

ESC short term in Isola delle Femmine (Palermo, Italy)

Hosting organisation: Associazione InformaGiovani



Dates:

Arrival: 03/07/2022

Departure: 04/08/2022

Place: [Isola delle Femmine](#) (Palermo, Italy)

N. of volunteers: 2 volunteers

Who we are

InformaGiovani (IG) was established in 2001 by a group of volunteers.

IG has the following aims:

- foster and promote human and civil rights, especially the right to information and participation of youth;
- promote local and international volunteering as a tool for social change and social inclusion;
- promote employability and self-confidence of young people at risk of social exclusion

The association runs activities of information, training, seminars on EU programmes, on social volunteering and international cooperation. The association focuses on activities of social inclusion and rehabilitation of young people who risk or are experiencing social exclusion, in particular young offenders, young people with sensorial disabilities, young migrants.

Since 2008 organizes youth exchanges and international workcamps, involving more than 800 participants in local and international activities. It was accredited as HSC organisation for EVS, and nowadays it is accredited as ESC Lead organisation.

Since 2009 it is leading an informal European network on social volunteering as tool for inclusion. Moreover, the Association is member of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for dialogue between cultures and is partner of Alliance network of European Voluntary Service Organisations.

Since July 2017, the association has been assigned by the Municipality of Palermo a property confiscated from mafia, where we are currently managing the front-office of youth info-point.

The association is run mainly by young people under 36 years of age.



<https://www.informa-giovani.net/>



<https://www.facebook.com/Campidivolontariato/>



Erasmus +

InformaGiovani is recognized as EU-wide network by the EACEA of the European Commission, in the frame of the "Erasmus+" Programme
PIC 949741454

Partner of ALLIANCE of Voluntary Service Organizations

Local partner: Since several years, InformaGiovani is collaborating with the **Natural Reserve of Isola delle Femmine** in the organisation of international voluntary projects.

"Isola delle Femmine" is a natural reserve established in 1997 by the Sicilian Region and managed by LIPU (Italian league for birds protection) since 1998. This little uninhabited island is the ideal place for a specific species of birds called Gabbiano reale (*Larus michahellis*) allowing them to rest from migration and to grow numerically. Due to financial cutting, this area is suffering of maintenance and the support received along the year, of course is not as such as should be provided. This is the reason why InformaGiovani together with LIPU organises every year workcamps to support the maintenance of the natural reserve and to sensitise the local community towards the place.

Description of the activity: Volunteers will support the work done by Associazione InformaGiovani and the activities organised jointly with its local partners in Isola delle Femmine (Italy).

Work will be run in the little uninhabited island in the middle of the sea, therefore, is compulsory to be able to swim!

Volunteers will support natural reserve's staff in restoration of the flora with planting of new plants (this action is part of a thirty-year plan put in practice by Lipu), maintenance of existing vegetation (watering plants), maintenance of the protected area (re-building stone paths). Cleaning of the protected area (the area is subject to different marine streams that bring waste from the sea). Work will be done mainly in the morning and in case of wind or rain the work will be run on another day. Work can be tiring and hard due to hot temperature and Sicilian sun (hat and sunblock are compulsory).

In the afternoon, volunteers will work together to create an event/campaign to raise awareness about marine litter and man-made environmental issues, reduction of plastic and the impact of incorrect waste management on seas. At the end of the service, volunteers will have the opportunity to receive "YouthPass" certificate recognised by EU Commission.

Volunteer's profile: candidate should meet the following requirements:

- ability to team working, open-minded, emphatic, sociable
- willing to work out-door on the island
- able to communicate in basic English

Board, lodging and insurance: Volunteers will be hosted in a small house in the village Isola delle Femmine (not on the island) where is located the LIPU office as well.

Volunteers will sleep in tents in local camping site. They will prepare food in team.

Volunteers will be covered by CIGNA insurance scheme provided for ESC programme.

Special requirements: Be able to swim is compulsory. Interest in environment issue, protection of sea and coast. Volunteers should be aware of a very basic condition. Motivation letter is compulsory in order to show interest in the project.

Location and free time: Isola delle Femmine is an Italian town in North-Western Sicily, in the province of Palermo. It is next to the sea so volunteers can spend their free time at the beach, do water sports, snorkeling, etc... Isola is a coast-town close to Palermo and connected with bus/train. Palermo is a beautiful city where there are many sights and places to spend the free time.

Closest airport: Palermo (PMO)

What previous volunteers said about the experience

Zaher: <https://www.facebook.com/EUNetworkIG/posts/2282403745423641>

Paulina: <https://www.facebook.com/EUNetworkIG/posts/2293815030949179>

Marita: <https://www.informa-giovani.net/blog-dei-volontari/short-term-volunteering-in-isole-delle-femmine-sicily>