

WORK PROFILE FOR MAAILMANVAIHTO RY – ICYE FINLAND for the exchange year 2010-11

This is the new Work Profile of ICYE Finland! It is made, in order to give you a better idea of the different types of volunteer work placements the ICYE program in Finland has to offer. In the end of this Work Profile you can find the Preference List. Send us the list with information on which projects and/or which type of a project you are interested in. You can also give us more information on what type of volunteer work you would be interested in doing.

Keep in mind that this profile is not a list of all available projects and that not all the projects listed in this Work Profile are hosting volunteers each year. In the matching process we will take your preferences into account, but we still cannot guarantee you a place in a particular project or area in Finland.

Most voluntary work placements within ICYE Finland are social work placements. The voluntary work is done in non-profit organisations and institutions. It is not possible to volunteer in a private company!

The social work in Finland is mainly carried out by the government or municipalities. It is done by trained professionals. Every year several exchangees have got a social work placement, mostly with a live-in situation. This means that the exchangees work and live in these placements.

Previous experiences or, at least, interest in social work and some knowledge of English make it easier to find a placement for you. You also have to be motivated and active, able to act on your own initiative.

Especially for an exchangee without a special profession or experience, the work is often very practical. On the other hand, the exact nature of the work depends a lot on the participation of the exchange in developing his tasks – in other words, of being active! There is always an opportunity to shape your own tasks according to your interest and skills. You just have to be very active yourself!

Most of the work places are situated in the countryside and the public transport connections to nearby towns and cities may not be very good. This means that you are expected to find activities and friends in the place where you stay and it will not be possible to often go to the city. Anyway, one of the most important parts of the experience is to get to know the culture through the local community!

Note that EVS-volunteers will be placed in EVS-projects. Detailed description of EVS-projects can be found in

http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/sos/vh_db_en.html

VOLUNTARY WORK PLACEMENTS:

There are many different types of volunteer work projects. Below you can find a short list of the six main types of projects that MaaIlmanvaihto ry – ICYE Finland coordinate:

- **Päiväkoti** (the Finnish word for a *kindergarten*) is a day-care centre for children whose parents work during the daytime. Children in these kindergartens are 1-6 years old. Exchangees working in päiväkoti help the staff in various ways: playing with children, helping with eating, and dressing in outdoor clothes as well as helping with cleaning the kindergarten. The

kindergartens are the best places to learn Finnish! There is a variety of kindergartens available. Some exchangees have been placed in English language or Spanish language kindergartens or those using special pedagogic methods, such as Montessori or Steiner kindergartens.

- **Koulu** is the Finnish word for a **school**. Many schools are interested in hosting volunteers in order to create a possibility for inter-cultural learning and practicing a foreign language for their pupils. The volunteer will work with the teachers in the classes, but he/she will also help the school staff in other tasks such as organising international days, festivals and other happenings.
- **Perhekoti** is the Finnish word for a **foster home**. Professional foster homes have been created for socially excluded children who are taken into custody from their biological parents. The community provides them with care, “lessons about life” and a home-like environment. The homely atmosphere is strengthened by the fact that the biological children of the family living as well as other professional staff might be living in the foster home campus. Most foster homes in Finland work in close co-operation with the government, with different cities and municipalities, which finance and monitor them. The purpose of this arrangement is to enable a family-like surrounding for the foster children, yet with some oversight of the Finnish government. The volunteer will participate in all the daily activities of the foster home and depending on his/her skills, also take part in the creation of new activities for the inhabitants.
- **Vammaisprojektit – Projects with Mentally/Physically Disabled** vary quite a lot. Volunteers are working, for example, in: foster homes, care homes, day activity centre, schools and communities. Work with the disabled depends on the type of the project in which the volunteer is working. Work can be very practical: taking care of people with their everyday duties, but at the same time, normally there are opportunities to learn about as well as to assist in various different types of therapy, art classes, handicraft workshops, agricultural work, garden work, animal care, etc. Work with the disabled is said to be hard but it can also be very rewarding.
- **Kansanopisto - Folk High School**. There are many folk high schools in Finland. These schools are mostly boarding schools in the countryside. This provides an excellent opportunity for individual development and for learning about the Finnish culture directly from the Finnish youth. Every year some exchangees study and work as volunteers in folk high schools in different parts of Finland. Folk high schools offer courses in different subjects (languages, mathematics, psychology, history, etc) and in various crafts and practical skills. Some of them also offer special courses in social sciences, international relations, agriculture or in other fields. Folk high schools are NOT professional schools; studying is often based on non-formative and preparatory courses given within one year. Because the language used in folk schools is Finnish, this requires a *great deal of work and effort right from the start*. A *good* motivation and active initiative taking attitude are necessary conditions for a successful year in “opisto”. The exchangee almost always does some work at the opisto, e.g. leads language courses in one’s own language, organises free-time activities, helps in the kitchen, in the office, in the garden, etc.
- **Paikalliset vapaaehtoistyökeskukset ja erityisprojektit – Local voluntary centres and special projects**. There are some special projects that do not fall into any of the above mentioned categories. There are, for example, cultural

