

Project case n° 2

Project: Hospital Santa Maria for sick children (IT) wishes to develop further leisure and fun activities for its little patients. Some activities already exist (reading by senior volunteers, books and toys library) but they want more dynamic activities to be put in place. Association "Clowns for life" is a French NGO with gathers students and senior volunteers to create shows and other small animations for socially excluded people. They wish to develop their activities for children in hospitals. They have a great deal of artistic experience but are new in the field of working with sick children and would like to know what's feasible or not. Both organisations will cooperate to exchange skills. They have met through Carolina, an Italian student who staid in France thanks to the Erasmus programme and did some volunteering with "Clowns for life" during her spare time. When she went back home, she encouraged the hospital in her city to develop such a project.

Recruitment of volunteers: Hospital Santa Maria wishes to send 2 experienced senior volunteers for 3 weeks who are interested in learning artistic skills and "tricks" to develop interactive animations. The Association "Clowns for life" wishes to send 2 volunteers for 3 weeks who can learn better how to handle the relationship with sick children.

Pre-departure preparation: Carolina will teach some French to the Italian senior volunteers; the French volunteers will learn some Italian through an online method.

Volunteering activities:

While volunteering abroad:

- Italian volunteers will be invited to participate in the shows, e.g. by singing Italian songs. According to their individual skills, they will be involved in the preparation and implementation of the shows (sawing costumes, preparing cakes, playing a role in a theatre play, etc.), and they will learn how to put in place such a show.
- French volunteers will meet the local Italian volunteers, they will attend reading or playing sessions with sick children; they will meet with nursing staff who will explain the specificities of working with sick children (e.g. what attention span you can expect, things that work or not; possible activities depending on the child's health or disease, etc.). Interpretation will be provided by Carolina if necessary.

In both cases, volunteers will also run little information sessions about their country for the patients.

Upon return, the volunteers will use the acquired experience and skills to develop further the activities of their associations.

Both organisations will carry on exchanging information on the activities which they develop in order to nurture each other's inspiration.