

MACERATA

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROJECT WITH GRUCA ASSOCIATION



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

WHO IS HOSTING ORGANIZATION GRUCA?

GruCA is a non-profit, non-partisan, and laic association, born in 2010 with the objective of promoting **environmental sustainability**, alternative economic models which put **human relations** and an aware consumption as the basic principles of tomorrow's world. We also bind ourselves to promote projects for active citizenship, knowledge and multicultural exchange, and educative processes with the main mission of promoting **solidarity, democracy and integration** within local, national and international territory.

The main activities take place in the city of Macerata (Marche) and are linked to the valorisation of the **Villa Ficana neighbourhood**, an important and historic raw clay village. Additionally, activities are dedicated to sustainability, environmental education and multilingualism in nursery schools in Macerata with children aged 0-3 years. Other activities take place in the **Second Hand Shop**, which raises funds for an association that deals with people with disabilities through the sale of second-hand clothes and objects and is located in the Ecomuseum district, and in the **organic garden** (located in the Sasso d'Italia area in the city of Macerata).



GruCA

WHO IS COORDINATING ORGANIZAZION CENTRO FONTI SAN LORENZO?

The Centro Fonti San Lorenzo is a non-profit association that is committed to **preserve and keep alive** one of the few socialization spaces of the homonymous district of Recanati (MC - Italy). Founded in the early 90s, occupying and recovering a farmhouse and the surrounding abandoned park, then became the permanent seat of the association by virtue of an agreement with the Municipality.

The NGO has grown over the time, struggling because that same space become a **place of aggregation** from 0 to 99 years old, of cultural proposal, of solidarity, participatory democracy and social fairness.

The Cultural Center represents one of the main socio-aggregative realities of the Region, The association represent a point of contact between the local reality and Europe since 2015, being ESC supporting, coordinating and hosting, today by virtue of his **Qualitylabel as lead organization**



THE PROJECT

Our project includes **two project areas** and encourages some practical activities to improve the cultural and natural heritage management in terms of environmental prevention, promotion of the territory and community well-being.

The aim is to introduce young people, on the one hand, to local culture, traditions and customs and, on the other, to spread good education practices in environmental sustainability and responsible behaviour from an early age.

To achieve these goals, the activities will take place in certain locations of historical and environmental importance such as the village of Villa Ficana, an important and historic neighbourhood, and in nursery schools with children between 0 and 3 years old.

The project involves **six young European volunteers**. **Three of them will be engaged in carrying out activities dedicated to sustainability, environmental education and multilingualism in nursery schools, and the other three volunteers will promote and encourage the development and promotion of Villa Ficana.** Volunteers will also have the opportunity to develop their own personal project depending on their interests and passions.

Besides the above-mentioned two main project areas, all six volunteers will be involved in various activities in collaboration with a local organization called **I Nuovi Amici**, such as working in the organic garden and second-hand shop, and other activities to be specified during the project.

THE ACTIVITIES - SUSTAINABILITY WITH CHILDREN AGED 0-3 YEARS

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE FIRST PROJECT AREA - SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND MULTILINGUALISM IN NURSERY SCHOOLS WITH CHILDREN AGED 0-3 YEARS:

- conception and implementation of environmental education activities to be carried out at two of the nursery schools in the city of Macerata, using **natural materials such as raw earth and natural pigments** through collaboration with the Ecomuseo delle Case di Terra Villa Ficana which constantly works with these materials and their promotion and use in the educational and creative sectors;
- **Reading aloud and interaction in a foreign language** (possibly English) with newborns, aiming to familiarize them with different sounds and languages, thus encouraging multilingualism;
- Playing with ropes: playful proposals involving **experiments in school gardens** and beyond, capable of stimulating children's sensorimotor development and creativity and serving as a way to connect with nature.
- Workshops with natural and recycled materials materials: unpredictable and intriguing, they stimulate the **creative expression of both children** and adults, fostering curiosity and divergent thinking.

Activities take place **five days per week (standardly monday to friday)** with **two consecutive days off**.



