



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM 2020  
BELGIUM



Service  
Volontaire  
International  
[www.servicevolontaire.org](http://www.servicevolontaire.org)

# **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM 2020**







## ABOUT THE SVI





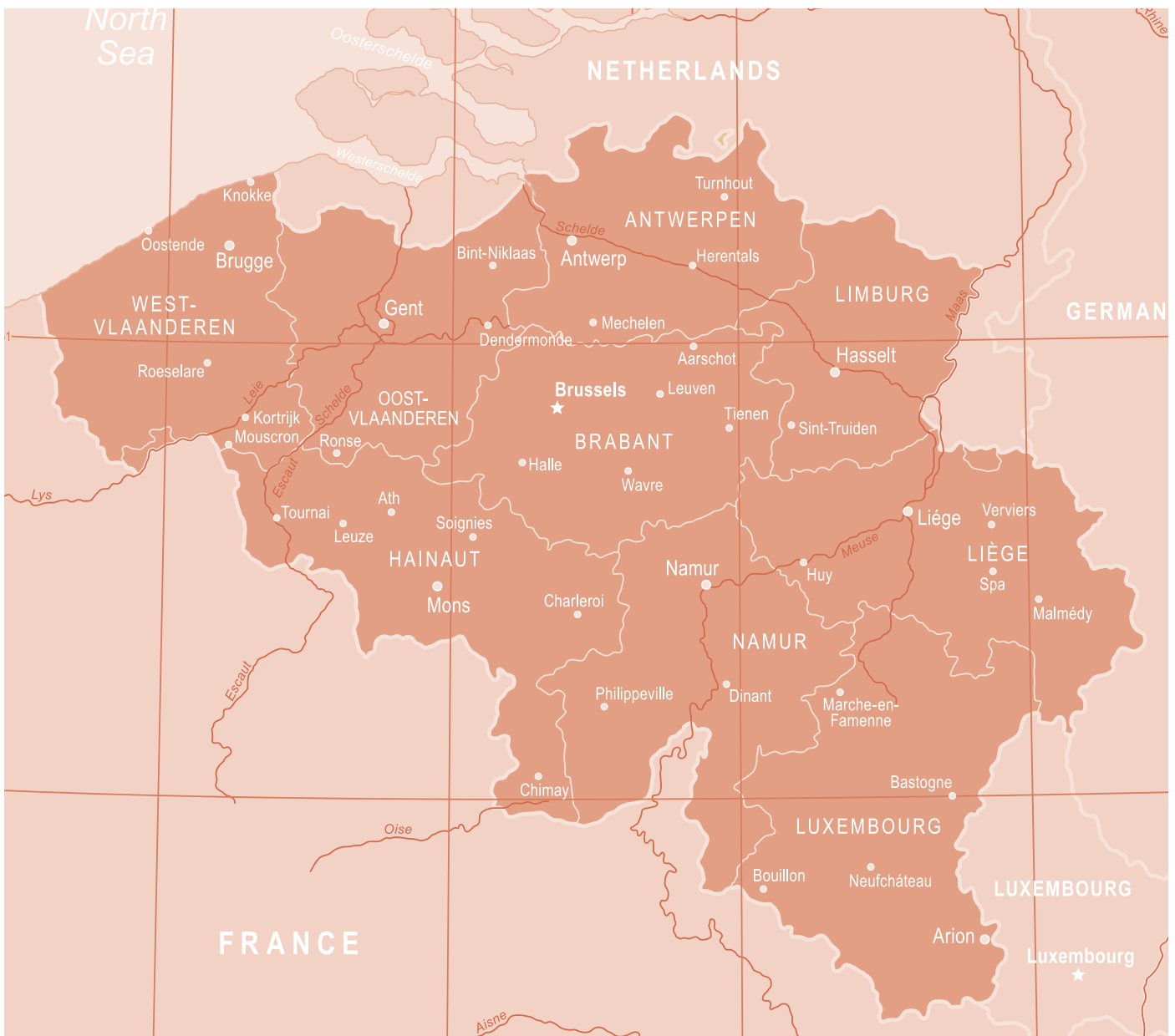
## ABOUT THE SVI

The “Service Volontaire International” (SVI) is a Franco-Belgo-Vietnamese non-profit, non-religious, non-political association created by and for volunteers. The SVI is officially recognised as a youth organisation by the Belgian Ministry of Youth and accredited by the European Commission to send and coordinate Erasmus+ and European Voluntary Service (EVS) programs. The SVI takes part in international exchange programs in more than 80 countries, including Belgium and France.

Our main focus is to prepare, send out, and welcome volunteers who wish to take part in international projects/work-camps organised by other local, non-profit associations.

### Background

The SVI was founded in 2009 by former volunteers and aid workers. The SVI is the Belgian independent branch of the Vietnamese NGO SJ Vietnam which was created in 2004 in Hanoi thanks to the com-





mitment of both United Nations Volunteers and the Belgian Development Cooperation in which Pierre De Hanscutter, co-founder of SJ Vietnam and founder of the SVI, was working.

In 2013, the French branch of our organisation was created by former volunteers. Its offices are located in Lille and since the beginning of 2017 one employee works there full-time.

### Our main activities

The SVI is actively involved in international exchanges with both the North and South. Its main aim is to prepare, send and welcome young volunteers in the context of international projects implemented by local and non-profit associations.

### Our public

We are a youth organization. Our main target group is therefore between 18 and 35 years old. However, many of our European partners offer the possibility to go on a volunteering project from the age of 16. Our offers can be for individual projects as well as for groups (youth movements, school groups, families...).

Our will is to make volunteering accessible to all. This is why we work a lot with Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in order to reach a wider public and especially to give young people with fewer financial, social or cultural possibilities the opportunity to try this experience. In this way, we hope to make a wider contribution to "educating" responsible, critical and supportive citizens.

Almost 1,000 young Belgians and French people take part in a volunteering project every year, as well as about a hundred volunteers who come from all over the world to come and live the same experience in Belgium or France.

### Missions and values

The organisation mainly focuses on intercultural exchanges between young people (from 16 to 30 years old) across the world, trying to give them the opportunity to take part in a volunteering project, regardless of age, gender or skills. In other words, the SVI's main goal is to make international volunteering accessible to the greatest number of young people. By doing so, the SVI seeks to encourage young people to be active and proactive in the society they live in, empower them and help them to become citizens of the world who are ethically and socially aware, critical, as well as sensible. Thus it promotes not only solidarity, but also active citizenship.

The SVI's ultimate goal is to make young people aware of the challenges of our globalized society and get them to understand the reasons why solidarity, diversity and development are important in such a society.

The SVI believes that the youth should be the first ones to benefit from opportunities such as international volunteering because they represent the future and will play a key part in tomorrow's society. The SVI also believes that volunteering should not be a way to make profit but to support local associations, to strengthen one's faculty to adapt to foreign cultures but also break out of one's comfort zone, learn about others and oneself. The SVI also believes that everyone can contribute to a project, whether they are from the North or from the South and that cultural exchanges can be made from North to South and the other way around.

The SVI has been a member of Youth Organisation's federation "Relie-F" since 2013. Relie-F is a pluralist federation recognized by the French community since July 1st, 2002 which brings youth organisations together. Moreover, France Volontaires and the Service Volontaire International have been partners since June 2015. France Volontaires' main mission is international voluntary, it brings public authorities, associations and regional authorities together to promote, highlight and develop international voluntary.

## What does volunteer mean for us?

First of all, voluntary work has to be distinguished from humanitarian work. Indeed, the volunteers sent to international work-camps do not need any specific skills apart from their motivation (and sometimes a basic knowledge of English, which is the main language spoken on most work-camps) whereas humanitarian actions are carried out by professionals such as doctors or teachers in a crisis situation.

Secondly, the SVI actively stands up against what is often referred to as “humanitarian tourism” or “voluntourism”. The SVI strongly believes that volunteering and tourism are two completely different things. Voluntourism is a form of alternative tourism and refers to a combination of tourism and volunteering whereby people go to developing countries on holiday while also volunteering for a charitable cause during their stay, usually for a large sum of money (the prices can vary from €700 to over €2,000 and do not include transportation). The SVI is deeply convinced that this is morally unacceptable, as the host organisations on the spot do not receive any financial support. Furthermore, the companies belonging to this sector pretend to function like associations by using similar communication strategies. They organize voluntary projects according to their clients' demand without taking into account the needs of local populations. Thirdly, as far as the SVI is concerned, volunteering is not about saving the Third World or bringing culture to poor countries. It is not a trip either; it is simply about bringing a financial and human support to a local organisation and community.

Volunteering does not mean adding a new line to one's CV, although it can be a real plus for one's future professional life. It is a personal commitment. It means having to learn and adapt to another culture, language and country, but also to other people and other customs and that will eventually lead to the development of critical thinking and open-mindedness. It also means getting involved in something, sharing one's knowledge, skills and experience, being responsible, organised and learning to trust and respect others. International volunteering also leads people to ask themselves what they could learn from

other people, cultures or countries and that gives way to a better mutual understanding and learning. Thus, through volunteering, one can become a brand-new person who can understand oneself and the world we live in better. In a nutshell, volunteering is not only about a “project”, it is also learning to live together with people who have different habits and way of living.

