

# CROSSING VIEWS

## EVS in Barcelona

*Esplais Catalans open a call for volunteers to join Crossing Views, a project for the exchange of perspectives on participation and non formal education between youth organisations. This time, we invite Kinderfreunde (Austria) and Rota Jovem (Portugal) to take part of this new experience. The volunteers involved act as ambassadors of their organisations in an esplai and in the federation (Esplac). This is not an EVS like the others... open your mind and get ready to learn and share more and more about the wonderful world of non formal education!!*





## Crossing views, EVS in Barcelona

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## Esplais Catalans (Esplac): introducing our organisation

Esplais Catalans is a federation of 106 youth organisations set in 67 towns and villages throughout Catalonia (Spain) that work for a **social transformation by volunteering and through the education on children and youth rights**. But what is an esplai? We like to think of the "esplai" as a school of citizenship for children, young people, families and educators providing an alternative leisure time. Working through the **methodologies of non formal education** we intend to promote critical thinking and a more active citizenship, fight against all kind of discrimination and advocate for social inclusion embracing diversity as a means to educate for peace and the European values and therefore, strenght Democracy in our society.

The main activity of an esplai occurs **every saturday afternoon**, when children and youngsters meet in our centers or and our villages' main squares **to play and have fun together, always with an educational purpose**. Holiday trips, excursions, summer camps and hikings are also on the essence of an esplai's regular scope of action. The facilitators and leaders (we call ourselves *monis*) work as volunteers to prepare and implement these activities.

At the federation level, we council and guide monis that need some help, and create ressources to help them prepare their activities. Also, we organize trainings (at the national and international level) to the monis and organize big events such as Esplaiada, Monifesta't, Escola d'Esplac...

We are an **assembly-based organisation** and have many participation spaces in which every moni can contribute to the projects of our work plan depending on our interests and availability.



## «Crossing Views» project: general idea

Most of us live, work and volunteer in the same town or village and country for long periods of time surrounded by people like us, that usually think like us, sharing values and learning from the same sources and every thing seems to go well... or at least that is what we think! Sometimes, we even think that there are things that need to be improved in our organisations but never managed to see what needs to be done or never find the appropriate tools to bring about change...

**«Crossing views» is based on the values of mutual learning and on the idea that we are more creative and innovative in intercultural environments. In this sens, this project will give intercultural learning opportunities to volunteers so they can improve their work as youth workers but it will also focus on the learning benefits that the hosting organisation can get of this cooperation.**

This first edition of the Crossing Views project involves simultaneously a partnership between Esplac and Kinderfreunde (Austria) and a partnership with Rota Jovem (Portugal). We expect to host a volunteer from Austria and another one from Portugal during one year (Sept 17 – Aug 18).



## Volunteering in an esplai and in Esplac

The volunteers will have different scopes of action:

1) Being a *moni*: volunteering in an esplai from Barcelona or in an esplai located in Barcelona province. Volunteers will join a team of monis to help in the preparation of activities, materials, maintenance of the centre, etc. Team meetings are usually held on Friday afternoon. Activities with children are held every Saturday afternoon as well as during bank holidays, local festivities, weekend trips and summer holidays.

As monis, volunteers will also take part of the participation spaces at the federation level: the general assembly, the international commission and other working groups according to the volunteer's interests.

2) Volunteering in Esplac central office in Barcelona. Being part of the staff team three days a week, assisting the staff team in organising big events, international projects and daily office tasks.

3) Crossing Views tasks: volunteers will be also asked to contribute to the project's blog by writing little articles, uploading images or just little thoughts and reflections to be shared with the partner organisation members.

In all this areas of work, volunteers will gradually earn autonomy and the tasks suggested will be according to this.



## Technical and economic support

Esplais Catalans is the coordinator organisation of this project and also acts as hosting and sending organisation. Technical information and support will be given to volunteers and sending organisations before and during the project.

A tutor in our organisation will be designated to each volunteer. Also, different meetings will be set during the year to follow-up the project with all the people involved in the project.

We have submitted this project to get funds from the Erasmus + 's EVS programme in two different calls:

- Crossing Views (I): partnership Esplac + Kinderfreunde: project awarded.
- Crossing Views (II): partnership Esplac + Rota Jovem: resolution to be published in June.

Volunteers either from Austria or Portugal (in case of project awarded) have the following economic support:

- Travel expenses: **275 euros** for the go and return transport tickets.
- Organisational support: **549 euros** (housing, food, transport...)
- Individual support: **122 euros** (pocket money)



## Application process

Does this project sound good to you? If you want to apply, take into account these participation requirements:

- To be a **member of Kinderfreunde or Rota Jovem** or to have volunteered in one of their groups or projects for more than one year. It is important to have some general knowledge on the sending organisation.
- Age: between **18 and 28 years old**.
- Willingness to **learn new languages**. Spanish is an official language and it is of course very useful but be aware that Catalan is the spoken language in most esplais and families, in leader teams and Esplac's staff team, so it will be even more useful to learn it. You can enrol free courses of Catalan and Spanish offered by local authorities. Also, Erasmus + offers an online learning platform (only for Spanish).
- To be **open minded**, have a **critical thinking** mindset, have lots of **motivation to learn**, to self-reflect about your learning and be creative and communicative.

The application process is lead by your sending organisation (Kinderfreunde or Rota Jovem) with the participation of the the host organisation (Esplais Catalans).

More requieriments may be add to this list by your organisation. Please, get in touch with it to know how to apply.

