

August 2020-July 2021

Call for volunteers

KIDS IN ACTION 7 – UNITED IN SOLIDARITY
LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING PROJECT IN

ŠKOFJA LOKA, SLOVENIA





We are looking for **eight candidates from different program countries** to join our **long-term volunteering project** that will connect different organizations from **Škofja Loka** area, Slovenia, by incorporating the international volunteers into their everyday work for the period between **August 2020 and July 2021**.

Would you like to dedicate your energy, knowledge and time to improve the life of **children and youngsters**, people with **minor mental disabilities** or/and people who have problems with **different forms of addiction** and their kids? Would you like to spend **12 months** in a lovely medieval town in one of the smallest and the greenest European countries? Would you like to become active in the local community?

Then apply now or at **least before December 20th** by sending your **CV** and **motivation letter** to matjaz@familija.eu or by applying through European solidarity corps database. The first suitable candidates will be chosen.

Interested?
But you need more information?
Then keep scrolling down.

Project Overview

[Kids in Action Web page](#)

The long-term ESC volunteering project “Kids in Action 7 - United in Solidarity” will connect 11 organizations or their units in the area of Škofja Loka: Familija (Youth Day Care Center Blok and Project Learning of Young Adults PUM-O), Center for Social Work Škofja Loka (Day Care Center DCΩ and Day Care Center DCM Podlubnik), CSD Kranj (Day Care Center DC Škrlovec), Kranj Educational Institution (Residential Home for Children at Risk Črnava), Šent Škofja Loka, three local elementary schools (Jelo Janežič Primary School, Cvetko Golar Primary School, Škofja Loka – Mesto Primary School) and Projekt Človek Association and their therapeutic community for addicted parents and their children in Sopotnica. The project continues the well-established tradition of connecting related local organizations that carry out educational, social and preventive programs for children and youth and for other vulnerable social groups. The main target group of the project are children, youth and people deprived of normal functional life.

Project partners offer to their users space where they can feel comfortable and safe, where they can develop their social skills and where they can get quality support with their behavioral, emotional, learning and other problems. The aim of the programs is to provide support to the widest circle of users, as well as to those with special needs and other problems. Support is provided at the individual level (work with each individual), as well as in cooperation with their families. The program includes group work and activities with adolescents, cooperation between various institutions, training, counseling, holiday camps, day trips, workshops, etc.





All the partner organizations of the project are similar to each other, that is why we came to the conclusion that the cooperation between organizations should be strengthened by hosting a common volunteering project with **eight volunteers from different countries**. Each of them will be **included in the everyday work** in above mentioned organizations for the period of **1 year, from August 2020 until July 2021**.

They will get to know the **theory and practice of preventive work** with adolescents and people with fewer opportunities within the **education and social system in Slovenia**.

All the included organizations have a **supportive and nurturing environment** for international volunteers to help them show and **improve their own skills and abilities, to increase their knowledge; to work successfully in a team**, and to improve and develop their self-initiative. The volunteers will be well and fairly included in the working team. Any issues considering the work, development, ideas, progress or problems will be **discussed individually** or at the **weekly meetings**.



The goal of all organizations involved in the project is to gain **new skills and experience** in order to increase the degree of **tolerance, mutual acceptance, understanding and respect**. Volunteers will **improve academic success**, as well as their **employability and career prospects**, they will **develop their self-confidence**, independence and gain sense of entrepreneurship, they will strengthen **intercultural awareness**, internalize the values of the EU.

The project is not limited to the basic partner organizations only. Volunteers will also have an opportunity to **realize their own projects within** other local organizations in order to **strengthen their involvement in local society** and to give a small place like Škofja Loka much the needed **European dimension** of viewing the world. At the same time, we will **present and promote the European Solidarity Corps** among local residents.

Opportunities for Volunteers



There are eight available placements for eight volunteers. Each volunteer will have **their own basic working organizations**, where most of their work will be done, but they will also have an opportunity to **get to know the work of the other organizations** involved in the project.