## Team organization

Since the creation of the SVI and for a few years, Pierre De Hanscutter had been the only full-time member. However, in April 2015, two more people were hired to help him ensure the smooth running of the SVI. Five people are currently full-time employees at the Belgian office, including the director. Apart from those five employees, trainees and volunteers are taken on each year, thus following the SVI's way of thinking: its activities should be **managed by and for young people**, giving them the key to success, regardless of their backgrounds, beliefs and gender.

The SVI consists of several different departments but everybody, whether working full-time or part-time, plays a key role within the organisation and works towards achieving shared goals. The different departments are the following: coordination (outgoing volunteers and groups going to Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, Oceania; incoming volunteers and groups going to Belgium and France); communication (external and internal); human resources; administrative service; legal service; accounting; translation; partnerships (with non-profit-making and profit-making organisations); education and training sessions; IT; community outreach; funding and EU affairs and SVI France.





## SERVICE VOLONTAIRE INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

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<b>Furman</b> Milana, language projects	<a href="mailto:language@servicevolontaire.org">language@servicevolontaire.org</a>

## **ABOUT OUR BELGIAN PROJECTS**

Volunteers who want to participate in a project in Belgium will have the choice between short-term and long-term projects.

Each of our local partners has committed to the IVS to welcome young people from all over the world to the project. We organize regular meetings with them in order to raise awareness and inform the teams hosting the volunteers about the challenges and difficulties of such a project.





# ABOUT OUR BELGIAN PROJECTS

## How to apply for a project in Belgium?

### **1- One of the volunteers would like to participate in a volunteering project proposed by the SVI: what should he / she do?**

At the SVI, we believe that volunteering should be an experience that is prepared in advance.

It is therefore essential that any young person wishing to take part in such an experience should go through a sending association.

The role of the sending associations is essential in accompanying the volunteers.

The coordinators will be able to help the young person to choose the right project and will be in the front line in preparing the young person for this experience.

The SVI, on the other hand, assumes its role as a coordinating association. We are the link between the sending association, the volunteer and our local partners. We guarantee that our local partners are aware of our philosophy regarding the hosting of volunteers. We are the contact person in case of problems and ensure communication between everyone.

We always advise you to do this at least 2 months in advance to take into account all the preparations: preparation for departure in the sending association but also administrative formalities before arriving (insurance, passport, Visa, etc etc). The SVI is of course supported for Visa applications and we provide the invitation letters if necessary.

Each volunteer who wishes to apply must therefore go through his or her sending association. Our coordinator of the projects in Belgium and France will then send an application form that he or she can complete.

### **2- What skills will he need to show in order to access a project?**

Volunteering is participating in a project for which only the motivation counts. We are not involved in humanitarian projects that require specific knowledge, but in a voluntary participation with the aim of contributing to a project and wanting to meet other cultures.

This is why, in the application form we ask the volunteer to clearly fill in his or her motivations.

### **3- How long will I have to wait after he / she send the application?**

Our policy is to ask our partners to reply within 10 days of our sending. If the partner does not reply, we invite the volunteer to choose another project. For our part, we regularly make our partners aware of the need to respond quickly in order to take into account the needs and expectations of young people.

### **4- What are the steps after sending this form?**

When our partner's response is positive, we invite the volunteer and the partner to participate in a Skype in the presence of the incoming coordinator.

This Skype aims to clarify the project, explain the expectations of each and see if it can be suitable for everyone.

The final decision will not be taken during this Skype but will be communicated a few days later by both the partner and the volunteer.

If both parties confirm the project then we can start the confirmation procedures.

You should never book a plane ticket before the confirmation has been given after the Skype.



## 5- The project is confirmed: what now?

Once confirmed, the SVI will send a series of documents to be completed by both the volunteer and the host association.

The volunteer might be asked to provide the SVI with these documents:

- Proof of flight tickets.
- A copy of his passport, visa.
- Proof of insurance.
- A certificate of good conduct.
- A certificate of good health.

**All these documents must be sent before arrival on the project.**

### Our short-term projects

In Belgium, volunteers have the opportunity to take part in various well-known festivals: music festivals, street arts festivals and fantasy film festivals.

For these work-camps, we are looking for 5 to 10 volunteers, depending on the demand of our partners. These volunteers will be involved in the implementation of the festival (assembly and dismantling, management of waste on the festival, distribution of tickets...). In exchange for this, they will be able to participate in the festival.

**This is not a free way to participate in a festival but a desire to invest in a concrete project. The volunteer should therefore expect to be actively involved in the tasks that will be entrusted to him / her.**

At SVI we are very attentive to all forms of diversity: both in terms of gender equality and culture. We are convinced that this kind of project facilitates intercultural exchange and we therefore insist that all the volunteers present on the same project should be of as many nationalities as possible.

Each group of volunteers will be welcomed at a meeting point previously fixed by the project coordinator by a team-leader.

This team-leader is present during the Skype organized beforehand and a whole series of communication means are implemented before the project so that the volunteers can already communicate with each other and with the team-leader (social networks, WhatsApp...).

The Team-leader will be present throughout the project and will be a volunteer among the volunteers but will also be the guarantor of the good understanding in the group, of the presentation of the activities to be done...

He will be the link between the group and the incoming coordinator in order to relay any difficulty as quickly as possible.

### Our long term projects

Each volunteer will be welcomed on arrival by an SVI member who will be able to take him / her to his / her volunteering project, or by a member of the local association. In the coming days, the volunteer will have an interview with the incoming project coordinator if he or she cannot be present on arrival.

Our partners always make sure to welcome the volunteers as well as possible in order to put them in the best conditions to start their project.

For each volunteer staying more than a month in Belgium, it is requested to participate in one of our preparation weekends.

This is an excellent way to meet the SVI team but also young Belgians and French people who are embarking on the adventure of volunteering.

We also regularly invite our volunteers from other countries to take part in the life of the SVI association: our dinners, our evenings with young people, our events organized by the SVI volunteers, etc.

Volunteers are an integral part of our association and as such are invited to all our activities.

Regular evaluations will be carried out informally but also more formally with the incoming project coordinator and the local partner. These evaluations will be forwarded to the sending associations.

## Important things to know

### 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 you live.

If there is no embassy or Belgian consulate in the country where you live, you should contact the Belgian Embassy, which is responsible for your country. This one 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 their departure.

([http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir\\_en\\_belgique/visa\\_pour\\_la\\_belgique](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir_en_belgique/visa_pour_la_belgique))

If you need an invitation letter, you can contact us at [incoming@servicevolontaire.org](mailto:incoming@servicevolontaire.org)

In order to send you a letter of invitation, we need the following information:

- Last name.
- First name.
- Date and place of birth.
- Address.
- Passport number with date of issue and expiration.
- Nationality.
- Start and end dates of the project.

Volunteers can get extra info at <http://www.diplomatie.be/en/travel/visa/default.asp>

### 2- Seven days prior to departure

You need to confirm your trip seven days before departure by sending a confirmation form to your sending association (at home).

This confirmation form is sent by the incoming SVI coordinator to the sending association who will forward it to the volunteer (see the end of this brochure for the correct forms).

Volunteers need to know that their sending association is allowed to require some subscription fees independently from the project in Belgium. These fees allow them to work and provide them with volunteering projects. For more information, volunteers need to contact their sending association.

### 3- Health

You need a health insurance to cover your entire trip to Belgium (however usually the host has an insurance to cover your working time). Your sending association may help them 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 leaving home.

You must bring all the medicines you need. It might be complicated to buy them in Belgium if you do not have the necessary documents to get it. Furthermore, the medicine you need might have a different name from the one it has in their country.

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

### 4- How to prepare your luggage

It is crucial that you 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.

Due to its location, Belgium has a typical temperate oceanic climate, which means of course Belgium



has the reputation to be a rainy country. Well, let's moderate this a little bit! having 4 seasons. Generally speaking, there are no significant temperature differences between the South and the North. That being said, the southern part might be a bit colder during the winter (anyway don't forget your mittens for the whole country) while the northern part (by the coast) might be a bit hotter during the summer. During the summer, it's even possible to go for a dip in the North Sea so do not forget to bring your swimming suit.

You would better not forget some useful things when you are thinking about traveling to Belgium:

- Sleeping bag, sheet and pillow, mat (if specified in the info-sheet of your project), towels.
- A TENT (if specified in the info-sheet of your project).
- Sun cream, a hat.
- Clothes and shoes adapted to various weather (even in summer!) and outdoor activities.
- Your mobile phone (if you stay here for a long time it is convenient to buy a Belgian Sim-card).
- Some things about your country (posters, music, postcards, map, video, food) and your family.
- Pocket money.
- Personal pharmacy.
- If possible, bring only ONE bag to have more space in your dormitory. Backpacks are the best!

## 5- Emergency phone numbers

If you encounter any trouble related to your volunteering project, call the SVI:

- +32 2 888 6713      Office  
from Monday to Friday  
between 09h and 18h30
- +32 495 680 934      Director  
**De Hanscutter** Pierre
- +32 474 339 469      Incoming Coordinator  
**Haine** Sophie



# ABOUT BELGIUM







## ABOUT BELGIUM

It may be a small country in size but Belgium plays large in international scenes and consistently ranks among the top places to live in the world. Belgium's multicultural makeup gives its capital Brussels an edgy vibe with an array of global services and facilities on offer to ease in even the newest expat.

