

Project name: Learning about Sustainable Lifestyle at the Eco-centre 'Oasis'

Project code: BE-SCI 11.1

Country: Belgium

Dates: 24th – 31st July

Topic: Climate and sustainable lifestyle

Type of work: Construction / Manual / Restoration, renovation

Study Theme: Eco-renovation, food, permaculture, urban agriculture, re-use, energy & water management, environmental awareness.

Total Number of volunteers: 8

Volunteer Age Range: 18+

Language: English

Wheelchair accessible: No



Description: "Oasis" is an eco-centre for training, learning and research in applied ecology. It is a place for encounters, exchanges, exhibitions and conferences. It was created in 2013 in Quaregnon, near Mons. The philosophy of "Oasis" is based on both a global and a local approach – "think globally to act locally". The aim of the centre is to find sustainable alternatives for all areas of daily life. Therefore, "Oasis" organizes various types of training and workshops: introduction to organic gardening, permaculture, natural cosmetics and soaps, sourdough bread and pizza baked in their own bread oven, cheese, dry toilets, basketry, clay coating, vegetable dyes, jewellery from recycled materials, etc. Events including thematic evenings, conferences, reflection workshops, and bartering also take place.

Work: Eco-renovation - participants will get involved in the ecological renovation of the premises, focusing on re-using as much as possible, in order to show that renovating a building in an ecological way without spending huge sums on technology is possible. "Oasis" recently moved to a new site which is still being developed. The volunteers will lay-out, clear, renovate (natural coatings with clay and lime) and clean the site. They will also help with the construction of a greenhouse as well as various works in the garden.

Accommodation: Very basic - a tent in the garden of the Eco-centre (take tent, mattress, pillow and sleeping bag). Large tent provided for meals and closed room accessible in case of bad weather. Sheltered outdoor sanitary areas equipped with a basin, a mini solar shower, cold water and dry toilets. The food will be vegetarian.

Requirements: For volunteers who like physical work and are happy to camp. Because the weather in Belgium can sometimes be rainy, it is necessary to come prepared.

Location: Quaregnon, near Mons.