projects, non-governmental organisation-based work and local voluntary centres offering a voluntary work placement for the volunteer.

Please, fill in the "PREFERENCE LIST" -form (the last page of this Work Profile) and give it to your national ICYE committee or send it directly to ICYE Finland. This form will make it more likely that you will get the type of placement you wish and it helps us if we know what you really want to do. **We CANNOT guarantee the placement you have chosen and we want to remind you that the wishes are in no way binding.** This form only gives us an idea of what kind of work you are interested in. Of course we try our best to make everybody feel good in his/her placement, so the more you tell us about your interests and personal skills, the more likely it is that you will be placed in a suitable work placement.

When you receive the information of your hosting placement from us, **CONTACT THEM PERSONALLY!** ICYE Finland will provide you with the contact details. It is important that you contact your voluntary work placement before coming to Finland. That will help you a lot because you will have a clearer idea of the place where you are going! You can ask the people your hosting placement all kinds of questions about practical things that you have on your mind. It is also nice for the people working in your voluntary work placement to be in contact with you and get to know who you are before your arrival! Below you can find some examples of host projects in which volunteers have previously worked. Some of these projects might take a volunteer also this year, but this depends on different factors, one of them being the availability of accommodation. For the projects, which cannot offer accommodation ICYE needs to firstly find a host family before a place can be offered for the volunteer. **These projects are examples of where our volunteers have been placed in the previous years.**

Montessori päiväkoti Pihla
TYPE OF PROJECT: Kindergarten
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Pihla is a Kindergarten, for 3-6 year old children, based on the pedagogical principles of Maria Montessori. Pihla Kindergarten promotes and supports the children's basic capacities, such as cognitive and social skills. The Montessori methods enables the staff to take into account each individual child, his/her development and maturity, in pedagogical guidance. In addition, the method offers possibilities for independent activities in a pleasant environment. Pihla also offers English language baths, in other words, children participate daily in short activities conducted in English.
VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The volunteer's task at Pihla is to provide the children games, arts and music from his/her country; to help the other employees in managing groups of children; helping the children to change in and out of outdoor clothes (a lot of work especially during the winter due to the cold winter climate of Finland); to help the children with lunch and snacks; as well as doing some of the cleaning up at the Kindergarten. With the employees, the volunteer will also take the children outside to the park and help with organising activities in the nature, such as: walks in the nature, collecting leaves, bird watching, getting to know the environment (plants and animals), but also, trips to the theatre and museums once in a while.

LOCATION: Helsinki
ACCOMMODATION: Host family
OTHER INFORMATION: Also an EVS project

Hämeenlinnan Enkkula
TYPE OF PROJECT: English language Kindergarten
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The project is an English language kindergarten. The aim of the kindergarten is to help the child develop good capacities for elementary school. This is sought to be done in an integrated manner relating to all aspects of education. At Enkkula, children learn English through of play, singing and other pre-educational activities. Emphasis on the individual is important in the Kindergarten. The atmosphere in the Kindergarten is joyful, open, encouraging and relaxed. This is reflected also in the facilities, as the old house, in which the kindergarten is located in, situated in the centre of Hämeenlinna, is cozy and aesthetically pleasing. The workers at the Kindergarten plan and arrange activities for the children that improve their practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Also, play time is abundant and there are various little playrooms in the Kindergarten. The Kindergarten is open on weekdays from 7.30 A.M. till 4.30 P.M. In July the kindergarten is closed. The Kindergarten has 30 children. The location is ideal of varied activities as varied facilities and sights are located near the Kindergarten. These include: the central library, the Castle of Hämeenlinna, various museums and a scenic lake surrounded by a beautiful and historic park. The Kindergarten frequently organizes outings to these areas.
VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The volunteer will be working as assistant in the Kindergarten. He/she will be helping in the care and pre-education of children, between ages of 3-6.
LOCATION: City of Hämeenlinna with a population of 50'000 situated in Southern Finland: 100km north of Helsinki and 80km south of Tampere.
ACCOMMODATION: Host family
OTHER: The volunteer should be able to communicate fluently in English.