On the surface, Belgium offers many top attractions in spades. It's the home of the European Union (EU), a short trip to a number of international capitals, and has three official languages (French, Dutch and German) and a sizeable international community. Beyond that, it's also famous for fries, **Tintin**, chocolate, and beer. For expats who are ready to **embrace Belgian culture**, moving to Belgium offers many new experiences.

### Belgium is one of the best places to live

There is an excellent standard of **healthcare in Belgium**. High quality medical care is widely available, enhanced by large university hospitals. It's also considered cheaper than the US, and shorter waiting times means Belgium is becoming a hotspot for medical tourism from surrounding countries.

It's also relatively affordable to live. Brussels, where many expats choose to base themselves, is cheaper than other western European capitals, such as London, Copenhagen, Vienna and Zurich, according to Mercer's Cost of Living rankings. On top of that, the country boasts a good public transport system with a smooth-running integrated network of buses, metros and trams, making it easy to go on **weekend getaways around Belgium** (with some weekend destinations even **50 percent discounted**) or even pop into a neighbouring country.

### Cost of public transport in Belgium

Most Belgian cities are well connected by **public transport in Belgium**. In major Belgian cities, a transport pass for the month costs around €35-€50. These passes can be used on every mode of public transportation. A single fare usually costs around €2-€3.

Taxi rates start off at around €4 in Brussels, and are around €2 per kilometre thereafter. In other major cities, the starting rate varies but the rate per kilometre is generally in the same range.

### Cost of dining out in Belgium

Belgium, and its capital city of Brussels in particular, is known for its culinary prowess. Brussels has been compared to such cities as New York, Hong Kong and Paris because of the sheer quality and variety of dining experiences it has to offer. The prices, however, are also up there for fine dining.

But you can easily find cheaper options, so those who love to eat out will not have to limit themselves. Inexpensive meals for one person range from €10-€15, with a half-litre of commercial beer costing around €4. As a comparison, a McDonald's value meal is around €8 and a cappuccino around €2.70.

A mid-range restaurant offering a three-course meal for two will generally cost about €60, up to around €100 per person or more in Belgium's top restaurants. A 10-15% service charge will be automatically added to your bill, so you do not need to tip unless you want to.

### Emergency

**Make note of these important emergency numbers before you land in an emergency in Belgium, plus a number of Belgian helplines for support and information.**

If you're living in Belgium, it's important to make note of Belgium's emergency numbers before it's too late. Belgium has a range of important emergency numbers and useful helplines, depending on the accident or crisis. Here is a list of the most important Belgian emergency numbers to write down.

Emergency phrases and medical terms in French and Dutch:

- Accident: Accident / Ongeluk.
- Emergency: Urgence / Spoedgeval.
- Ambulance: Ambulance / Ziekenwagen.
- Doctor: Médécin / Doctor.
- Police: Police / Politie.
- Extremely ill: Très malade / Heel ziek.
- I need an ambulance: J'ai besoin d'une ambulance / Ik heb een ziekenwagen nodig.
- I need a doctor: Il me faut un médecin / Ik heb een doctor nodig.
- I need the police: J'ai besoin de la police / Ik heb de politie nodig.

### Calling codes in Belgium

Emergency calls to numbers such as 100, 101, 103, 107, 110 and 112 are free.

Numbers beginning with 0800 are also free.

### be-alert.be

The government urges all residents in Belgium to register with their BE-Alert system, which enables them to inform residents about imminent disasters, for example floods, severe storms or explosions, via Twitter, Facebook, text, e-mail or phone call.

### Pan-European number for all emergencies

Call: 112 | [www.sos112.be](http://www.sos112.be)

This emergency number can be called anywhere in the European Union (EU) for free, plus certain other countries such as Israel, Norway and Russia. You should only call in emergency situations. You can also call 112 for serious accidents, if someone needs to be pulled from a vehicle, if a dangerous big animal escapes, such as a horse or snake, or to clear a road after a storm. The unique benefit of the 112 number is that it can be called from any telephone, including mobiles without a SIM.

The operators in Belgium will typically speak English, French, Dutch and sometimes German, and you will need to supply the exact location, address and details on the accident and wounded people; don't hang up until you've been helped.

### Fire, medical emergency or ambulance in Belgium

Call: 100

In Belgium, local emergencies are organised under the free **100 number**, which can be called for any accident or emergency to connect you to an operator who will arrange assistance and contact the emergency services. It works similar to 112 except that you need a SIM if you call via mobile (unlike 112).

### Police

Call: 101 | [www.police.be](http://www.police.be)

### Fire brigade

Call: 100 | [www.frcspb.be](http://www.frcspb.be)

### Red Cross ambulance

Call: 105 | [www.croix-rouge.be](http://www.croix-rouge.be) (French) | [www.rodekruis.be](http://www.rodekruis.be) (Dutch) | Help and intervention in case of disaster.

### Anti-poison centre

Telephone: +32 70 245 245 | [www.centreatipoisons.be](http://www.centreatipoisons.be) | 24/7 urgent medical aid and advice on drugs, medication, poisons and etc.

### Lost and stolen Belgian IDs, passports and residence permits

Block your documents by calling the government service **DocStop** | Call 0800 2123 2123 | 24/7

**SUMMARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS  
IN BELGIUM 2020**



Code	Name	Place	Dates	Type	N° Vols	Age limit	Remarks
SVI-BIFFF	<b>Brussels International Fantastic Films Festival</b>	Brussels	3-04-20 20-04-20	EDU – FEST CULT – ART	10	18+	Motivation Letter. Project with teamleader
CCAFE-SVI	<b>Couleur Café</b>	Brussels	June 2020 (date to confirm)	SOCI – MANU FEST – CULT	10	18+	Motivation Letter. Project with teamleader
SVI-ESPER	<b>Esperanzah Festival</b>	Floreffe	August 2020 (date to confirm)	ENVI – FEST	5	18+	Motivation Letter. Project with teamleader
SVI-DOUR	<b>Dour Festival</b>	Dour	14-07-2020 19-07-020	ENVI – FEST	10	18+	Motivation Letter. Project with teamleader
SVI-BSOLIDARITY	<b>Solidarity Project</b>	Florentville / Namur	21-08-2020 31-08-2020	SOCI – FEST CULT	10	18+	Motivation Letter. Project with teamleader
SVI-AV	<b>Accueil et vie</b>	Tubize	Permanent project	SOCI – DISA EDU	2	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-COTEACOTE	<b>Côte à Côte</b>	Louvain- La-Neuve	Permanent project	SOCI – DISA EDU	1	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-PILOTIS	<b>Les Pilotis</b>	Woluwe Saint Pierre	Permanent project	SOCI – DISA EDU	2	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-NPO	<b>Le Fagotin</b>	Stoumont	Permanent project	SOCI – ENVI MANU – CULT	2	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-DONBOSCO	<b>Don Bosco</b>	Ganshoren	Permanent project	SOCI – ENVI MANU – CULT	2	18+	Motivation Letter 80€/month
SVI-NOW	<b>Projet Now</b>	Waulsort	Permanent project	SOCI – ENVI MANU – CULT	2	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-AJT	<b>Auberge de jeunesse Tournai</b>	Tournai	Permanent project	SOCI – ENVI EDU – CULT	2	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-GDH	<b>The Caves of Han</b>	Han sur Lesse	Permanent project	SOCI – ENVI ANI – EDU	2	18+	Motivation Letter
SVI-REN	<b>Renaissance</b>	Braine L'Alleud	Permanent project	SOCI – DISA EDU	2	18+	Motivation Letter

# BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILMS FESTIVAL

Code	SVI-BIFFF
Name	Brussels International Fantastic Films Festival
Location	Brussels
Dates	03.04.2020 – 20.04.2020
Type	EDU – FEST – CULT – ART
Age	18+
Volunteers	10



## The project / The Partner

Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival is a 13 days film. 2,000 artists and professional are invited to share their passion and experience about cinema in a fantastic atmosphere. More than anything, it is a unique concept. It is one of the most important festivals for genre films in the world. It welcomes more than 50,000 spectators every year. More than 150 films from many different countries are shown.

The festival is composed of international films competitions, competitions of face and body paintings, many creative workshops and master classes, a special day dedicated to Japan Animation, a Zombie Parade, and many more crazy events!

The line-up is more international than ever, however we dedicate a special part of our program to home-grown Belgian artists.

## Work

Volunteers will be part of the local team composed of more than 100 volunteers. They will have to be ready to work at least 5 hours every day. Tasks will be clarified continuously during the festival but volun-

teers will mainly work with the public: ticket control, public circulation, general information...

Volunteers might also have to do some physical work before and after the festival.

## Accommodation

Foreign volunteers will be welcomed by local volunteers already implied in the Festival since many years. You will be hosted in "couchsurfing" conditions in order to facilitate the intercultural exchanges, to create new friendships and to spread the motivation among the participants! All the hosts will be located in Brussels itself.

You will be welcomed by Belgian volunteers who are participating in the festival and you will be accommodated in their homes during the whole festival period.

You need to bring a sleeping bag.

You will be in contact with your host only one week before the beginning of the festival.

## Food

The organization will give volunteers sandwiches, drink tickets and food tickets during the festival. The equivalent of only one meal will be provided every day.

There are a lot of shops, small snacks (pizza, fries, sandwich, Chinese...) and bars in Brussels.

Here is a link that will give you an idea of the cost of living in Belgium for 2020: <https://www.expatisitan.com/cost-of-living/country/belgium>

## Location

### About Brussels

### Architecture

The cityscape swings from majestic to quirky to run-down and back again. Art deco facades face off against 1960s concrete developments, and regal 19th-century mansions contrast with the shimmering glass of the EU's Gotham City. This whole maelstrom swirls out from Brussels' medieval core, where the

Grand Place is surely one of the world's most beautiful squares. But Brussels' greatest architectural expression came at the turn of the 19th century with art nouveau, and its master builder is Horta. While restraint characterises his exteriors, the interiors are sensual symphonies of form and colour.

### Art

Sometimes it seems as if every building in the city is being converted into a contemporary art gallery, from town houses to skating rinks to the vast canal-side Citroën garage being remodelled to showcase conceptual art. With property prices lower than Paris, many commercial galleries are choosing to shift to the city. And students and young artists are opening their doors to show work at open studio weekends and event nights. Whether you prefer iconoclastic or outsider art, Magritte or the Flemish Primitives, there really is something for every art lover in Brussels.

### Food & Drink

As with many other aspects of life, the people of Brussels like to eat and drink a little differently, and there are some deeply ingrained habits: delicious frites have to be double fried, and the classic waffle comes with a snowfall of icing sugar. They even have their own biscuit: the shortcrust cinnamon *speculoos*. In addition to the fabled beer, which many visitors focus their trip around, Brussels boasts the *half-en-half*, a heady mix of white wine and champagne. In recent times there has been an increasing focus on local organic cuisine, and this heavy eating city is definitely getting healthier.

### The Marolles

Brussels' once resolutely working-class Marolles quarter has partly shed its proletarian image with a clutch of intimate restaurants and funky interior-design shops along the main streets, Rue Haute and Rue Blaes. Nonetheless, pockets of original Bruxellois character can still be found, notably around the Place du Jeu-de-Balle. At a few of the enjoyable downmarket cafés here you might overhear people speaking in the earthy Bruxellois dialect, and at least one stall still sells the traditional street food: snails. Note that, despite the name, Jeu-de-Balle (aka *balle-pelotte*) is no longer played here.

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/belgium/brussels>

## Specific information

Volunteers will have to work during the whole festival, from the beginning to the end.

It is requested to arrive two days before the project as there is a preparation and presentation meeting.

If you plan it in advance, volunteers will be allowed to take 3 days break maximum. During their free time, you will be free to go to the festival and enjoy the films and events (projections start at 3:00 PM and end at 1:00 AM).

Casual clothes should be enough, but it should also be comfortable in order to be reactive and flexible during the rushes. You will be provided a BIFFF T-shirt. Brussels is a rainy town so be ready for this and don't expect the temperature to be very hot in April. You must remember that you will spend some times outside for different activities.

No specific material is required out of a sleeping bag.

After the work, you will be able to enjoy the films and events. The entry will be offered as well as your meals and your pass.

Members of SVI will be here to provide further information on the cultural sites and events in the region. There are several opportunities of sports and outdoor activities.

## Meeting Point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the infosheet.

## Camp language

The project allows you to speak either French or English. You will meet people from all over the world, so English will often be the language used.

Don't forget: the group can be a support even in the comprehension of linguistic. We don't ask for bilingual people :-)



# COULEUR CAFÉ

Code	CCAFE-SVI
Name	Couleur Café
Location	Brussels
Dates	June 2020 (date to confirm)
Type	SOCI – MANU – FEST – CULT
Age	18+
Volunteers	10



## The project / The Partner

It has been a long time since Couleur Café piled up its souks, restaurants, and musicians in the **covered market of Schaerbeek**, in Brussels, that now became a European cultural centre. In **1990, first edition of Couleur Café**, the idea was to have a **multiculturalized, multiraced and friendly festival**. Something that would not be big and gloomy. Something like the multicoloured social fabric of Brussels. The program back then was mainly with African and Afro-Cuban music. First success with 5,300 visitors.

Couleur Café already had the perfect ingredients: souks, decoration, restaurants, craftsmen, fanfares... Even if it was way more modest of course. With the success, the festival became bigger, moved, took on new music and became interested in urban music. Couleur Café wants the program to be eclectic, welcomes discoveries and Belgian music, even if its **black roots** are still as important. Over the years, the festive side of the festival and the multidisciplinary dimension were strengthened, with for example the **Cool Art Café** exhibition (with fine art) and the increase of extra-musical activities: **dance lessons, free style demonstration, NGO's invitation** in the **Solidarity Village...**

At **Tour & Taxis** since **1994**, a wonderful industrial location in the hearth of Brussels, Couleur Café is not only a world music festival anymore but a festival with all urban music. With more than 50 concerts in three days, Couleur Café offers three stages with lots of different music: r&b, hiphop, funk, afro, reggae, raga, dub, dancehall, latin, salsa, blues and rock. There are also spaces for **electronic music** with that same desire of melting-pot.

Although Couleur Café gathers more than **75,000 visitors**, including **3,000 campers**, it keeps a human face. It is managed self-sufficiently by Zig Zag, a non-profit-making organization. The festival became a must-see Belgian musical event that still encourages the fun and friendliness 24 years after its creation.

## Work

During the day (you can work during the morning or the afternoon): distribution of documents to explain to the residents around Tour & Taxis about the event. Put some gates around a part of the area (manual work, so we need strong people).

## Accommodation

You sleep in tents. Either you bring it or the SVI rents you one (25 euros) for the duration of the festival. We give you back 23 euros when you give us back the tent. You also need to bring your sleeping bag and mattress.

## Food

In compensation for your volunteering:

- 1- Drink vouchers.
- 2- Food vouchers.

## Location

### About Brussels

#### Architecture

The cityscape swings from majestic to quirky to run-down and back again. Art deco facades face off against 1960s concrete developments, and regal 19th-century mansions contrast with the shimmering glass of the EU's Gotham City. This whole maelstrom swirls out from Brussels' medieval core, where the Grand Place is surely one of the world's most beautiful squares. But Brussels' greatest architectural expression came at the turn of the 19th century with art nouveau, and its master builder is Horta. While restraint characterises his exteriors, the interiors are sensual symphonies of form and colour.

#### Art

Sometimes it seems as if every building in the city is being converted into a contemporary art gallery, from town houses to skating rinks to the vast canal-side Citroën garage being remodelled to showcase conceptual art. With property prices lower than Paris, many commercial galleries are choosing to shift to the city. And students and young artists are opening their doors to show work at open studio weekends

and event nights. Whether you prefer iconoclastic or outsider art, Magritte or the Flemish Primitives, there really is something for every art lover in Brussels.

#### Food & Drink

As with many other aspects of life, the people of Brussels like to eat and drink a little differently, and there are some deeply ingrained habits: delicious frites have to be double fried, and the classic waffle comes with a snowfall of icing sugar. They even have their own biscuit: the shortcrust cinnamon *speculoos*. In addition to the fabled beer, which many visitors focus their trip around, Brussels boasts the *half-en-half*, a heady mix of white wine and champagne. In recent times there has been an increasing focus on local organic cuisine, and this heavy eating city is definitely getting healthier.

#### The Marolles

Brussels' once resolutely working-class Marolles quarter has partly shed its proletarian image with a clutch of intimate restaurants and funky interior-design shops along the main streets, Rue Haute and Rue Blaes. Nonetheless, pockets of original Bruxellois character can still be found, notably around the Place du Jeu-de-Balle. At a few of the enjoyable downmarket cafés here you might overhear people speaking in the earthy Bruxellois dialect, and at least one stall still sells the traditional street food: snails. Note that, despite the name, Jeu-de-Balle (aka *balle-pelotte*) is no longer played here.

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/belgium/brussels>

#### Meeting Point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the infosheet.

#### Camp language

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# ESPERANZAH!

Code	SVI-ESPER
Name	Esperanzah Festival
Location	Floreffe
Dates	August 2020 (date to confirm)
Type	ENVI – FEST
Age	18+
Volunteers	5



## The project / the Partner

FLORENVILLE, Floreffe's Abbey, in the Walloon Region, Belgium Premonstratensian monastery, the second of the order to be founded, situated on the Sambre at Floreffe, about 11 km southwest of Namur, Belgium.

Z! Association, organizer of the music festival Esperanzah, aims at designing and organizing remarkable sites, events or cultural and social activities.

## Work

Volunteers will be responsible for the cleaning the festival site. They will collect waste so visitors can attend concerts in a welcoming and safe site. They will also be assigned to physical tasks. They will have to make festival-goers aware of the protection of the environment. Volunteers will work from 9 AM to mid-day and from 1pm to 5 PM. Your job is to keep the area clean and tidy. During the festival (3-5 August), the volunteers are free to enjoy the festival!

## Accommodation

Volunteers will be accommodated in a dormitory. Kitchen, shower and toilet will be available but they will share it with another group of volunteers (from SCI). There will be no washing machine. You will be asked to bring a mattress and a sleeping bag. Do not forget to bring working clothes as it can be rainy from time to time.

## Food

Three meals are provided each day for volunteers. Vegetarian volunteers will receive special meals.

## Location

### Places to Visit in Floreffe

Looking for a few hints about what to see when you arrive? That's where we come in!

Famous for its architectural qualities, lovely grounds and well-established traditions, the University of Namur is alive with history. Walk around the campuses and drink in the timeless atmosphere. There's a fabulous range of things to do in and around this desti-





© Esperanzah!

nation. Nothing compares to viewing great art when your soul needs a lift. As you gaze at the fabulous works at Felicien Rops Museum, see if you can find a deeper meaning. Still got some time to spare? If you've ever hankered for the 'Eat, Pray, Love' experience, why not seek out the 'pray' part at Floreffe Abbey? Work on your own spiritual development and perhaps even find yourself!

### Namur

Strategically located at the confluence of the Meuse and Sambre Rivers, Namur is crowned by vast citadel that was once one of Europe's mightiest fortresses. Below the citadel, Namur's gently picturesque old-town core has much to discover, including architectural treasures from centuries past and small but charming museums (covering everything from the medieval crafts of the Meuse Valley to 19th-century erotic paintings). The cobblestone lanes are dotted with sunny cafes, book stores and vintage shops – catering in part to Namur's vibrant student population. You could easily spend a few days in the capital of Wallonia, with citadel exploring, old town walks and leisurely boat rides along the Meuse among the highlights.

### Specific information

Clothing: Boots or hiking shoes (you might not want to take nice shoes because you might get VERY dirty).

Do not forget, everything will take place outside. Work clothes (for the construction work), and comfortable clothes (for the festival). Summer clothes AND winter clothes because it can get warm or cold! In Belgium we can have very rainy summers with temperatures around 15°C but we can also have periods of high heat with dry weather and temperatures around 35°C, so we have to check the weather before leaving and be ready for anything.

Volunteers need to bring clothes that dry fast because if you get wet, you might have to change clothes several times a day. If you think about bringing clothes that dry fast, you will not end up with only wet clothes left

### Meeting point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the info sheet.

### Camp language

The project allows you to speak either French or English. You will meet people from all over the world, so English will often be the language used.

Don't forget: there will be 10 of you on the project. The group can be a support even in the comprehension of linguistic. We don't ask for bilingual people :-)

# DOUR FESTIVAL

Code	SVI-DOUR
Name	Dour Festival
Location	Dour
Dates	14-07-2020 – 19-07-2020
Type	ENVI – FEST
Age	18+
Volunteers	10



## The local Partner

Dour Festival is a five-day music festival. More than 200 artists perform on six stages. More than anything, it is a unique concept and a wonderful atmosphere. More than 1,000 journalists came to the festival. These professionals are generally from Europe. Last year we noted the presence of journalists from Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Spain, Greece, Ireland, Luxemburg, Poland, Reunion Island and the USA. The line-up is more international than ever, however we dedicate a large part of our program to home-grown Belgian artists.

## Work

Volunteers will be part of the GREEN BRIGADE. Your job is to keep the area clean, tidy, and safe. The team will collect and recycle the waste to give the festival-goers a nice and safe ground. Volunteers will also have to do physical work (built the stage, carry heavy material...). Do not imagine you will simply enjoy the festival. It will be hard work too! Your job will be the same throughout the whole festival. It could be heavy and repetitive. Volunteers will have to work around 6 hours a day, probably early in the morning. During your free time, you will be free to go to the festival and enjoy the concerts (concerts start at noon and end at 5:00 AM).

## Accommodation

A camping site is reserved for the volunteers. It is well located, outside the festival, in a quiet environment. There is also a bar. There are showers and toilets in the camping. You need a flashlight, toilet paper, bath towel, basic pharmacy, earplugs... You can expect not to have hot water to shower. You need to bring all the things that will be useful to their stay because you will not be able to buy anything during your stay over there! You need a tent and a sleeping bag (+ camping mattress, pillow...) and all you think you need to go camping (there is no kitchen). You need to bring your own material to fix your tent if you need to do so! There will not be any building where you can sleep. If you do not bring your own tent and camping material, you will have to sleep in the mud!



## Food

The organization will give volunteers 1 ticket for a sandwich and 4 tickets for drinks per day.

You need to have a small budget for others meals (about 10€/day). There are a lot of shops, small snacks (pizza, fries, sandwich, Chinese...) and bars in Dour. If possible, take kitchen material like a camping stove, plates, cutlery... to cook for yourself in the camping.

## Location

### **Dour near Mons**

With a characterful medieval center climbing up a hill and a fine Grand Place, Mons (Bergen in Dutch) had a substantial face-lift in 2015, when it was a European Capital of Culture. The legacy is a handful of entertaining modern museums, which make for an excellent visit and offer plenty to keep you busy for two or three days. One museum covers war in splendid fashion, while another celebrates the riotous Dou-dou festival, which stars St George, a dragon, Sainte-Waudru, devils and thousands of beery revelers.

## Specific information

Take hiking shoes as it can be very muddy. Working clothes, warm clothes (it can be very cold sometimes and at night). You need to bring all of your camping gear! (Tent, mattress, sleeping bag, etc.)

## Meeting Point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the info-sheet.

## Camp language

The project allows you to speak either French or English. You will meet people from all over the world, so English will often be the language used.

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# SOLIDARITY PROJECT

Code	SVI-BSOLIDARITY
Name	Solidarity Project
Location	Florentville / Namur
Dates	21-08-2020 – 31-08-2020
Type	SOCI – FEST – CULT
Age	18+
Volunteers	10



## The project / The Partner

Get a two-in-one experience of volunteering by participating in our solidarity volunteering project. You will discover two festivals:

**Chassepierre:** the International Street Art and Performance Festival

**La Fête des Solidarités:** a music festival, but not only that. It's also a fabulous "children's city", theater plays, movies, the presence 40 associations and NGOs and much more.

## Work

**Chassepierre:** you will prepare the artist's dressing rooms, help construction crews, help direct the festival visitors, help move equipment, etc.

**Solidarités:** before and after the festival, you will help the construction / visibility / decoration crews. During the festival, you can enjoy the concerts.

## Accommodation

You will be hosted in rooms in a lodge and a boarding school. Bring a sleeping bag.

## Food

Almost all the meals are provided.

Make sure you have a small budget for breakfast at la Fête des Solidarités.

## Location

### Namur

Strategically located at the confluence of the Meuse and Sambre Rivers, Namur is crowned by vast citadel that was once one of Europe's mightiest fortresses. Below the citadel, Namur's gently picturesque old-town core has much to discover, including architectural treasures from centuries past and small but charming museums (covering everything from the medieval crafts of the Meuse Valley to 19th-century erotic paintings). The cobblestone lanes are dotted with sunny cafes, book stores and vintage shops – catering in part to Namur's vibrant student population. You could easily spend a few days in the capital of Wallonia, with citadel exploring, old town walks and leisurely boat rides along the Meuse among the highlights.

## Meeting Point

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## Camp language

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## ACCUEIL ET VIE

Code	SVI-AV
Name	Accueil et vie
Location	Tubize
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – DISA – EDU
Age	18+
Volunteers	2



### The project / The Partner

The organisation *Accueil & Vie* offers two community houses, twenty supervised apartments and a day care for adults with learning difficulties (mild, moderate or severe learning difficulties).

Those living facilities and the day care centre aim at a family and community atmosphere, where the personality of each individual is acknowledged and accepted. With this in mind, the organisation encourages listening and individual care.

The core values of our organisation are the right to dignity, to an honest dialogue, to solidarity, to hospitality, to non-violence and the respect of differences.

The most important part of this community is the person with learning difficulties and the organisation acknowledges their unique value, their dignity, generosity and autonomy and interpersonal abilities.

*Accueil & Vie* offers ways for everyone to live happily and blossom by answering to their physiological and safety needs (accommodation, health, nutrition). As for the needs for spirituality, open-mindedness, acknowledgement and a sense of belonging, each person will channel them within their own capabilities and thanks to the resources available.

The living facilities and activities contribute to a fulfilling experience where everyone feels at home.

*Accueil & Vie* wishes to create an atmosphere of trust and active communication between residents, families, volunteers and all the partners. The organisation wants the residents to be actively involved in the society.

### Work

For 9 years now, we have been welcoming international volunteers.

We believe in the importance of diverse social contacts for our residents, which is why we would like to welcome a volunteer for 3 to 12 months. They would spend the day with disabled people in a warm,



friendly, and supportive environment, bringing life and community support to our centre.

This would make for a great opportunity to welcome a dynamic volunteer in order to promote our values and our solidarity commitment to disabled people.

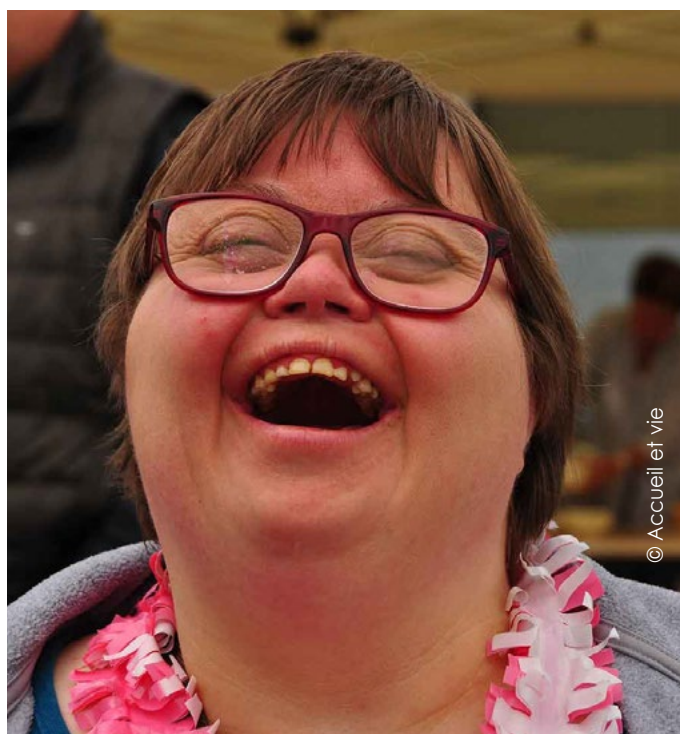
Working and living with disabled people makes for an incredibly strong and rich experience. Taking care of them humbles us and keeps us grounded. It also helps us see them as unique individuals who embrace their differences.

