

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



Cofinanziato dal  
programma Erasmus+  
dell'Unione europea



NEA GUINEA & ASSONUR

*ESC Project*

*"Sustainable Synergies IV"*

Start date: **08/11/2021**

End date: **05/11/2022**

Duration: 12 months

Place: Nea Makri, Greece

Hosting organisation: **Nea Guinea -  
School of the Earth**

Profile of volunteer: 18-30 years,  
available for the full period of the  
activities, with residence in Italy.

## TO APPLY

Send your **CV and Motivation Letter**  
via email to **assonur@gmail.com**  
with the subject 'ESC - Sustainable  
Synergies, 2021-22'.

The pre-selected candidates will be  
interviewed via Skype.







## Project Description

"Sustainable Synergies" emphasizes on raising awareness on environmental and social challenges within the local community and promoting active engagement in sustainable and regenerative practices with a positive environmental impact. It focuses on the development and dissemination of techniques and practices that promote creative interaction between the people of the local community regarding issues of sustainable food production, renewable energy systems, cultural and environmental regeneration and creative environmental activism. Using tools like permaculture design, non formal education, skill sharing, non violent communication and sociocracy, we aim at creating the conditions for an open synergistic process that consists of diverse creative activities and promotes active experiential learning as well as positive inter-cultural interaction.



During the project, young volunteers from Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Germany and Sweden (or any other ESC eligible country) will join the School of the Earth in our farming activities; 4 volunteers will stay with us for 12 months in order to experience a full year of Permaculture and sustainable living. The volunteer activities are designed to foster a learning process that offers community benefit while providing a variety of informal and non-formal methods to generate learning. The participants will acquire or improve their skills in active participation, while operating in a multicultural environment which promotes and develops attitudes of cooperation, solidarity and respect of cultural diversity. Particular organizational and practical hands-on skills will be developed by the volunteers in the planning, facilitation and implementation of raising awareness events and skill sharing workshops on Social Permaculture and non violent communication, Permaculture food production systems design and electricity production from renewable energy.



We expect the project participants to acquire new skills and knowledge on applied sustainability, which will grant them well equipped for an engagement with environmental tasks of all kinds, both on a community activist level as well as in a professional environment.



In cooperation with the project partners Servei Civil Internacional de Catalunya in Spain, Associação Spin in Portugal, Associazione Interculturale NUR in Italy, Via Brachy in France, Nachhaltiger in Germany and RELEARN Suderbyn in Sweden we envisage to create a fertile environment for youth mobility in Europe in order to promote, develop and apply sustainability in practice.





## Tasks of Volunteers

- Participation in the planning, organization and facilitation of raising awareness events regarding current social and environmental issues as well as cultural and environmental regeneration strategies for the local community on a weekly basis;
- Participation in the planning organization and facilitation of skill sharing workshops on Social Permaculture and non violent communication, Permaculture food production systems design and renewable energy production for the local community on a weekly basis;
- Study, research and documentation on the adaptation of different Permaculture cultivation techniques and methods on the Mediterranean climate and dissemination of the learning outcomes to the local community through open informative events and workshops;
- Study, research and documentation on seed preservation and development of a collective seed bank with local varieties of vegetable and herb seeds that will be supplied and will be retrofitted by the local community;
- Participation in Garden design, construction and maintenance activities along with members of the local community and the organization's members on the farm on a weekly basis, that facilitate sharing and exchanging of different methods and practices between community members while featuring rich agricultural traditions of minority groups within the local community;
- Participation in planning, organization and facilitation of cooking and food processing activities using vegetables produced in School of the Earth farm that facilitate sharing and exchanging of different methods and practices between community members while featuring rich food cultures of minority groups within the local community;
- Participation in the School of the Earth's internal activities: weekly plenum, team development activities (sessions to review goals and aims, development of new concepts and initiatives, etc), team and networking meetings, developing and maintaining digital communication channels (newsletter, blogs, social media etc).



These activities are designed to offer community benefit while providing a variety of informal and non-formal methods to generate learning, as well as offering the volunteers plenty of space for interaction with peers from the School of the Earth's members' circle as well as the local community.

The volunteers will work on the different projects at an average of 30 hours per week.





## Financial Conditions

- **Travel costs:** a maximum of 275 Euro for flights and local transport while arriving and departing from Nea Makri.
- **Pocket Money:** the volunteer will receive a monthly amount of 150 Euro of pocket money.

## Insurance

European Commission provides insurance coverage to the volunteers of the European Solidarity Corps through Cigna Health Insurance provider. Participants enrollment in Cigna shall take place at least 15 days before the date of the beginning of the volunteering activity, with the support of the Sending Organization.

## Accommodation

The volunteer will share a common living space with other volunteers in a co-housing project in Nea Makri, with dormitory style accommodation (max 3 volunteers per room).

## Food

Our organization will support volunteers for food provision via a weekly shopping-list. The food will be sourced with emphasis on organic and ethical production and responsible consumerism. Fresh fruit and vegetables will be sourced from our farm and other organic farms nearby, while the rest of the food supplies will be provided by local shops or a Solidarity Trade Food Cooperative in Athens that collaborates with small organic producers from all over the country.



## Volunteer Requirements

Volunteer candidates are expected to have some experience with volunteering within their own country.

They're also expected to have a strong interest in environmental issues and volunteerism, an ability to live and work as part of a multicultural team of volunteers and to work in a suburban small town like Nea Makri, an interest in intercultural experiences, a commitment to developing links with the communities in which they are placed and to using the experiences and skills gained during the program to benefit their own community. They should have excellent computer skills (such as word processing, spreadsheets, using social media and internet) and an excellent level of English.

Candidates will be expected to complete an application form through which relevant information about their skills, suitability for the placement and commitment to the environmental, intercultural and community elements of the program will be collected.







## Host Organization

Our work at the School of the Earth "Nea Guinea" (<http://neaguinea.org>) focuses on our belief that human activity as a whole can be part of the natural environment and become a regenerative factor for the local communities and ecosystems that surround it. Our primary goal is to explore and study balanced and meaningful connections with nature and the people around us, aiming at the emergence of a new culture with local characteristics based on solidarity and respect for life as a whole. Our activities are aimed at developing tools and practices that promote resilience and self-reliance on an individual as well as on a collective level, and at the same time at supporting people and communities in the transition to a sustainable lifestyle.



## Communications and Emergencies

The volunteer receives a detailed welcome pack upon arrival with useful emergency numbers as well as other relevant information regarding local everyday life. Upon arrival, the volunteer will attend a one-day orientation session along with the co-housing group, where necessary instructions and measures for safety in the house will be addressed. The volunteer will be provided with the mobile phone numbers of their mentor and of the ESC program coordinator: the volunteer will be able to call both of these numbers 24/7, if necessary.



## Things to consider before applying

It is wise to have some money on the side before coming to Greece. The pocket money and food provided are adequate for your ESC placement, but might not allow you to easily explore Greece or meet with friends in other cities. In addition, your ESC insurance will not pay for any healthcare in advance, unless you are admitted in the hospital, so you'll have to pay in advance for your healthcare and wait some weeks before receiving the reimbursement. It is thus recommended that you have some additional financial resources.



## European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

In order to strengthen the cohesion and foster the solidarity in European society, the European Solidarity Corps has been set up by the European Commission to create a community of young people willing to engage in a wide range of solidarity activities. For activities falling within the scope of the ESC, partner organizations select their volunteers making use of the **European Solidarity Corps database**. For this reason, we encourage all potential volunteers to register at: <https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity>