

Projet Now Scrifs



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Project title	Projet Now
Date	Permanent
Location	Waulsort, Namur province
Lieu de rendez-vous	This information will be released to volunteers few days before the beginning of the project.
Personne de contact au SVI	Émilie incoming@servicevolontaire.org (+32) 2 888 67 13
Type de projet	RENO, ENVI
Nombre de volontaires requis	1 (from the age of 16)

About the Project...

Project NOW is a farm cooperative with social objectives. It was created by 10 people who were joined by 40 «villagers» from the municipality. The aim is to make Waulsort attractive for the tourists again, to exploit its potential in order to create jobs, support local producers and at the same time recreate proximity services.

On an ecological level, apart from the fact that all products are local, organic and seasonal, nothing is disposable in the Villa 1900, except toilet paper... We favor ecological and raw material. All clothes and home textiles are second hand to not support unethical and non-environmental suppliers. The garden is not chemically treated and includes a few square of grass. Native species are fostered: there are a lot of birds, fed during the winter. A pond helps to support biodiversity and hens to reduce waste. In the store, we aim at "zero waste": we buy a lot of bulk products and favor re-usable packaging.

Our sustainable management tries to embed all aspects of a sustainable society: cooperative management, participatory democracy using collective intelligence, social justice and integrating differences (insertion of the long-term unemployed, collaboration with psychiatrized persons, intercultural and intergenerational relations), attention to North –South and present-future balance, through the farm cooperative to favor local exchanges and local resilience (alternative currency, SEL), individual development, promotion of permaculture and other agroecology types, promotion of soft mobility, reflection on other business and teaching models...

Volunteer's tasks

To be defined together depending on time and respective skills.

For 2016, the mains tasks will be:

- helping in the restaurant and doing the dishes (evenings/week-ends)
- building work: stripping down, sanding, painting, bricking
- Garden maintenance
- Creation of a little garden of medicinal herbs like in the Middle-Age
- Plantation and « seeding » of the pond
- Workshops, participation to visits and activities
- Data-input work for the library and bookkeeping
- Harvesting fruits or wild plants
- Promotional actions for the Villa 1900

- Maybe (but we will discuss this in the next general meeting) participation to the implementation of an online sales system.
- Work on the internet and social networks.



- Establishment and delivery of a local newspaper
- Creation of handcrafts
- Delivery in the village
- Bike-taxi for some events
- Cycling ice-cream delivery
- On Monday, receipt of the goods
- Repairing for the free repairing workshop (Repair café)

- Eventually: cooking

Volunteer's profile

To summarize briefly, according with our cooperative's rules and in order to avoid any disappointment on the spot:

Whoever you are you are welcome, and we welcome you with **total trust** and we expect reciprocity (you have access to our secrets, all the assets of our cooperative; you will have a key to get in and out like at home). We are working with food and external clients: our labor regulation (which was commonly developed) provides for highest hygiene standards (cleanliness, hair, deodorizers, clothes, hand wash...): we apply these principles to ourselves.

We practice Agapè: a kind of universal caring (for example, we don't kill insects, except if it is impossible to do otherwise: we put them out, we torture none of them, and we try, of course, to stay positive with everybody). Obviously, we want people with ecological awareness and good habits about it or who are ready to improve theirs and respect existing ones. Smoking is strictly forbidden in the Villa (it is the only immediate exclusion clause and it is available for everyone; zero tolerance). If you are a smoker, there is an ashtray and a chair for this purpose near the Villa entrance.

We are working wearing 1900's traditional clothes. When you are in touch with customers, we want you to make some efforts (we can provide you needed clothes)

What we expect from you is to give us a hand during your stay (we will discuss together what you can do and want to do) but you will also have leisure time to study, visit, meet people, observe nature, and have fun. Our working language is French, but a part of the team speaks English and Dutch. A third of customers is Dutch-speaking.

Practical information

▪ Accommodation

Housing in Villa 1900's « Pink Room » with a sink (hot and cold water), a desk, a closet (the bathroom is under work, it will be ready for the second semester)

Stay in an exceptional surrounding, in the middle of unspoilt nature with rich biodiversity and in an area with a huge historical legacy. We have a washer and a drier that you could use with no hesitation.