For volunteers, it is also a good introduction to social work and civic engagement.

Our residents suffer from mild, moderate, and severe learning difficulties without exhibiting violent behaviours.

### Accommodation

- Volunteers will sleep in an individual room.
- Toilets, showers and kitchen shared with residents.
- Washing machines available.
- Wi-Fi access.



### Food.

Meals are included and eaten in the centre.

### Location

#### **Tubize, near Brussels and Nivelles.**

Ancient Nivelles (Nijvel in Dutch) sports one of Belgium's most unusual and impressive churches, which looms powerfully over a photogenic town centre. Apart from this castle-like former abbey, the town makes a fine place for an afternoon wander, with local shops, cafes and patisseries tucked along the narrow lanes leading off the main square.

### Meeting

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Tubize station. All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.

### Language

It is recommended to be able to speak a few words of French or to be willing to learn French.

# CÔTE À CÔTE

Code	SVI-COTEACOTE
Name	Côte à Côte
Location	Louvain-La-Neuve
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – DISA – EDU
Age	18+
Volunteers	1



Côte-à-Côte

## The project / The Partner

Côte-à-Côte has set itself the mission of creating an environment that enables IMCs to realize their life project through autonomy and solidarity in order to become actors in society. This project also allows the inhabitants and friends of Côte-à-Côte, with or without disabilities, to enrich themselves by sharing a life experience.

### A pilot project in terms of housing:

- A passive construction, on a human scale, in the heart of the city of Louvain-la-Neuve.
- A grouped housing unit that brings together 8 young adults IMC's, an Erasmus student with reduced mobility, a student working on a disability-related issue, two carers and their families.

### A pilot project in terms of support:

- A personalized life project.
- A maximum of autonomy with a maximum of social links.

## The people | the IMC

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is the result of a non-progressive, permanent brain injury that occurs in the developing brain.

It is a syndrome that combines posture and movement disorders. It is sometimes accompanied by associated disorders: epilepsy, speech, vision, etc...

The pathologies responsible for brain damage occur either in the prenatal period (during pregnancy), in the perinatal period (during childbirth), or in the neonatal period (in the first 28 days of life).

Although the motor disorder is never isolated, it is the degree of motor deficit and its orthopedic consequences that will determine the severity of the syndrome. Many people with learning disabilities have learning disabilities without an intelligence disorder.

This is why many people with IMC are able to manage their lives despite their lack of physical autonomy.

## Work

The volunteer will be a part of the household and will share the values of Côte-à-Côte. He will accompany the people in their daily life, bring his own ideas and his energy in a mixed group of people.

Depending on his abilities and his adaptation, the volunteer will perform the following tasks alone or with someone:

- Manage daily life in a team setting while emphasizing the autonomy ability of each resident.
- Assist residents in their autonomy and self-sufficiency project.
- Organize community activities with the residents.
- Ensure safety and well being of the residents by handling morning and evening activities. Morning: breakfast, preparation for outings, maybe escorting to the place of activity. Evening: dinner, leisure activities, getting to bed.
- As needed: ensure security and wellbeing of residents at night.

## Accommodation

Accommodation is included. You will have a room in the house if it is free. If not, you will be hosted in another house in Louvain-la-Neuve.

## Food

You will be given breakfast and dinner. Dinner is prepared by the accompanying persons.

## Location

### Louvain-La-Neuve

The youngest city in Belgium was created in the early 1970s when the Francophone university faculties split with Leuven and set up camp(us) near Ottignies in the French-speaking part of Brabant. Much of life revolves around collegiate life – indeed the entire town belongs to the university – though its brick pedestrian lanes, forested fringes and master-planned design make for an intriguing wander. The chief draw is the architecturally stunning Musée Hergé, dedicated to the famed creator of Tintin.



## Meeting

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Louvain-La-Neuve station.

All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.

## Language

It is recommended to be able to speak a few words of French or to be willing to learn French.



## LES PILOTIS

Code	SVI-PILOTIS
Name	Les Pilotis
Location	Woluwe Saint Pierre
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – DISA – EDU
Age	18+
Volunteers	2

### The project / the Partner

The Pilotis Houses are located in Brussels, a cosmopolitan city and the European “capital”. The neighborhoods, in which the Houses are located, are lively and the atmosphere is nice: there are plenty of shops nearby, and the community life enables people living in these neighborhoods to meet and even become friends. There are a lot of parks in Brussels, and the Houses are located close to them, which is suitable for relaxing, doing sports activities, cycling, walking, etc. Culture in Brussels plays a big role, with its pop culture, cafés, concert halls, beautiful Art Nouveau-style houses and buildings, and original and lively museums. “Les Pilotis” encourages participation in the community and cultural life: parties with the residents of the neighborhood, leisure activities, visits, trips to the North Sea, weekends in the Ardennes... with a bit of imagination, there is always a chance to share happy and satisfying moments with the residents.

“Les Pilotis” is a non-profit association and was founded in 2006 by the parents of a young man with a disability. They wanted their son to live in a community house hosting 5 or 6 residents rather than in an institution. The “residents” are the people with disabilities living in the houses of the association. They are men and women with various disabilities aged between 20 and 30 years old. A third of them have a complex dependency need disability, which means that they need continuous support throughout their

daily activities. Generally speaking, the organization aims at improving the personal and the well-being of each resident. This is possible through giving them opportunities to make their own choices, to realise their potential by carrying out daily activities, living in their own home, and be regarded as full members of the society. More specifically, the objective is to promote the integration of these people with disabilities into the neighborhood and the social life, providing them with the same rights as every citizen. It can be done through participation of the residents in community life activities in the house or in the neighbourhood, among other activities.

### Work

Volunteers will assist a team of professional support workers assisting the residents in their daily activities, leisure activities, organizing events and parties in the Houses such as having family members or friends over. They will also participate in the meetings of the professional team to help develop the residents' personal projects and think about ways to ensure a better and lasting well-being for each resident and the community in general. Each volunteer will work in one of the Houses of Pilotis.

They will carry out various tasks together with the residents. Some activities will be carried out in collaboration with the professional support workers when needed.

### Support and care of the residents

In their daily activities:

- take them to the bathroom so that they can take a shower/bath, brush their teeth, get dressed, etc.: These tasks can sometimes be frightening at first. Someone who is not comfortable with this will never be asked to accompany a resident to the shower. But, volunteers can help residents put on a sweater or close buttons on a shirt or tie shoelaces...
- In their personal household chores: cleaning their rooms and washing their clothes, etc. Volunteers will be able to help, if they wish, the residents in these daily tasks.

### In leisure outdoors activities

walks, visits. Run the daily activities in the Houses

(! always in collaboration with and in support of the residents!): shopping, preparing meals, organizing birthday parties, feeding small pets (rabbits, guinea pigs!), etc. Helping to carry out collective household chores: set the table, do the dishes, carry out garden maintenance tasks.

In leisure activities in the House: games, music, etc. Taking part in neighborhood projects with the residents: community vegetable gardens, chicken coops, etc. Be a member of the team of professional workers (help them, not replace them): participate in the team's meetings, brainstorming on educational projects, organization, activities. Participate in training sessions, as well as discussions and evaluation sessions carried out by the support workers in the House.

## Accommodation and food

The living costs (food, accommodation, transport, laundry) are covered by the organization Les Pilotis. Volunteers receive pocket money every month (part at the beginning of the month and part at the end of the month). They receive a mobile phone card and a card to take public transport in Brussels.

The volunteers will stay in a flat equipped with the following facilities: two single rooms, a cosy and bright living room, a kitchen/dining room, a bathroom, toilets, Internet connection. This is a duplex flat, located on the top floor of the Park House in the Etterbeek neighborhood (no elevator), and it has no common spaces with the House (except for the staircase). Etterbeek is the European communities neighborhood. There are parks nearby.

Depending on the working hours of the volunteer in the House, some meals can be shared with the residents. Volunteers can have their other meals privately, in their accommodation or outside, according to their wishes.

## Location, about Brussels

### Architecture

The cityscape swings from majestic to quirky to run-down and back again. Art deco facades face off against 1960s concrete developments, and regal 19th-century mansions contrast with the shimmering glass of the EU's Gotham City. This whole maelstrom swirls out from Brussels' medieval core, where the Grand Place is surely one of the world's most beautiful squares. But Brussels' greatest architectural expression came at the turn of the 19th century with art nouveau, and its master builder is Horta. While restraint characterises his exteriors, the interiors are sensual symphonies of form and colour.

