

## SHORT TERM EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN ROME (ITALY)



A short term learning experience exploring diversity through a concrete contribution to a community gardens and social activities involving mentally disabled youngsters. A very special location in the middle of the green heart of Rome, the Appia Antica natural park, hosting a very active social cooperative, Giuseppe Garibaldi, concretely innovative in supporting the autonomy and self-entrepreneurship of youngsters with mental disabilities, thanks to a diverse and specialized team and with the contribution of young local volunteers coming from the Agrarian School, involved in the everyday activities.

Since 5 years CEMEA del Mezzogiorno established a local partnership with the social cooperative Giuseppe Garibaldi born from the activism of parents of mental disabled youngsters, attending the Giuseppe Garibaldi high school sited in the same area. The school is specialized in agricultural and biological production and it is placed in a real oasis in the middle of the Italian capital. Part of its area together with a farmhouse completely restored, has been devoted to the development of social, cultural and working activities carried out by the cooperative and more than 100 volunteers. Each activity is involving at least one youngster with mental disability (asperger syndrome, autistic, mental deficiency...)

included in a local pathway of autonomy. The educative activities proposed to young disabled are very concrete, with an easy accessibility and aimed to reinforce their daily life skills. The disabled youngster are members and owners of the social cooperative. The mission of the cooperative is to adapt the working environment to its members needs in order to guarantee their access to a fundamental right of any citizen: the right to work. That's why, a Trattoria, an Agriturismo, an Open-Air Market and Urban Community Gardens for families are the doors for socialization, letting the outside coming inside, "normal" people meeting "special" people. This is the crossing point where Cemea's action meets Cooperativa Garibaldi's mission: to foster and increase the pathway of the House of Autonomies. European Voluntary Service perfectly fits with it, bringing Europe and the intercultural dimension in such a reality.

For short term projects Cemea del Mezzogiorno cooperates with the social cooperative Giuseppe Garibaldi. The volunteers will be hosted in pair helping in socio-educational activities with mentally disabled youngsters

### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers will be involved during the morning in the activities addressed to young disabled, supporting the specialized staff and other young Italian volunteers acting as peer educators. Afternoon will be mainly dedicated to Italian language course, mentoring and active discovery of Rome area. European Volunteers will represent an added value in this context, bringing European dimension and sharing their cultural background. Their mere presence, a part from the contribution they bring, has an important impact in the daily life of the young disabled.

The volunteers may be involved in the following activities based on multifunctional agriculture as educative tool supporting autonomy:

**VEGETABLE GARDEN:** farm activities in the community vegetable garden (picking, sowing, irrigating, digging, cleaning) with young disabled. Especially in the early morning everybody is engaged in collecting fresh products to be for the Trattoria and the market.

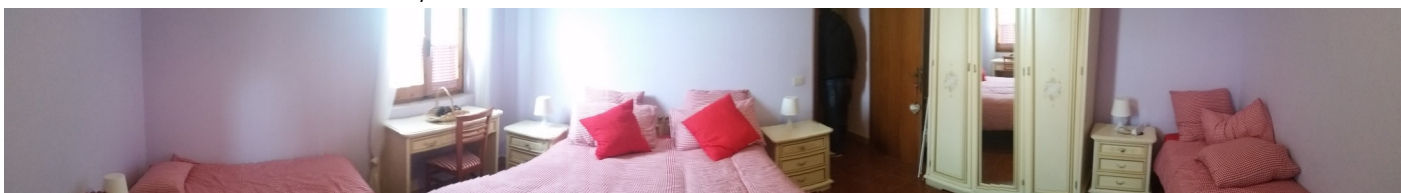
**GREEN HOUSE:** manual activities linked to seeds growing and transplanting are developed thanks to the cooperation with the House of Gardens of Rome Municipality

**COOKING LAB:** supervised by the cook, local products are prepared for the kitchen to prepare meals for the trattoria. Table settings and service tips are part of the lab, with the aim to foster young disabled skills in their daily life

**MARKET:** installing a dedicated stand placed near the schools in the same area of the cooperative, young disabled take care of interaction with local citizens to sell fresh vegetables

**TRATTORIA:** it is managed by young disableds and open to external people for lunch and dinner. It is very visited especially in the evening, during spring and summer. Volunteers may suggest and lead intercultural proposals.

**VIDEO & PHOTO** documentation of the EVS experience will be realised by the volunteers



### ACCOMMODATION

The volunteers will share one of the rooms of the Agriturismo. The room is equipped with 2 individual beds, wardrobe, a little fridge and a microwave. Covers and bedlinens are provided by the social cooperative. A private bathroom with shower is in common with an educator, living in another room, and the cook when the Trattoria is opened to public. All cleaning will be done by personnel of the Agriturismo; clothes and linen also can be delivered to the personnel having access to the washing machine. The neighbours have 3 harmless dogs that, especially during the night, go freely around the structure.

### BOARD & POCKET MONEY

Volunteers receive the food in kind. 3 meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided directly by the Trattoria (even when it is closed to public). The volunteers will have their own fridge in the room to store food, beverage and snacks. At the beginning of each month they will receive the individual allowance established by E.C. in cash.

### TRANSPORTS

The volunteers will receive a monthly card allowing them to use all the public means of transportation from the project/accommodation venue and within all the metropolitan area of Rome (train, metro, tramway and bus), day and night. Please, note that the cooperative G. Garibaldi is placed in a natural area and all around there are schools that close in the evening; that's why during the night we suggest to go outside in couple or to take the opportunity to visit Rome during the afternoon when also the public means in the city function regularly. The metro station is reachable also by foot (around 2.100 meters) and bus stop is around 900 meters from the agriturismo.