THE ACTIVITIES - VILLA FICANA

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SECOND PROJECT AREA - THE DEVELOPMENT OF *BORGO VILLA FICANA*:

- **guided tours** for visitors of the museum,
- Organizing of school trips and visits in the neighborhood,
- Organizing **educational workshops** for children and adults on working with raw earth, local customs and traditions
- **research of materials** about Villa Ficana in libraries, city archives, and from direct testimonies of residents of THE NEIGHBORHOOD,
- Organizing the "Ficana terra di mezzo" festival
- support to the organization, and implementation of **events for young people** with REGARD of traditional uses and customs of Villa Ficana, macerata, and marche region.
- creation and implementation of **social media content** and plannification for the ecomuseum.
- planning, and implementation of events suitable for young people (aperitifs, concerts, exhibitions),
- **exhibition design** and implementation about diverse topics related to the ecomuseum and Macerata.

Activities take place **five days** per week (**during the week and also weekends**) with **two consecutive days off**.





ORGANIC GARDEN IN THE PARK SASSO D'ITALIA



SECOND HAND SHOP



MACERATA AND THE MARCHE REGION

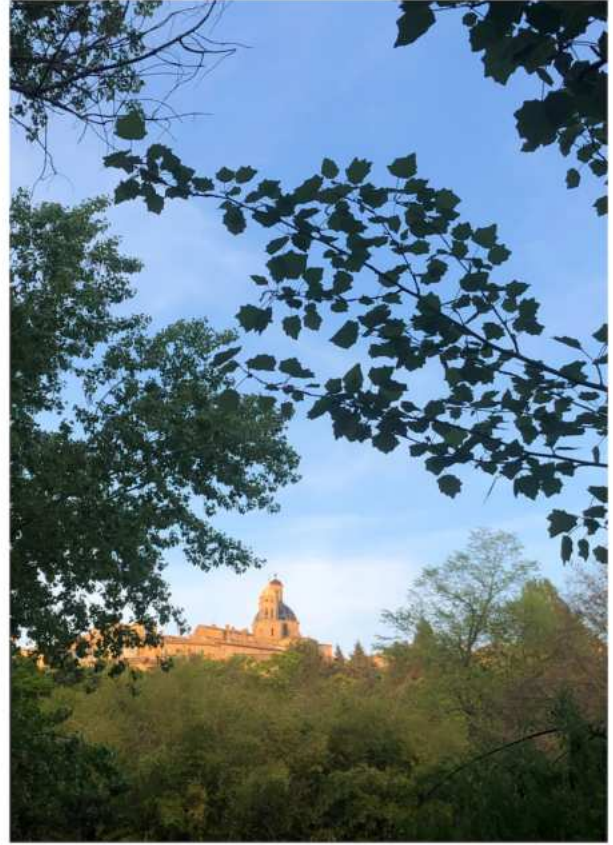
Macerata is a province and city in the central Italian region - of *le Marche*. Together with the modern town, sprawling on the plain below, it has a population of about 43,000 inhabitants. The historical city center is located on a hill between the *Chienti* and *Potenza* rivers.

Macerata is located between the Adriatic sea and the Apennine mountains which offers a perfect setting surrounded by charming hill towns and beautiful countryside.

- Macerata is also home to a university that was founded in 1290, and that keeps the city a vibrant place and a cultural hub.



MACERATA AND THE MARCHE REGION



ACCOMMODATION

ABOUT VILLA FICANA

Gruca manages a **guesthouse** situated directly **in the historical village of Villa Ficana**, where the volunteers will live. The neighborhood of Ficana was built in the mid-nineteenth century. This neighbourhood, or borgo as is known in Italian, is one of the most picturesque and historic ones of the city. Situated ON the outskirts of the city, the neighbourhood has no more than 50 houses, with small and narrow streets and houses made of **raw earth**. The borgo is fully pedestrian which helps to make it a peaceful and quiet place to live.

These houses are built with **raw earth** and today Villa Ficana is the only village in the whole of continental Italy where the majority of the houses are built in this way and also for this reason it has been protected by the Italian state since 2003. Most of the the houses in the village are inhabited by young families, professionals and historic inhabitants, who make the village of Villa Ficana a **people-friendly, quiet and welcoming neighbourhood**.



VILLA FICANA



ACCOMMODATION

GUESTHOUSE

The GUESTHOUSE is composed OF **three little houses with separate entrances** and with different shared spaces. the common spaces for all six volunteers include the kitchen, the living room, and a laundry room with A toilet.