### Art

Sometimes it seems as if every building in the city is being converted into a contemporary art gallery, from town houses to skating rinks to the vast canal-side Citroën garage being remodelled to showcase conceptual art. With property prices lower than Paris, many commercial galleries are choosing to shift to the city. And students and young artists are opening their doors to show work at open studio weekends and event nights. Whether you prefer iconoclastic or outsider art, Magritte or the Flemish Primitives, there really is something for every art lover in Brussels.

### Food & Drink

As with many other aspects of life, the people of Brussels like to eat and drink a little differently, and there are some deeply ingrained habits: delicious frites have to be double fried, and the classic waffle comes with a snowfall of icing sugar. They even have their own biscuit: the shortcrust cinnamon *speculoos*. In addition to the fabled beer, which many visitors focus their trip around, Brussels boasts the *half-en-half*, a heady mix of white wine and champagne. In recent times there has been an increasing focus on local organic cuisine, and this heavy eating city is definitely getting healthier.

### The Marolles

Brussels' once resolutely working-class Marolles quarter has partly shed its proletarian image with a clutch of intimate restaurants and funky interior-design shops along the main streets, Rue Haute and Rue Blaes. Nonetheless, pockets of original Bruxellois character can still be found, notably around the Place du Jeu-de-Balle. At a few of the enjoyable downmarket cafés here you might overhear people speaking in the earthy Bruxellois dialect, and at least one stall still sells the traditional street food: snails. Note that, despite the name, Jeu-de-Balle (aka *balle-pelotte*) is no longer played here.

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/belgium/brussels>

## Meeting point

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Brussels station. All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.

## Language

It is recommended to be able to speak a few words of French or to be willing to learn French.

## LE FAGOTIN

Code	SVI-NPO
Name	Le Fagotin
Location	Stoumont
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – ENVI – MANU – CULT
Age	18+
Volunteers	2



### The project

Our partner association is located in Stoumont, in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes. It is a quiet village, surrounded by forests. It is the perfect place to go for a walk in the forest. It has already worked with volunteers. Each year, about fifteen interns come and help on the farm. The farm building belongs to the family. They make it available to the organization. It has bought another building in which work will be done. It will be converted into a residential center.

### Work

Depending on the needs of the farm, volunteers can either take part to the pedagogical project or work in the farm. Those who will work on the pedagogical project will supervise groups. Those who do manual work will work in the farm (feed animals, clean the barn...).

Volunteers must be aware that working in a farm can be very physical. It can be very tiring. Working with animals is a concrete job (feeding animals, cleaning the barn...) and not a romantic one (a cow is not a nice stuffed animal). Volunteers will be supervised, they will not be alone.

They will help adults who work on the site. Workers will teach them how to do the different tasks. The aim is that they slowly become more and more independent. Work schedule will depend on the moments.

In summer, there are sessions for children. During those sessions, children will have activities from 9 AM to 4 PM (Walking in the forest, taking care of the animals, making bread...). After 4 PM, it will be necessary to organize games, dinner, showers, night walks and breakfast. Children are between 3 and 15 years old (for those who do not stay there at night) and between 6 and 15 years old (for those who stay at night).

### Accommodation

Volunteers must sleep in a tent during the summer. They must bring their tent, their mattress... It is possible to sleep in a residential center.





© Le Fagotin

A contribution to the cost of food of 50 euros per week of 7 days is requested but it is negotiable (either the young people buy their own food or they can replace the staff at certain times in the reception of the accommodation providers to pay for their food), including accommodation.

### Food

Food is included.

### Location

**Stoumont** is a very special place in the province of Liège. Difference in altitude within the municipality is around 400 metres and it has many water sources. This is the perfect place to really get to know the **Belgian Ardennes: Durbuy** is only 45 minutes away, and a half an hour drive brings you to **Malmédy**.

Famed for its unique carnival, lively Malmédy makes a great base for visiting the Hautes Fagnes region, so long as you are driving. A former tanning centre, much of the city was tragically destroyed in a trio of WWII 'friendly fire' bombing raids in 1944. However, the centre has retained a core of historical buildings, notably a 1784 cathedral, from whose doorstep you can survey a grand series of spired, century-old mansions that reveal the remnants of a very wealthy past.

Sitting pretty in a green and pleasant valley, Durbuy sells itself as 'Belgium's smallest town'. Or, much more contentiously, 'the world's smallest city'. Photogenic cobblestone alleys of solid grey-stone buildings are full of cute craft shops and charming restaurants, aimed squarely at the seasonal flood of tourists who often stay on for the well-organised plethora of outdoor activities. Beware that midsummer weekends can get unbearably crowded, so try to arrive mid-week or, perhaps, in September, when calm has returned.

### Meeting point

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train. For this project, you can also land at Luxembourg airport.

All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.

### Language

It is recommended to be able to speak a few words of French or to be willing to learn French.

# DON BOSCO

Code	SVI-DONBOSCO
Name	Don Bosco
Location	Ganshoren
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – ENVI – MANU – CULT
Age	18+
Volunteers	2

## The project

Ganshoren is one of the nineteen municipalities of Brussels which is located in the northwest of the city, 20 minutes from the Grand-Place by public transportation. This is a peaceful and green municipality in which families from different social backgrounds live. The boarding school is located in a quiet and verdant environment. Buses 87, 84 as well as “De Lijn” buses serve this place very often.

Don Bosco is a boarding school made up of 7 big houses which can host up to 120 youth studying in different schools in Brussels.

Don Bosco was one of the best educators of modern times as he developed success-oriented teaching methods. Every youth has a huge potential. The whole educational work is done by pupil's parents, teachers, educators and volunteers altogether. The objective is to make sure the youth is in the best conditions to experience in a positive way his abilities. Thus, the youth feels empowered because he realizes that he has true abilities, gains self-esteem and throws himself into his homework because he enjoys doing it.

The main objective is to help these young people to achieve academic, human and social success through three cornerstones:

- Reason: discussing on issues drives them to use their abilities to think, to make decisions and to get involved.
- Religion: as a way to look for meaning in their lives.
- Love: which is shown by the educators through being a loving, strict and attentive person and by the youth by being grateful.
- This teaching method is based on confidence in youths' positive future.

## Work

As a volunteer, your presence is a very important asset but you will not replace the educators who are currently working there. You will have to assist the team.

- Going to the supermarket once a week.
- Making sure that the premises in which the youth are living are neat and clean.
- Providing some services: painting...
- Doing everything to enable each of them to improve.
- Ensuring their moral, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual well-being.
- Sending them to bed.
- Waking the pupils up and helping them to prepare their lunch pack, accompanying them to schools (by walking or driving).
- Supervising mealtimes.
- Supervising the activities that take place on the evening (by being creative and organized).
- Daily tutoring (helping the pupils individually).
- Supervising the activities that take place on the evening (by being creative and organised).
- This is a non-exhaustive list.

### Food and Accommodation

You are housed in the boarding school. You have a room at your disposal.

Over the weekends and on your days off meals are not provided.

You can use the kitchen. Vegetarian meals can be provided.

### Location

Ganshoren is the perfect spot to explore Brussels's fascinating cultural sights and attractions. An array of attractions, including Manufacture Belge de Dentelles, is a must-see while visiting the neighborhood. Ganshoren is good for sightseeing and has a lot to offer travelers.

### Specific information

Fees: 80 euros per month.

### Meeting point

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Brussels station. All information on how to get to the project will be given in the infosheet.

### Language

It is recommended to be able to speak a few words of French or to be willing to learn French.





## PROJET NOW

Code	SVI-NOW
Name	Projet Now
Location	Waulsort
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – ENVI – MANU – CULT
Age	18+
Volunteers	2

### The project

WAULSORT, in the Walloon Region, province of Namur, Belgium The village of Waulsort was part of The Benedictine Waulsort Abbey built in 946 by Scottish monks. The Abbey, « monasterium perigrinorum », associated with the priory of Hastière, has been achieving prosperity as shown by conventional buildings which, secularized by the French Revolution, represent the current castle of Waulsort. Numerous meetings; contacts with a large business, social, and transitional network. Our first volunteer visited organic chicken/pork farm, took part in several guided tours, made some cheese, worked with our forest ranger, discussed with a permaculture farmer, helped our greengrocer.

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 squares of grass.

Native species are fostered: there are many 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 many 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 people who went through psychiatry, intercul-

tural and inter-generational 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 agro ecology types, promotion of soft mobility, reflection on other business and teaching models...

## Work

- 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.

## Food and Accommodation

Housing in Villa 1900s “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 an unspoiled nature with rich biodiversity and in an area with a huge historical heritage. We have a washer and a drier that you are free to use.

You will be fed during your stay, with the team. You should not be accustomed to eat at regular meal-times;-) 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).

## Location

### Waulsort near Dinant

Dinant has a striking setting, strung along a river-bank under spectacular cliffs. The village makes a pleasant outing for a day trip, highlighted by a visit to its clifftop citadel and a leisurely cruise (or more vigorous kayaking trip) along the Meuse. It also has great beer (Dinant is the birthplace of the famed Leffe abbey ale) and a fair amount of Sax – Adolphe Sax, that is. The creator of the saxophone grew up in Dinant, and sculptures dotting the city centre pay homage to his groundbreaking musical invention. Citadelle de Dinant: Fortress in Dinant.