Mi Casita
TYPE OF PROJECT: Spanish language Kindergarten
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Mi Casita is a private Spanish language kindergarten. It was established in Helsinki in 1994. The kindergarten is run by the Parental Association of Mi Casita. The project is funded by the monthly fees paid by the parents, the City of Helsinki and other means of fundraising. Currently there are three paid members of staff. The children are between 0-6 years of age. The children are either from Finnish families, Spanish speaking families or children adopted from Latin America. All staff members are native Spanish speakers.

VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The volunteer helps and supports the other employees in handling groups of children. He/she will play with the children and can also teach new games to them. He/she will also: read to the children, take them out, help them with dressing and undressing from outdoor clothes, and help with eating lunch or snacks. The volunteer will take part in all activities of the kindergarten. For example, if the kindergarten visits museums or other public places, the volunteer will help in taking the children there. Depending on the skills and interests of the volunteer, he/she can teach the children music, art, organize theatre with them, play or instruct sports with them, etc.
LOCATION: The Capital City of Finland, Helsinki, in Southern Finland.
ACCOMMODATION: Host family.
OTHER: Volunteer must speak Spanish fluently.

Kiipulan ammattiopisto
TYPE OF PROJECT: Vocational College, also for students with special needs
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Kiipula is a centre of vocational education and a research centre of special education. The college offers study programs for students with special needs, such as, difficulties in learning. 85% of the students have some form of special needs. Kiipula seeks to provide its students with the tools required for a good life and work success. The college offers initial vocational study programs and preparatory and rehabilitative guidance as well as specific training in horticulture, electrical engineering and business & administration. Kiipula is always searching for new teaching methods that are able to support effective learning for special education learners. Teaching is based on practical projects and in-the-job learning. Students study in small groups in order to for the teachers to be able to provide personal guidance. As a research centre of special education, Kiipula runs different kinds of projects and it also offers services related to special education to other vocational institutes and colleges. Kiipula Vocational College is a private college, governed by a foundation, but funded to a large extent through the Finnish State.
VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: There are several different kinds of tasks that the volunteer can take part in. These can be tailor-made tasks based on his/her interests and skills. It is possible for Kiipula to offer tasks ranging from student support to language teaching. 60% of the students live on campus in dormitories. These students have free time activities provided for them by the school outside school hours. Participating in and helping in organizing these activities can also be a part of the volunteer's tasks. 85% of the students have a special need, which means that they need varied support in their studies and daily living. This is another important aspect of the tasks of the volunteer in Kiipula. There is also a garden and greenhouses in Kiipula. It is also possible for the volunteer to take part in the work in these facilities.
LOCATION: Countryside. 5km from the village of Turenki situated in the municipality of Janakkala in Southern Finland, which is situated 15km south of Hämeenlinna and 80 km north of Helsinki..
ACCOMMODATION: Own flat within the campus.
OTHER: Because of the nature of the school, the volunteer should have an open mind and have the ability to be flexible when meeting and working with students who have special needs.

Perhekoti Havurinne
TYPE OF PROJECT: Foster Home
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Foster Home Havurinne is a professional foster home for socially excluded children who are taken into custody from their parents. As a professional foster home, Havurinne is run by employees who have received extensive professional training. Havurinne foster home was founded in 2000. The foster home children who live there with care, "lessons about life" and a home-like environment. The age of the children staying at the foster home varies between 2-18 years.
VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The main task of the volunteer is to participate in education and free time activities for the children. Ideally, the volunteer would introduce new hobbies and activities to the members of the foster home and provide a basis for intercultural learning. The volunteer will also help the children with their school homework, especially in foreign languages. When the children are in school during daytime, the volunteer will help with other daily tasks of the home, which include cleaning, cooking and washing up.
LOCATION: Small town of Valkeakoski, which is situated ca. 40 km from Tampere in Central Finland.
ACCOMMODATION: Individual room in the project.
OTHER: The volunteer will live in the community and take part in all daily activities. The volunteer should be motivated to learn about foster care methods and to take initiative in creating leisure activities for the children and the youth of the foster home. He/she should also be active in managing his/her own free time activities.

