

EVS placement in French Guiana, South America

Volunteering mission about **community-based tourism**

Description of the organisation

The French Guianese association "Peupl'en Harmonie" (PeH) has the ambition to develop intercultural exchanges through tourist tours and volunteering at local and international levels.

A part of its activities concerns its tourism agency which is focused on sustainable development and solidarity. Additionally, PeH's activities involve:

- Local and sustainable development of villages: PeH works with local communities on development projects respecting the population, environment and local economy;
- Solidarity and intercultural exchanges in French Guiana: work camps and exchanges between different ethnicities;
- International volunteering and exchanges: developing international mobility in French Guiana, receiving and sending volunteers to and from all around the world - especially to the EU (ESV, international workcamps, etc.). PeH also helps others associations that want to host EVS volunteers.

PeH is promoting local mobility inside this vast territory where travelling is as difficult as creating a common identity amongst the different communities that form the French Guianese population. There is also an obvious lack of information on mobile opportunities; a problem which PeH is working on.

PeH focus its activities on youth inclusion and sustainable development. By promoting the European values, its main objective is to give youth the means to become actors of the civil society and active citizenship through mobility and community actions.

PeH is trying to develop exchanges and meetings between continental Europeans which are still too scarce. In addition to economic, social and cultural obstacles, French Guiana has to cope with geographical isolation. Collaborating and exchanging good practices with its partners, our association will endeavour to guide the French Guianese on their emancipation and personal empowerment.

Duration of the project

Long-term project (11 months duration) starting in September 2018.

Tasks of the volunteers

- The volunteer will take part of our actions about community-based tourism development. She/he will promote tourist tours of the villages we are working with and develop new ones (with local and international new partnerships). She/he will organize and lead tourist groups during some of the trails.
- She/he will help our association on French to Spanish translation;
- She/he will share her/his experience as an EVS during information sessions on international mobility.

In accordance with the interests of the volunteer and the needs of the association, other activities will be included in the EVS' mission. For instance, she/he could participate in developing local and international volunteering, contribute to PeH's communication and administrative work, etc.

Way of working

The volunteer will be working in collaboration with the PeH's members but will be encouraged to take initiatives and develop her/his own ideas.

This project includes work trips in the region such as meeting with institutions, press or/and villagers.

The situation in French Guiana is not easy to understand. Therefore, the volunteer has to be openminded and able to work with peoples having fewer opportunities. Autonomy and maturity are very important aspects of this EVS volunteering.

Languages

- French is necessary (strong B1 at least);
- English will not be really useful among Guianese peoples but the volunteer could take part in some international activities which should be in English;
- A lot of other languages are using in French Guiana. For instance, Portuguese, Dutch as well as Creole language would be an advantage.

If you are interested, please send your CV and motivation letter as soon as possible at vesi.peh@gmail.fr