Besides that, in each of these three houses there are two **communicating rooms** with a shared bathroom (situated always in one of the rooms). in this way **each house will be shared by two volunteers.**

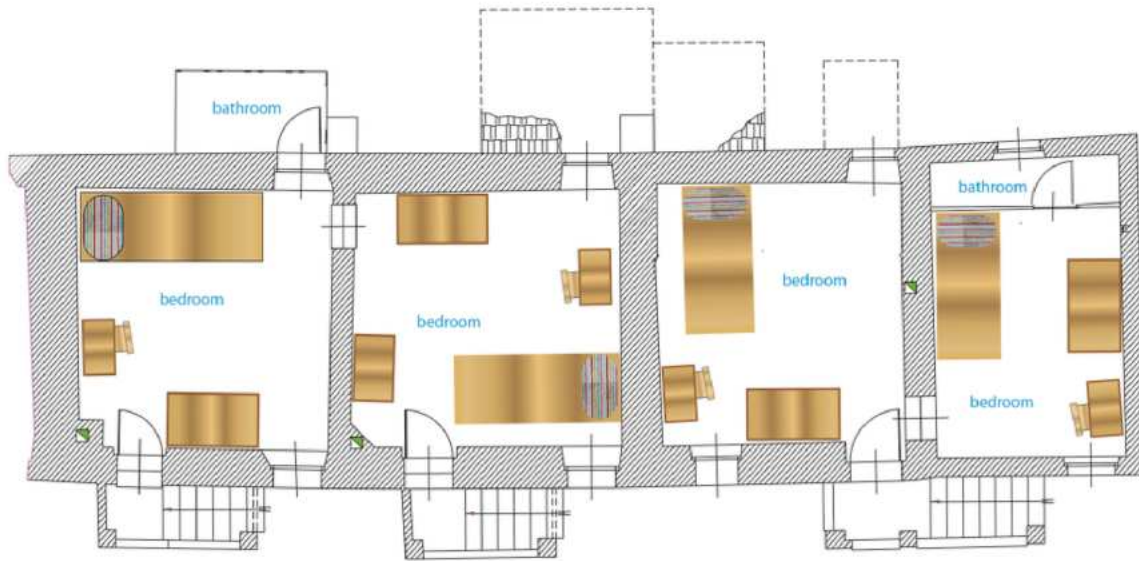
Furthermore, in front of the guesthouse there is a small garden with an adjoining **oven made of clay** which is used for events and parties in the neighbourhood, excellent for cooking pizza! Both the garden in front of the guesthouse and the small garden behind the kitchen are managed by volunteers, who also take care of their cleaning.