[Web page](#)

[Promo Video](#)

Vacancy 1: MDC BLOK

MDC BLOK (working hours 13.00–19.00) offers diverse and free **program for young people between the ages of 12 and 18**. First and foremost it is a local organization but it is also globally oriented in its state of mind. Its purpose is to **promote diverse and constructive free time**. The offered activities are mostly **creative and practical**, such as various **workshops** (creative, music, dancing, theater, cooking, reading, writing, sport, social participation and excursions), **learning support** and **extra lessons**.

The daily youth center is designed for **underprivileged children** and for those who do not have the opportunity to **develop their personal potential**. The responsibility of our daily center is significant: we act appropriately and **positively influence these youngsters**.



Vacancy 2: PUM-O

[Web page](#)

[Promo Video](#)

PUM-O (working hours 8.30–14.30) stands for “**Project learning for young adults**”. It is an **informal educational** program that serves youngsters between **15 and 25 years** of age who **dropped out of the educational system**. The main goal of the program is to **motivate young people** to either **continue education or pursue and obtain employment**. The program enables the participants to **gain different competences and skills** through many **informal forms of learning**.

The usual characteristics of the youngsters involved in the program are **lack of motivation**, alcohol and drug abuse, **conflict behavior** in the school system, health issues, backgrounds of **traumatic family experience and escapism**. Through the program we want to: **motivate young people to resume their interrupted education**; help them reach a decision on further education within the framework of existing possibilities and forms; encourage **personal growth**; fight social exclusion; and **foster professional, social and cultural identity**.



[Web page](#)

[Promo Video](#)

Vacancy 3: DC ŠKRLOVEC

Škrlovec (working hours 13.00–19.00) is a daycare center for **young people and families in a social prevention program**, which operates in Kranj and provides **psychosocial support to children, adolescents, young people and their parents**, who face **different problems** in their life and **need professional support and help**. The program is implemented by two professional staff members and around 20 volunteers, who are involved in the activities on the basis of their own desires, wishes, knowledge and needs.

The target population of Škrlovec are children, adolescents and young people between **10 and 20 years of age**, who live in the area of Municipality of Kranj. First and foremost, we want to include children who **face difficulties in the growing-up process** and who are **deprived of normal family life** – people with fewer opportunities.



Vacancy 4: THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY ČLOVEK AND ŠENT

The volunteer will work at Projekt Človek (changing morning and daily working hours) and Šent as well (working hours 9.00–15.00), most likely in weekly shifts.

Projekt Človek is an organization that helps people **with different forms of addiction**. The volunteer will work in a therapeutical group for **addicted parents and their children**. They will **help with daily activities**, assist in other programs and implement some **workshops** independently. Some activities with adults will require **babysitting and animation of children**. The experience and knowledge in working with fragile groups are highly recommended. The volunteer should be open-minded, communicative and self-initiative. These strengths will be useful in Šent as well.

Šent is a daily center, dealing with **adults with minor mental disabilities**. The volunteer will attend the daily program, organize **workshops and assist individuals and staff**. Arts and crafts are specially welcomed, so the volunteer should be prepared to be active in the fields of dancing, music, and/or doing art.



[Web page OŠ Cvetka Golarja](#)

[Web page OŠ Škofja Loka](#)

Vacancy 5: PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Working in two Škofja Loka primary schools (working hours mostly in the first half of the day) is ideal for a volunteer, who has some experiences or/and is educated in the field of pedagogics. But also other candidates are more than welcome to apply, of course. The work will **cover curricular and extracurricular activities**. The volunteer will **attend classes and help teachers**, work with **pupils** and help them with **their studies** (foreign languages, History, Geography, Art, Sports...). The volunteer will be offered to attend or organize groups of English conversation, art, drama, hiking and assist at organizing school events.



Vacancy 6 and 7: DC Ω AND MDC PODLUBNIK

[Web page](#)

[Promo Video](#)

DC Ω and MDC Podlubnik (working hours 13.00–19.00) are run by the Center for Social Work Škofja Loka. Their program is primarily intended for the local children and adolescents **between the 6 and 18 of age**, deprived of normal family life experience, and for their parents.

