <https://www.molinodeguadalmesi.com>