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## **“Be the light”**

### **Project details:**

**Location: Somogyudvarhely, Hungary**

**Duration: 12 months**

**Period: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016-9<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Volunteers: 3 (1 Estonian, 1 Transylvanian, 1 Spanish)**

### **Kuckó Foundation;**

The “ Somogyudvarhelyi Kuckó Foundation” was established in the autumn of 2007.

The foundation’s aim; Is to support the constant and continuous development of the family, as the society's fundamental unit, through daytime supervision, cultural events, sport programs, by the organization of various workshops, and by providing time and space for all ages and all kind of activities.

### **Goals;**

Somogyudvarhelyi Kuckó Foundation achieves its goals by the implementation of the following activities;

Running a family day care;

- Provision of children (20 weeks old -14 years old) during the day
- Operation of a kindergarten (3-7 years old)
- Running the family day care in rural and less developed areas, villages nearby
- Education, training, ability developing programs
- Free time activities & hobby workshops
- Organizing children programs, birthdays, camps
- Children care regardless opening hours
- Summer camps
- Promotion of underprivileged groups', social equality
- Twin-city and trans-border programs
- Supporting people with special needs
- Cultural programs, tradition custody
- Getting to know and exploring nature, nature, animal and environment protection
- Learning to love and to be loved
- Children and youth protection, child and youth representations of interest



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- Protection of human and civil rights

**The foundation runs 8 family day cares and two kindergartens in the different places of the Transdanubian region. (Somogyudvarhely, Csurgó, Szombathely, Nagyatád, Cserszegtomaj)**

The Montessori Snug Kindergarten opened its gates to the public in September, 2013. Our kindergarten's aim, is to develop the children's physical, theoretical and spiritual abilities with Dr. Montessori Mária pedagogic method. Montessori education is fundamentally a model of human development, and an educational approach based on that model. This method can be applied in all cultures. It includes both theoretical and practical ways learning, it has two basic principles. First, children and developing adults engage in psychological self-construction by means of interaction with their environments. Second, children, especially under the age of six, have an innate path of psychological development.

Foundation was registered in 2013 under the European Voluntary Service of the Youth in Action Program. This step has made it possible to accept volunteers who are essential for the Foundation. We have signed a cooperation contract with Compass Európai Ifjúsági Közösségért Egyesület to help our work at the foundation. 5 young adults arrived to Somogyudvarhelyi Kuckó Alapítvány for the first time in the October of 2013: two volunteers from the capital of Germany, one Spanish, one Romanian and one Italian (from the island of a Sardinia), who have spent 12 months at our foundation.

The European Union is supporting the EVS program created for youngsters (17-31years), to contribute to the dialogue between cultures. The volunteers arriving here will gain work experience and language-learning opportunities. The volunteers are under the guidance of mentors.

Volunteers have to work 35 hours a week, to help and to contribute to the family day care, the employees of the local schools, and the local community.

The volunteers attend at language lessons, in the local elementary school to exchange and encourage intercultural learning. They create country presentations.

They all represent different cultures, different habits and traditions, which makes a language more interesting to learn. This is an informal way of education. The children



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receive help in learning English or any other foreign language that they are interested and is spoken by the volunteer.

The volunteers at the kindergarten and at the family day-care center, learn how to take care of little children. They also gain an insight look into the functioning of these institutions.

Based on the little children's curiosity and learning possibilities, we want to introduce them foreign languages. Communication is in English language, we plan to apply the groups formed according to the children's interest.

Experiencing a positive impact of foreign language and foreign people at an early age is beneficial for the children's future development in language skills, in their level of confidence, and it may be beneficial for the pronunciation as well.

The volunteers will also receive a Hungarian language support. There may be certain phrases, sentences and words to be acquired by the volunteer to help his/her contribution to the project environment.

### **About the Coordinating Organisation:**

Compass Organization for the European Youth Community started working 10 years ago in Kaposvár, Hungary. With the mission to help Hungarian youngsters, to integrate into the system of the European Union, by helping them to take an active part in their community's life, by showing and offering possibilities to become a responsible citizen in today's world. Our members are mostly elementary, high school and university students or young adults. Our goal is to create a community where these kids and young adults can spend their time with sports, culture, social work, arts. In short: to provide space and programs that encourages them to spend their free time usefully. Since our organization was founded in 2005, we have been participating in the Youth In Action Program from 2006, and from 2014 in the Erasmus+ programs. We are an accredited hosting, sending, and coordinating organization for EVS. We have hosted more than 400 EVS volunteers. These volunteers support the various activities of our organization, involving the different local communities. Our EVS volunteers have a daily contact with the citizens of Kaposvár. At the moment we are hosting more than 30 volunteers, from 7 different countries. They work at 4 local kindergartens, a temporary mother shelter for violated women and children, a retirement club, several high schools, technical schools and elementary schools, in an institution for children with mental and physical disabilities and at the local theatre as well. Our team works with the so called "visit youth work" or "seek out youth work" methodology, which means we don't wait for the youngsters to find us, we go to them. During the past 10 years we have created partnerships with most of the organizations, associations and ministries (education, sport, culture or consumer protection) here in Hungary, Compass Organization, is also a Eurodesk partner office. We are very active on an international level as well. We have a strong partnership with NGO-s, universities and cooperatives

all across Europe, including Turkey. Lately we have made connections on the Balkan region, the Middle-East, in North Africa and in the Caribbean region.



Compass foreign & local volunteers promoting EVS in a shopping center

**For more info:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Somogyudvarhelyi-Kuck%C3%B3-Alap%C3%ADtv%C3%A1ny/305888602832050>

<http://www.kucko-alapitvany.hu/>

**Accommodation, workplace :**

We expect the volunteer to:

- Respect the rules of the coordinating organization, common living and the accommodation provided for him/her by all means
- Provide both the sending and coordinating organization with written reports in every month, as required
- Take care continuously of the materials and objects that are being provided for him/her (camera, office equipment's, furniture, decorations)

etc) in order to fulfill the goals and objectives of the project much easier -

If not, the volunteer is required to pay the equivalent amount of money for each one in part.

- In the accommodation the volunteer has to take care about the cleaning, (washing the dishes, keeping the placement in a good condition)
- Keeping clean the office area, putting back the materials to the same place it was taken from etc.
- Commit his/herself to the whole project period
- Support the aims and methods of the placement, to carry out the tasks according to his/her best knowledge
- The volunteer agrees to complete a voluntary service within above named placement.

### **Worktime :**

35 hours weekly.

Free days: two days per week. (Saturday, Sunday) Although working hours are flexible depending on the volunteer's and the organizations' (both hosting and coordinating) needs. If the volunteer has to work at the weekend, then he/she gets the free day in another time, (eg. during the weekdays).

In one month, the volunteer has two additional free days! It means that during the 12 months the volunteer has 24 days for holiday.