▪ Food

You will be fed during your stay, with the team. You shouldn't be accustomed to eat at regular mealtimes ;-). If you are vegetarian, there is no problem. We have difficulty with "vegan" diet, but it can be possible (In this case, you have things to teach to us, we have special goods here, but no soya for example, as a matter of principle)

▪ Leisures

- Numerous meetings; contacts with a large business, social, and transitional network.
- Visits and tests a tour partners producers for those interested. (Our first volunteer visited organic chicken/pork farm, participated to several guided tours, made some cheese, worked with our forest ranger, discussed with a permaculture farmer, helped our greengrocer).
- Professional reward possible
- Option to follow Namur's university courses.
- A bus and electric bikes down the street.

- Unlimited access to our library.

How to prepare your trip to Belgium

1. Visa

European citizens only need a national identity card or a passport. Non-European citizen may need a visa. The visa must be requested at the embassy or Belgian consulate of the country where they live. If there is no embassy or Belgian consulate in the country where the volunteer lives, you should contact the Belgian Embassy, which is responsible for your country. It is usually located in a neighboring country

The procedure for visa application can sometimes take a long time. Therefore, you must [apply for a visa](#) at least four weeks before your departure.

1. Health

You need a health insurance to cover your entire trip to Belgium (however usually the host has an insurance to cover his working time). Your sending association may help you find a suitable one. No vaccine is required but if you are going to do some physical work, we recommend that you take the vaccines against lockjaw and hepatitis. Make sure that you have seen a dentist before you leave home.

The volunteer must bring all the medicines you need. It might be complicated to buy it in Belgium if you do not have the necessary documents to get it. The medicine you may need might have a different name from the one it has in your country.

In cases of accident all participants from foreign countries are insured by the SVI. Nevertheless they need to have their own insurance plus a health insurance.

European volunteers need their [European Health Insurance Card](#) up to date. They can get it for free!

2. Seven days before departure

You need to confirm your trip seven days before departure by sending a confirmation form to his sending association (at home). That form will be communicated to the SVI, and allow us to organize your arrival with our partner association.

The volunteer needs to know that your sending association is allowed to require some subscription fees independently from the project in Belgium. These fees allow you to work and provide you with volunteering projects. For more information, the volunteer needs to contact his sending association.

Once you are arrived in Belgium, there is no fee to pay to the host association.

3. Arrival in Belgium

The volunteers needs to go to the meeting point by their own way. The meeting point is Namur or Dinant train station. There, someone from the organization will pick you up and take you the project.

4. Phone

To give a phone call in Belgium, it is necessary to dial +32 or 0032 then the number without the initial 0. For example, if the volunteer needs to call SVI (International Volunteering Service) for any question or help about your volunteering, the local phone number is 028886713, but with a phone from any other country, you need to dial +3228886713 or 003228886713. The same principle applies if your relatives want to call you from abroad

Cheaper international phone calls:

When you are abroad, giving and receiving phone calls can become very expensive. SVI recommends two services that are cheaper than traditional phone services:

- For a short term workcamp, [buy and international SIM card](#), it will allow you to receive phone calls from a foreign country free of roaming fees. The person who calls you will only pay the price of a call to Europe, or nothing if you have a phone package in Europe. This card costs only 12€ and allows to write an unlimited number of text messages and have a cheaper internet access (if available).




Emergency phone numbers:

If the volunteer encounters any trouble related to his volunteering project, he can call **SVI** at +3228886713 or +32495680934.

The following numbers can be called free in any emergency situation:



Service Volontaire International, asbl
30, Rue des Capucins – 1000 Bruxelles

 : +32 (0) 2 888 67 13  : + 33 (0)3 66 72 90 20  : + 41 (0)3 25 11 0731

100	Medical emergency and fire service
112	European service in case of accident or aggression
070 245 245	Poison center
071 448 000	Burn care center
105	Help in case of sinister and catastrophe

5. Luggages:

It is crucial for the volunteer to bring all your stuff in a backpack and not in any other type of suitcase, which might become very uncomfortable to move after a long journey. Belgium has a very unstable weather, it can be very cold or quite hot, and rain is always to expect. Keep that in mind when packing the clothes.

Envie d'aller faire du volontariat en Belgique ? Contactez le SVI : info@servicevolontaire.org ou visitez notre site : www.servicevolontaire.org !