

EVS Project in Switzerland: 2020-2021

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOSTING ORGANIZATION

Synergy Village, Feldbach

(German speaking area)

is looking for **3** volunteers!

2 volunteers from 2nd of March 2020 – 28th February 2021 (12 months)

1 volunteer from 2nd of March 2020 – 1st of December 2020 (9 months)

(one volunteer can also start in April/Mai 2020)

Requirements: *Interest in manual work outside, working with people and basic German knowledge.*



Website of the Hosting Organisation: www.synergy-village.org

General information concerning the EVS program in Switzerland

- This project would be **granted from the Swiss government** and not the EU, because Switzerland is officially no more a full member of Erasmus +.
- The volunteers will live **in the project**. The candidate should be motivated to share the life of other volunteers and the community of the project and live an intercultural exchange with them.
- The contributions for **international travel costs** are **CHF 400**.
- The volunteer will be insured through the **ICYE group insurance**
- The volunteer will receive a **pocket money of CHF 300 per month**
- The volunteers will work between **32 to 38 hours a week**.
- The duration of the EVS is 9 or 12 months.
- The volunteer will receive a **certificate** filled in by ICYE Switzerland and the hosting organization not a youth pass.

Synergy Village is a family-and friends-based non-profit association. It's situated on a centuries-old property, which was used as a traditional farm back in the days. It's a beautiful place with a magic grotto, idyllic gardens, green farmland, and old traditional houses. Also a private spot at the Lake of Zurich is part of the property.

The aim of Synergy Village is to welcome guests and visitors on the property and to use the space for cultural, social and sustainable events. As the name Synergy Village indicates, many of the activities are based on the principle of "creating synergies" by creating win-win situations on a non-monetary basis. As an example, volunteers contribute to the place with their work and knowledge, while they have the opportunity to learn new things, develop their own ideas, immerse into a new society and meet people from all around the world.

The place is a meeting place for people from all around the world. In the summer months, the main house is run as a **guesthouse** for international visitors and larger groups. From autumn to spring, all the rooms are rented out to long-term tenants. The house has then the feeling of a shared housing community. The principle of Synergy Village is that everyone who visits is part of the community that is always set up by the current visitors (guests and volunteers).

Furthermore, Synergy Village rents out function rooms in the renovated barn for all kind of events, such as cultural, social and creative events, workshops, corporate or private events. In addition, Synergy Village also organizes its own events, such as a yearly open day, a market or a summer night BBQ.

The organization Synergy Village consists of 3-4 board members and a number of active members who regularly help on the property.

Volunteers have many opportunities to get involved:

- Help in guesthouse with guest check-in, prepare rooms, laundry, cleaning etc. (only in summer months)
- Help at events with preparations and running events
- Outdoor maintenance such as lawn mowing, lake leaves, harvesting, pruning etc. (depending on season)
- Gardening for vegetables and flowers: weeding, planting, irrigating, harvesting etc.
- Landscape gardening: digging, make paths, stairs, walls etc.
- Creative and decoration work
- Help with renovations
- Cooking and baking for community and events

Synergy Village aims to be a "Place of Inspiration" where people can be creative, try new things and learn from each other. Therefore, volunteers are encouraged to bring in their own ideas and work on their own project, beside the daily tasks.

The type of work and workload change according to the season, which requires the volunteer to be flexible and adapt.

The Volunteers stay in a shared room for 2-3 volunteers. The food is vegetarian. There are two friendly cats on the property that also stay in the house.

To apply, please fill in the application form and send it until **3rd of November 2019** to lea.kolzer@icye.ch

Application Form and other information: <https://www.icye.ch/fr/volontariat-etranger/programmes/service-volontaire-europeen/european-voluntary-service/>