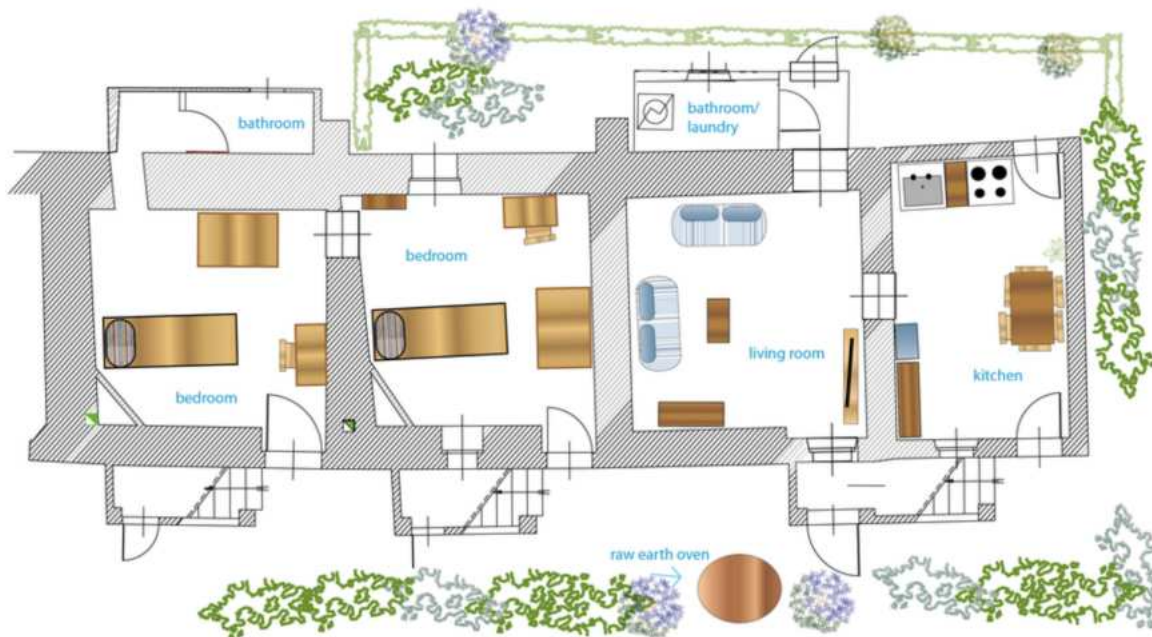
ACCOMMODATION

GUESTHOUSE

guesthouse - first floor



guesthouse - ground floor

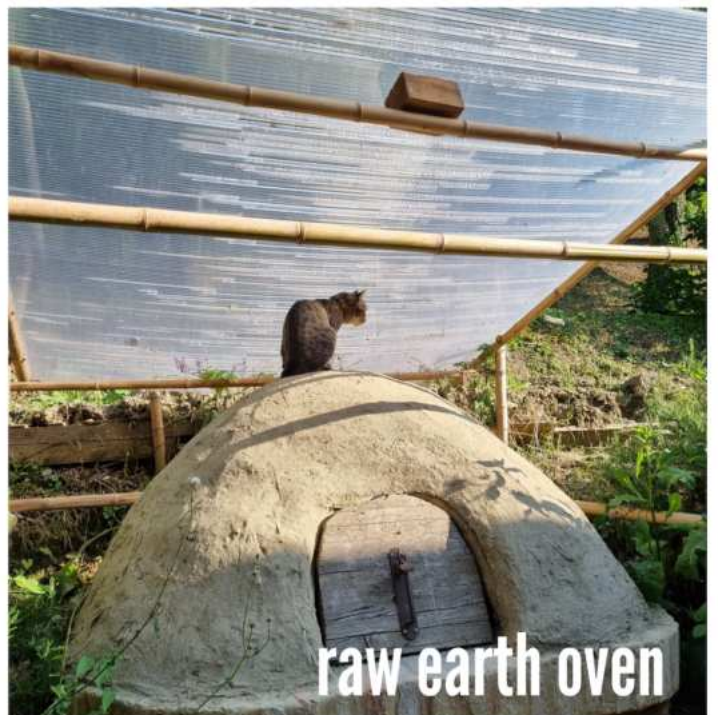


GUESTHOUSE



ACCOMMODATION

GUESTHOUSE - COMMON SPACES



ACCOMMODATION

GUESTHOUSE - ROOMS OF THE FIRST HOUSE



ACCOMMODATION

GUESTHOUSE - ROOMS OF THE SECOND HOUSE



FOOD AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

As for food, the volunteer will receive an allowance at the beginning of each month to provide for themselves, plus a monthly allowance to their own needs.

Furthermore, the volunteers will be able to use freely the vegetables that they grow seasonally in the Sasso d'Italia organic garden.

Lastly, the volunteers will be able to move around by walking because Ficana is only a 15-minute walk from the city centre..



TRAINING DURING THE ACTIVITIES

Once they arrive in Macerata, the volunteers will be assisted by members of the Gruca association, to help them settle into the new **ENVIRONMENT**, and also to resolve any practical and logistical problems.

For each project area volunteers will be assigned to a tutor, who will introduce them TO the tasks and will support them THROUGH the project duration.

Gruca will offer volunteers an **Italian course** for the entire duration of their stay, including a more theoretical part in the first period of the project and further practical activities to improve their knowledge of the Italian language, coordinated by a linguistic mediator. This course will help volunteers become **familiar** with the Italian language and will allow them to reach a basic communication level.

Besides the language course organized by Gruca, volunteers will have an opportunity to follow lectures on the platform of **online language support (OLS)** provided by the ESC program

VOLUNTEERS' PROFILE

In the selection process of volunteers, the project does not require any specific ability or knowledge. we only look for a **motivation and desire to grow** in a new dynamic environment full of changes and new ideas. The volunteer work is nonprofit and it only intends to support the local community.

The below mentioned skills are recommended, however, they are not required and will be acquired along WITH the duration of the project:

- cultural heritage knowledge
- museum knowledge
- resilience
- experience with working with kids
- flexibility
- graphic design
- social media content creation
- ability to speak in public
- knowledge in the field of natural sciences
- Interest in working with children aged 0-3 years
- Having some experience in the field of working with children aged 0-3 years will be considered positively
- able to work in an intercultural group
- be proactive and adaptable