Though sparse on sights, this vast, unadorned 1818 citadel looms menacingly on its clifftop, offering toe-curling views high over town. The entrance price includes the cable car to the top, though you can take on the 408 steps if you need to work off lunch. Once there, it’s worth taking a free one-hour tour through the fortress, with guides describing some of the key moments in Dinant’s past.

### Meeting Point

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Dinant station. All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.

### Language

It is recommended to be able to speak a few words of French or to be willing to learn French.

# AUBERGE DE JEUNESSE TOURNAI

Code	SVI-AJT
Name	Auberge de jeunesse Tournai
Location	Tournai
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – ENVI – EDU – CULT
Age	18+
Volunteers	2



## The project / the Partner

Tournai is located between the Lille (FR), Charleroi (BE) and Brussels (BE) airports. The volunteer is responsible for his transportation to Tournai.

The non-profit youth hostel association “Les Auberges de Jeunesse asb”l was established in 1933. In line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it aims to promote social tourism, cultural tourism and travel for young people, and to play a role in developing the potential of young people, thereby contributing towards their education and responsible citizenship in a humanist spirit. The aim of the association is to create and animate a network of Youth Hostels, meeting offices, and sheltering building centers. Another aim is to keep a friendly atmosphere between the hosted people without discrimination of age, skin-color, religion, nationality, language, gender and opinion. The association also wants to let the youngsters know about the network of youth hostel across the world.

## Work

The work consists in active participation to the work services:

- Welcoming, bar, food service, help cleaning.
- Creation and development of specific activities over soft animation, in the journey or the evening.
- Creation and development of activities over responsible and ecologic development: Food wasting, sorting the detritus.

## Food and Accommodation

**Accommodation:** The volunteer will be hosted in a room with another volunteer.

**Food & allowance:** When there is no food service at the hostel, the volunteer will receive €6.20 per day.

## Location

### About Tournai

Enjoyable Tournai (tour-nay; Doornik in Dutch) has a memorable Grand Place and one of Belgium’s finest cathedrals. Even by local standards, the city has



been in the wars, occupied at various points by Romans, Franks, Normans, French, English, Spanish, Austrians, Dutch and Germans. Today it's a lovely place for casual strolling, with a lively bar and restaurant scene near the river.

### **Cathédrale Notre Dame**

Dominating Tournai's skyline are the five spires of its remarkable cathedral, which survived WWII bombs only for a freak 1999 tornado to compromise its stability. It'll remain a vast building site for another decade...

### **Grand Place**

Tournai's gorgeous triangular main square is ringed with cafes in fine gable-fronted guildhouses merrily flying guild banners. Kids play in 'dare-you' fountains beneath an axe-wielding statue of Princess d'Espinoy...

### **Musée des Beaux-Arts**

This airy gallery was designed by art nouveau maestro Victor Horta. Though the interior and display halls are in need of a pep-up, it has a rich collection, including items by Tournai's best-known artist.

### **Belfroi**

Belgium's oldest belfry is 72m high with a narrow 257-step spiral staircase that becomes even narrower higher up. There's a good multilingual display on the history and significance of belfries as symbols of civic l...

### **Meeting Point**

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Tournai station. All information on how to get to the project will be given in the infosheet.

### **Language**

Working language: The volunteer should speak either english, french or flemish.



## THE CAVES OF HAN

Code	SVI-GDH
Name	The Caves of Han
Location	Han sur Lesse
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – ENVI – ANI – EDU
Age	18+
Volunteers	2

### The local partner

The little village of Han sur Lesse is the gateway to the Ardennes and one hour driving from Brussels. The cave of Han are one of the most famous caves in Europe. It is exceptional in terms of beauty and the immensity of its chambers and fashioned by the river Lesse that flows through it from one side to the other. It has welcomed more than 20 million visitors for over 250 years.

250 hectare park of unspoilt nature Contemplate the fauna and the natural environment (wolves, lynx, bears...) Massif de Boine Archaeological objects (places of cult and pilgrimage).

### Work

Watch over the path, while walking and observing the visitors in order to guide and help them. Prevent the visitors from leaving the path and venturing in another part of the reserve Ensure that the visitors do not damage equipment or harm the animals and that they do not adopt dangerous behaviors (like to pass their hand through the enclosures) and do not disturb the path (noise, garbage...) To Be in charge of activities and give information along the path: inform the visitors on practical question and provide

further information concerning the animals and the nature to the visitors. Ensure the maintenance of the path Organize the pick up of visitors by the safari bus.

### Food and accommodation

The volunteer will be hosted in a volunteering house. He will share a 4 or 6 bedrooms with facilities. Sheets and washing machine are provided. WiFi is available. Lunch is provided but the volunteer is responsible for his breakfast and dinner (5/10€/day). The volunteers do the food shopping together.

### Location

#### about Han-Sur-Lesse

At Han-sur Lesse, the Lesse river tunnels underground, forming one of the most impressive cave systems in Belgium, before winding its way prettily out of town. The village itself is quite compact, with a walk-able center dotted with tourist-oriented shops and eateries. It also has an animal park and several other modest, historically themed museums.

#### Rochefort

A very pleasant regional base for exploring this part of Belgium, Rochefort also has a lesser-known gem of a cave system. Almost everything is strung along the main street, known variously as Rue de Behogne, Place Roi Albert 1er and Rue Jacquet. This rises gently from an imposing statue-fronted church, passes the tourist office and continues to the private Château Comtal castle. Many shops and cafés sell Rochefort's famous Trappist beer, but the Abbaye de St-Rémy, where it's brewed (3 km north), is closed to the public.

### Meeting point

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train and the bus to Han-Sur-Lesse.

All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.





© Hejlie - Wikipedia



# RENAISSANCE

Code	SVI-REN
Name	Renaissance
Location	Braine L'Alleud
Dates	Permanent Project
Type	SOCI – DISA – EDU
Age	18+
Volunteers	2

## The project

As far as leisure is concerned, Braine-l'Alleud is home to a cinema complex, many sports halls, and a cultural center. Braine-l'Alleud is not far away from the historic site of Waterloo. Many hiking routes are available in the area.

Renaissance ASBL is a residential center hosting 18 adults who were born with physical disabilities (cerebral palsy). The center aims at giving those people an adapted living place. Renaissance is a residential center in which each occupant has to take part in the daily tasks according to their abilities. These tasks are supervised by various specialized people: educators, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nurses, a caseworker and physiotherapists, a multidisciplinary team in which each person accompanies the resident individually within the group. The center highlights the importance of cultural exchange, openness and encounters.

## Work

During the project, the volunteer will take part in the community life of the residential center under the supervision of staff members. They will share meals with the residents, among other things:

- Life at the center: cooking, food stocks control, laundry, cleaning activities etc.
- Leisure and creative activities: theater, well-being, painting, expression, comics.
- Activities organized out of the center: shopping, cultural excursions, sports, etc.
- Special events: Ren & Music (music festival), Ren & Bike (adapted bicycles), Ren'ART (painting exhibition), Christmas market.

The volunteers will not be in charge of medical care (washing the residents, putting them to bed, waking them up, etc.). A meeting will take place on a monthly basis to report on the volunteer's stay.

The volunteers are allowed to meet their tutor or the director of the center whenever they want. They will never have to stay alone with the residents and will be given safety instructions by a prevention adviser.

## Food and Accommodation

Three meals a day will be provided to the volunteers. They will eat with the residents on the ground floor of the center or on the first floor (where they will be housed). Every month, a general allowance and a food allowance are given to each volunteer working in the day center.

## Location

Braine-l'Alleud (Dutch: Eigenbrakel) is a Walloon municipality in the Belgian province of Walloon Brabant, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Brussels. The Braine-l'Alleud municipality includes the former municipalities of Braine-l'Alleud proper, Ophain-Bois-Seigneur-Isaac, and Lillois-Witterzée. It also includes the hamlet of Sart-Moulin, the inverted name of which inspired Hergé's Moulinsart castle. The famous Lion of Waterloo where the eponymous battle took place is in the territory of Braine-l'Alleud.

## Memorial 1815

Buried at the foot of the Lion's Mound, the Memorial 1815 enables you to experience one of the most turbulent times in our History... As if you were there. Dive into the heart of the battle, in a multi-sensory experience, full of special effects, the only one of its kind in Europe! 1815 m<sup>2</sup> of immersive journeying in a narrative set design which focuses on the experience of the battle! The Panorama is an impressive fresco with a circumference of 110 m and a height of 12 m, made in 1912. The painting puts you at the heart of the battle thanks to an impressive sound system. The Lion's Mound offers a unique view of the battlefield after a memorable ascent of 226 steps! As last authentic witness of the battle, the Barn of Hougomont features a brand-new scenography made of 4 exhibition rooms as well as an impressive multimedia show.

## Specific information

The volunteers must have the maturity needed to face the challenges of daily life with physically disabled people. Prior knowledge of French is essential because some residents only speak French and

need clear indications. Besides, the center needs volunteers who are dynamic, motivated, eager to learn and to take initiatives, able to question themselves, and to accept criticism from the staff. They also need to be aware that they will live several months with different people who have a way of life which is sometimes totally opposed to our daily life.

## Meeting point

Volunteers can land either at Brussels-Charleroi airport or at Zaventem airport.

It is recommended to land at Zaventem airport where it is possible to take the train to Braine L'Alleud station.

All information on how to get to the project will be given in the info sheet.







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