Aims of the program: **reducing and preventing social exclusion** and its negative consequences; building a **positive self-image**; gaining a sense of self-acceptance and security; school record improvement; acquisition of **learning habits**; eliminating resistance to school work and school in general; **active problem solving** in the domestic environment and the involvement of entire families in the program; meeting **socializing needs**; improving the **communication skills**; learning to **accept differences**; **social networking** according to the users' needs; improvement of **working habits**; and assuming responsibility. We strive to improve the conditions for children's development within their families, to assist with their **integration** in the social environment and to **avoid behavioral deviations**.



Vacancy 8: OŠ JELA JANEŽIČA AND RESIDENTIAL HOME

[Promo Video](#)

[Web page](#)

Residential treatment institution for children (working hours 10.00–15.30 or 15.00–22.00) is organized as a group of **community homes for children and youth with behavioral and emotional disorders**. They organize programs to **support children** and their families according to their needs and goals. The programs include **diverse socio-pedagogical activities, counselling, sports, arts and other activities**.

Part of the volunteering will be also dedicated to Jelo Janežič Primary School, which is a primary school for **children with special needs**. The school educates children with **intellectual disabilities** and helps children and youngsters with **specific learning difficulties**.

The chosen volunteer will be involved in the work of both organizations. They will assist with the **daily activities**, help with the **program, organize and implement different workshops**. This placement requires certain experience and knowledge from **work with vulnerable groups** and also some knowledge of **pedagogy and psychology** is also very recommended. **Arts and craft** are especially welcomed in both basic organizations, so the volunteer should be prepared to be active in the fields of dancing, music and/or art.

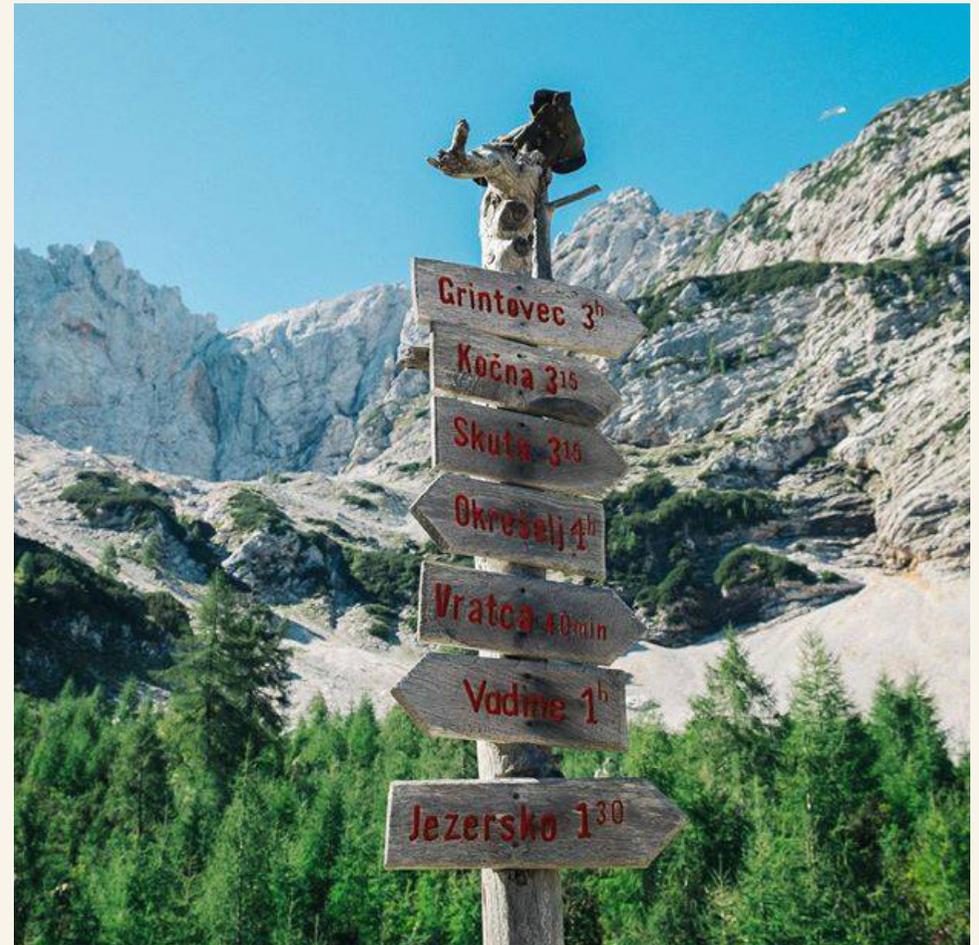
Volunteer profile

Candidates should be **self-initiative, motivated, flexible, patient, creative, open-minded, communicative, interested in working with children and adolescents**, and they should be able to **speak English**. Past **experience in pedagogy, youth work and leisure** are welcomed. Abilities in **music, sports, manual activities, handcrafts, dance, art and/or multimedia** would also be convenient. The future volunteer should bring in their own ideas into the project and be prepared to create, plan and execute their own projects. We do not appreciate 24/7 smartphone-centered people.

Guidance

Each volunteer will have a **work coordinator** who will **follow the volunteer's achievements**, involve them in the **work processes** and inform them about the organizations and people involved. Volunteers will be also responsible for the preparation of YouthPass, which will be created by each of them. The work coordinators will ensure that the tasks of the volunteers are clearly defined and well-executed.

Mentors will provide **personal support** to volunteers and **include** them in the **local environment, social life, local customs and lifestyle**.



Language support will include the **Slovene language course**, where volunteers will get acquainted with the Slovene language organically.

Supervision and work coordinating will be implemented by the **project coordinator**, who will be in direct contact with everyone involved in the project. He is responsible for the **quality preparation and the project implementation**.



Škofja Loka lies at the confluence of Selška and Poljanska Sora rivers near Škofjeloško hribovje. It is 25 km from Ljubljana, 40 km from Bled and 120 km from the Slovenian coast. Due to its central European location, it is also easy to visit nearby European cities. Budapest is 500 km from Škofja Loka, Venice 250 km, Vienna 350 km, Zagreb 170 km.

Škofja Loka is a **regional center** with all the necessary infrastructure. We have a **library, a post office, banks, numerous restaurants and pubs, four sports halls and other recreational facilities, a cinema, a theatre, a paintball, shooting, beekeeping, climbing, mountaineering club, an animal shelter, yoga and dance classes, an orchestra and a folklore club**. Volunteers can **join all these activities** and many more. Language should not be an obstacle because everyone **speaks English well**.

Accommodation, food and transport arrangements

The volunteers will be accommodated in two **fully furnished apartments** with WiFi on the **main square of Škofja Loka**, an old historical town with about 13.000 inhabitants, **located 25 km NW from Ljubljana**. Each volunteer will stay in a single bedroom with shared cooking, washing, laundry and social facilities. Volunteers will cook by themselves, and a **monthly food allowance of 180 €** will be provided. They will be also entitled to a **monthly allowance of 120 €**. A bike will be provided to each of the volunteers and the **tickets for public transportation**, if required for the purpose of the project.

Free time

The volunteers also have a stimulating effect on the Škofja Loka living environment. The city is just small enough and enables young people to be familiar with each other, but it is also an environment that **enables individuals to engage in the society**.

The areas surrounding Škofja Loka have many possibilities for **activities in nature**, which also include various forms of recreation such as **hiking, running, and cycling**. This gives individuals genuine contact with nature and additional opportunities

How to apply?

If you are from **EU country** and you are **interested in the project** and want to be a volunteer, send us your **CV and motivational letter** to matjaz@familija.eu or **apply** through **Europaen solidarity corps portal** before **20th December 2019**. But we suggest to apply as soon as possible, because the first candidates considered suitable will be selected. Application should be also marked which of the proposed vacancies seems the most interesting for you. During the selection period, we might contact you for further information through email and Skype!

Links & Info



We are almost sure you haven't heard much about Slovenia or/and Škofja Loka, so here are some videos and links to ease your decision:

Škofja Loka:

[Škofja Loka promo video](#)

[Škofja Loka Tourism](#)

Slovenia:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

Thank you for your time and see you soon!