

The Association Mic-ados is a non-profit organisation recognised by the ministry of youth welfare of the federation Wallonie-Bruxelles as "service d'Aide en Milieu Ouvert (AMO)". We can intervene for every child or youngster who is in danger or in difficulties. Every person younger than 18 years old who needs help, advice or just someone to talk to can demand our interventions. We also answer to requests from every person, parent or family member who encounters difficulties in the education or the relationship with a child. In daily life we are working with children from 0 to 18 years as well as with their families to accompany and support them in difficult situations. The majority of our public can be considered as living under precarious circumstances. Many young people who frequent our association live in situations of poverty and have to face different educational and social difficulties.

**Our work** consists of three complementary axes:

- Individual support: we talk with and accompany the young people to sort out their difficult situations (family dissension, early school leave, unwanted pregnancy...); and /or help them with administrative tasks.
- Collective projects: all the year round we develop activities in the district, organise a support for homework and take part in many local events. We also organise holiday camps.
- Community projects: this work is taking place in long terms together with partners with the aim to improve the living environment of young people, the accessibility of services... For this reason we set up a training programme for activity leaders. On occasion we organise also conferences or participative workshops about themes such as addiction or children's rights which are open to the local population.

In all our projects we stand up for the equality of opportunities, the development of young people, the autonomy and responsibility of young people as well as their capacity to find –like every citizen- solutions which are their owns.

During the interactions with the young people we ensure them professional secrecy. To meet them we also come to their homes. We wish to be able to respond to their demands (without working on short deadlines) and support the initiatives of the young people who frequent our service.

A team of nine staff members (educators, social assistants, a criminologist and a secretary) are in charge of the realization of the missions of the association. We work in 9 municipalities (rural or semi-rural areas):

Marche, Hotton, Rendeux, La Roche, Erezée, Durbuy, Nassogne, Tenneville and Manhay.

The personal development of young people, the intercultural meeting and open-mindedness are the fundamental values on which are based the actions of the AMO Mic-Ados. The hosting of a young European volunteer corresponds in this way perfectly to our work philosophy.

### **Tasks**

This project should permit the volunteer to qualify themselves in the social youth work while immersing in the Belgian culture. The volunteer will be mainly involved in the tasks of animation and will always be accompanied by a permanent worker. In his daily work, the volunteer EVS will be involved in the collective projects of the associations: homework support for the children from 6 to 12 years; animation of children from 6 to 12 years in the villages Barvaux and La Roche; organization of a family day (with the parents of the animated children); animation of the holiday camps in summer; animation of occasional projects with adolescents.

During his project the volunteer will have the possibility to participate at a leaders training for kids camps. He/She can also take part in conferences and team meetings. The future volunteer can develop a personal project which is in relation to the mission and the target group of Mic-Ados if he/she wishes to. The volunteer will also be given the opportunity to attend a French course of several hours a week so that the volunteer can develop his/her language skills.

### **Project time**

EVS activity will start on 01/05/2012 for duration of 12 months

### **Location**

The volunteer will be hosted at the commune of Marche-en-Famenne. It is situated in the southern French-speaking part of Belgium. The town Marche-en-Famenne counts round about 17 000 inhabitants and is surrounded by many small villages. The town offers all modern facilities (shops, supermarket, sport center, cinema...) and has a rich natural, architectural and cultural heritage. There are also several other European volunteers who are situated in different projects in Marche-en-Famenne. We will bring them together as well as enable the volunteer to get to know young local people. IMPORTANT: Marche-en-Famenne is located in a semi-rural area. Even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (57 km from Liège, 106 km from Brussels, 47 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look remote

and very quiet.

### **Requirements**

We do not require any specific competences or knowledge of the future volunteer. It would be an advantage to feel comfortable with animating children. The volunteer have to prove a certificate of good conduct or a similar document which permits him or her to work with children. Given the public we are working with he or she has to have a dignified and spotless conduct especially regarding the consummation of alcohol and other substances.

### **Contacts**

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