

Initiative et Développement Citoyen (IDC)

Lastours, France

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Initiative et Développement Citoyen (IDC) is a cooperative born in April 2010 in order to promote the sustainable development, the international mobility, the active citizenship, the mutual aid, the ecological engagement, and the awareness of different people.

Our eco-label structure, a small campsite in the middle of nature, is based on both tourism and nature and heritage preservation, in a linked intercultural process. Far from those outdoor hotel spaces filled with facilities, the 20 pitches campsite is an oasis of peace and serenity for campers, responding to sustainable tourism values.

The cooperative aims to achieve different activities: event and various workshops, some about ecological building, farm, maintenance of a vegetable garden and of a greenhouse, host costumers, start to think how to create an instructive by the volunteer's help. For this reason, we prefer people who appreciate the nature and living in.



April to October.... In the Reception

We have a little campsite who brings to the camper an atmosphere close to the nature.

Warm welcome and availability are assured to the costumers in a natural space at the same time wooded and quiet. The campsite dominates the site of the castles of Lastours which constitutes an exceptional view. It's important that the volunteer respect this concept and don't disturb the rest of the people.

We like when our volunteers interact with the costumers and bring an intercultural ambient. It's important that our volunteers are interested to meet people with various experience and share it.

Context



The project will take place in a very rural environment in the South-West of France. The hosting organization is based in Lastours, a small village in the Aude department 18 km far from Carcassonne, the main city of the area, where the closest train station and supermarket are. It's a rural region living on agriculture, wine-producing and tourism. In fact Lastours, with its 80 inhabitants, has a long history: since the beginning of Middle Age it was a strategic hub for economic traffic from Spain to the rest of Europe. The four castles on the top of the rock are the direct testimonials of its power. Actually, thousands of tourists by year come to visit the castles and all the close villages and our little campsite offer the view on it.

Volunteerism in Le Belvédère

Hosting a volunteer is, firstly, an exchange. In our region, there are not a lot of EVS volunteers, so one of our mission is to promote the Erasmus Plus Program.

The cooperative manager has been working in the field of international mobility, especially for the European Program, for ten years. In 2014 we started hosting some European volunteers as part of Erasmus Plus Program and a Mexican one with the organization "Latinomics".

Volunteers are very important for us, they are bringing a special atmosphere to our team thanks to their energy, diversity and contribution.

Following our commitment to increase youth employability, our goal is to promote an intercultural exchange and a mutual enrichment between the volunteers and our centre, allowing volunteers to live a new experience in a foreign country that will bring them personal and professional enrichment.

Ideally, each volunteer after the project will have a more environment-conscious attitude and will continue to learn keep on in their search for information to become a respectful citizen of their own environment.

Volunteers' activities

The volunteer makes the ambient of the season,

So, the solidarity, the tolerance and the communication in the team are important.

Volunteers will have an important supporting role. They will support the team in the daily management, development and evolution of the hosting organization. Professionally, the proposed activities will focus on these different fields: environment, international mobility, tourism and communication, hospitality.

During the volunteering, all the volunteers will help in **common tasks**:



- Hosting costumers and supporting the local staff in the logistic part
- Team working on party events and green buildings
- Participating in daily life by cooking for everyone and cleaning of the common showers area
- Sharing their

knowledge and experience as a volunteer

- Sharing about the right behavior to have less impact on the nature in our daily life
- Organizing eco workshops
- Participating in youth exchanges organized and hosted by the cooperative.
- Participating in building a positive atmosphere
- Taking care of the green spaces, watering the plants, maintaining trees and vegetables.
- Developing information regarding the flora and fauna of the region: This is especially crucial to give a better understanding about the Mediterranean biodiversity to others and make them understand,
- Taking care of the donkeys and other animals of the center,

Actually, we are looking for volunteers interesting also in this various field to support us in different ecological workshops.

- Raising awareness about sustainable developments,
- Promoting eco-friendly way of living,
- Assisting in creating a common space for the volunteers in an eco-friendly way,
- Help to organize the "waste mine"
- Raising awareness regarding recycling,
- Awareness of zero waste policy,
- To repair the materials of the place to recycle them (like bikes, outdoor furniture etc.)
- Cooperating with other volunteers in ecological constructions,
- Constructing outdoor furniture when it is needed,
- Researching about green projects (green roof, green wall etc.)
- Doing research for possible partnership in case of need,
- Getting involved in sustainable architecture.
- Building spaces to store the materials when it is needed,
- Organizing eco workshops.

The volunteer final schedule will be defined depending on his/her interests, needs and skills and also depending on the events organizing by the cooperative.

Discover more and testimony of volunteers on:

<https://initiativeetdeveloppementcitoyen.org/>

Discover more about the campsite: <http://campingdelastours.com/>

Welcome to the Belvédère