

**Project name:** Granara Eco-village: Creating sustainable communities

**Project code:** IT-SCI 11.6

**Country:** Italy

**Dates:** 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Topic:** Climate, sustainable lifestyle, inclusion

**Type of work:** Agriculture / Environment / Working with people with disabilities

**Study Theme:** Ecology, group relations, disability and inclusion

**Total Number of volunteers:** 6

**Volunteer Age Range:** 18+

**Language:** English

**Wheelchair accessible:** No



**Description:** This project aims to create inclusive and sustainable communities, where people's differences are set aside. Participants will include international volunteers and young people with disabilities. Among the persons in charge from the host organization, expert educators and teachers will facilitate relationships, autonomy and communication. It is hoped this will create a cooperative context between the participants. The project takes place in Granara ecological village. The host organization is 'Alekoslab Aps', which works in the fields of ecology, social inclusion, appropriate technologies and non-violence.

**Work:** Green maintenance; building fences with branches; renovation of wooden structures; small works and creative experimentations with clay; taking care of the library and the books; cooking for the group; renovation of bicycles and trail tests; coaching and support to people with disabilities. Work-group activities last 6 hours a day. We encourage team building through drama/theatre and meetings. During free time, study activities, games and sports will take place. Saturday afternoon will be for rest. The day before leaving, an evening goodbye party will be organised. In the morning, before work, and in the evening, games are planned for the group to get to know each other. During work, those in charge will give information about the village and technologies. Periodic evaluations are also planned.

**Accommodation:** The accommodation is in Granaio house in three dorm rooms, with 2 - 4 beds and one room with 9 beds. The 9-bed room is mixed gender. Showers, toilet and kitchen are inside the Granaio house. There are also extra solar showers outside. Participants are in charge of the cooking and cleaning. We encourage participants to bring their own towels and bedsheets or sleeping bag. If this is not possible, the organisation can provide these if given enough notice. Free wi-fi.

**Requirements:** Openness to get involved and participate in an inclusive and sustainable community.

**Location:** Granara Ecological Village, Parma province, Emilia Romagna region. Granara is 600m high on Appennino Tosco-Emiliano mountains.

**Notes:** From 1993, Granara is an experiment of sustainability and open community where different social and cultural activities are organised. The village is isolated and far from cities. Whoever is in charge of the shopping travels the closest town (Borgotaro) weekly. Free time: walking in the woods, volleyball and sunbathing on the edge of Granara biolake. Sunday is dedicated to relaxing, walking, games, cooking. Food is mainly vegetarian.