Teresa-koti
TYPE OF PROJECT: Home for disabled youth
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Teresa-koti (literally: Teresa home) is a foster home run by an association, which works in co-operation with the local government in providing a "home" for disabled youth. At a given time, Teresa-koti hosts three disabled young people, who suffer from illnesses such as Down syndrome and autism. Teresa-koti provides them professional care in a homely atmosphere as well as organizing varied free time activities. Teresa-koti is active in its rural local community, Pukkila village, where it organises meetings and activities for people of different age groups and ethnic backgrounds. In common with St Teresa (a Christian saint), the home also favours a simple life-style based on Christian values undergirded with the value placed on educating oneself and the belief in the potential of every individual.
VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The volunteer can participate in different activities organized by Teresa-koti depending to his/her own interests and skills. Own initiative and activeness is appreciated as there is a lot of space to develop new activities. The work also includes practical tasks such as cooking, cleaning and taking the disabled residents to their classes and other activities.
LOCATION: Small town of Pukkila, which is situated ca. 70 km north of Helsinki
ACCOMMODATION: In the project

OTHER: The volunteer is expected to study Finnish and try to use it actively. Also an EVS-project

Sylvia-koti

TYPE OF PROJECT: Disabled children

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Sylvia-koti is part of the worldwide Camphill Movement. This movement seeks to create communities oriented to work with children and adults, who need special care. Alongside taking part in the life and work of Sylvia-koti based on this ideal, the aim of the project is to strengthen the international awareness and intercultural skills of the disabled. From another angle the aim is also to provide the volunteer with a wide range of possibilities to develop him/herself from what he/she learns of this work. The activities include voluntary work in many different units of Sylvia-koti, which means that the volunteer can improve his/her skills in many sectors according to his/her interests.

VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The work consists of practical tasks and various activities with children and youth connected to their school work and leisure activities as well as to assisting them with their daily functions and helping them with domestic routines like cooking and cleaning. The volunteer may also organise festivals and other events for the children. He/she can participate in different workshops (such as: baking, candle-dipping, weaving, wood and pottery workshops; garden work; horse stables; and farm work) according to his/her own interests. Naturally, the volunteer can also take part in socialising and spending time with the disabled youth and children.

LOCATION: Sylvia-koti is situated about 6 km from Lahti, which is a middle-sized city in Southern Finland. Lahti is situated 100 km north of Helsinki. The population of Lahti is about 100'000. It is an important regional centre and also has many cultural, educational and sports related institutions. Lahti is especially famous for winter sports and classical music. Lastly, the surrounding nature, the forested hills called Salpausselkä, are a beautiful backdrop to the city.

ACCOMMODATION: Within one of the "home units" of the project

OTHER: There are normally several volunteers in the project.

Myllylähde Community

TYPE OF PROJECT: Disabled people

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Myllylähde is a village community that has the aim of helping disabled adults. Its members are called co-workers. It is part of the international Camphill movement, which was established in order to create contexts in which people could work and live with people who have mental/learning disabilities. Ever since its foundation, the intention has been to do this work not purely as a 'job' in the usual sense of the word, but as a way of life. In such communities, all work is shared. This includes teaching, caring, household tasks, gardening and ecological farming. The ideal is that of a community life in which each person, according to one's ability, contributes as much as they can towards the well-being of their fellow members. The community is founded on the general spiritual values and principles. These principles are expressed, for example, by a custom of giving thanks before each meal. The work of Myllylähde is centred on

biodynamic agriculture, animal care, gardening, packing agriculture products (flour and seeds) and weaving/crafts workshops.

VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: Life at Myllylähde changes according to the season and with it so does the job description of the volunteer. An important part of the work is to create something new - the volunteer can utilize his/her skills and interests actively. At times, the care of the disabled is more time consuming and sometimes there are many events to organize. The volunteer is expected to be willing to help with all the activities of the community. The volunteer can use his/her personal skills, such as musical and artistic ones. Volunteers can also introduce their own country, culture and traditions to the members of the community. This may happen through presentations, exhibitions, or lessons. One occasion is, for example, the weekly village seminar. Alternatively, the volunteer can use the opportunity of leading some of the village seminars to present or to introduce issues and subjects that the volunteer finds interesting. Myllylähde is a community that shares all the responsibilities of work and enjoys free time together. This means that the tasks of the volunteer will also be socializing with the disabled as well as working with their and the community's daily duties. Thus, the work will also consist of practical tasks and various activities with the disabled, such as, farm work and domestic chores such as cooking and cleaning. Evening activities are also part of the community life. This means that the volunteer can also help with sport-related or culture-related activities.

LOCATION: Countryside. Myllylähde is situated outside of the village center of Hämeenkoski in the Häme region of Southern Finland. Myllylähde is located ca. 30km north-west of Lahti.

ACCOMMODATION: In the project

OTHER: The volunteer should be prepared to live in a community in which he/she will work and live with disabled people. Interest in a communal way of life is crucial. Myllylähde is also an EVS-project.

Hoitokoti Poppeli

TYPE OF PROJECT: Disabled people – Care home

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Care Home Poppeli is a home that provides care and activities for ca. 16 adults with minor disabilities. The emphasis of its work is on personal development connected with self-determined and active participation in the community life and its work. All disabled people living in Poppeli take part in daily chores according to their own abilities and wishes. The staff helps them to take care of various chores and activities such as mowing the lawn, wood work and household tasks.

VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The volunteer will help with all activities and chores of the care home. The tasks include: assisting and helping the disabled in their tasks and activities; taking them outdoors; cooking; and, of course, socializing with the people of the community.

LOCATION: Town of Suonenjoki, which is situated in Central Finland, ca. 50km south-west of Kuopio.

ACCOMMODATION: Individual room in the project OR in a host family

OTHER: Open-mindedness and willingness to work with disabled are essential qualities. Smoking and consumption of alcohol are not allowed within the project.

Jamilahden kansanopisto

TYPE OF PROJECT: Folk High School

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Jamilahden kansanopisto is a folk high school that provides a context for independent learning. Its programs consist of 9 month long courses in different areas. Students participate in these as a step in their life-long education. Many of the programs prepare the students for studies at a University, and count for some of the courses of the first university year. The different types of courses offered by the folk high school include: music, theatre, writing, freelance reporting, pedagogy studies as well as preparatory Open University courses. In addition to these, Jamilahti also has a special course for disabled youths, which consists of learning "life skills", such as: household skills, Finnish, mathematics, physical education, dance, IT, etc. There is also a wide range of different short courses organised throughout the year by the folk high school.

VOLUNTEER'S TASKS: The volunteer can participate in various activities at the folk high school. These include: assisting special needs students; organising short courses; participating and supporting in courses; and assisting in the maintenance of the school premises. The volunteer can also act upon his/her own initiative. He/she can take the responsibility of starting a short/evening course in an area in which he/she has special skills/interest, e.g. dancing, cooking, etc.

LOCATION: The small city of Hamina with 20'000 inhabitants situated in the south-east coast of Finland, 150 km from Helsinki

ACCOMMODATION: In the staff housing within the project

OTHER:

PREFERENCE LIST:

Please indicate in order of preference your 5 most favoured projects. We will try our best to place everybody to their favoured projects, but unfortunately that is not always possible. So, please be prepared to make compromises.

_____ Folk high school

_____ Kindergarten

_____ School

_____ Project for disabled

_____ Foster home

_____ Farm Work

_____ Local voluntary center

_____ Other:

Would you like to be placed in (mark with X):

_____ city

_____ countryside

Would you prefer working with: (indicate in order of preference from 1 to 5)

_____ Children

_____ Youth

_____ Elderly

_____ Disabled

_____ Socially excluded

Why would you prefer working in this type of projects?

What are your expectations from this experience?

Describe any previous experiences, which will help you in this work.

Additional information if needed:

Exchangee & Country _____
Exchange Year _____
Signature _____