

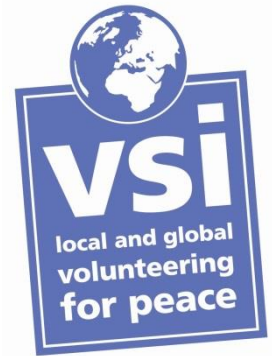
Voluntary Service International (VSI)

www.vsi.ie

30 Mountjoy Square
Dublin 1

01 855 1011

helen@vsi.ie



Wheelchair Accessible International Volunteer Projects 2014

VSI's international volunteer projects are a unique form of volunteering, bringing together people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds to live and work together on short-term projects with local communities. The projects also aim to break down barriers between people, to develop international understanding and to work for a more just and peaceful society.

Photo: Participants in Slovenia

The VSI Programme is made up of four elements; Preparation, Volunteer Project, Evaluation and Using Your Experience.

General info about the programme here:

<http://www.vsi.ie/volunteer/ivp.html>

The projects listed here are part of VSI's international volunteer programme and you can apply online here:

<http://www.workcamps.info/icamps/IE-VSI/en/welcome.html>



Costs

VSI is a voluntary, non-profit organisation and registered charity so we need to charge each volunteer a project fee. Food and accommodation are provided free of charge during the project. Volunteers must pay for their own travel to the project. The project fee includes support throughout all stages of the project, administration costs involved in the placement, insurance cover while taking part in projects in Europe (not travel insurance), preparation and participation in the Pre-departure Workshops, evaluation and membership of VSI for one year.

Fees to VSI for volunteer project in Europe:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Waged: | €140 |
| Unwaged | €100 |
| 2nd project: | €50 |
| Membership (included in fee to VSI for volunteers): | Waged €30 Unwaged €15 |

Information on the projects

The following VSI volunteer projects are wheelchair accessible and VSI has reserved places for wheelchair users from Ireland.

The accommodation, transport and work are accessible to varying levels. On some of the projects there is less accessibility than others e.g. all areas of the worksite

“Actions speak louder than words... Rather than talking about it ...do it! It will be a memory that will stay with you for the rest of your life!”

VSI volunteer quote

may not be fully wheelchair accessible or wheelchair accessible transport may have to be arranged from the arrival airport. The descriptions below are the general project descriptions taken from our search engine, and they may not mention accessibility but don't

worry if it sounds like some of the projects aren't accessible, all the hosts are able to place wheelchair users and will make provisions or adaptations.

Not every project will be suitable for all wheelchair users, it depends on the individual but we will do our best to accommodate all volunteers. In all areas of the process VSI and the host organisation will offer support to ensure people have what they need to enable them to take part. The hosts are flexible and prepared to make changes where necessary to support wheelchair users. For example, on some of the projects, the sleeping arrangements are a sleeping mat and sleeping bag, if it's not possible for you to sleep in this way then VSI and the host organisation will arrange for a bed that you can use.

Personal Assistants

We have reserved two places on each of the projects listed, one for a volunteer from Ireland and the other for a personal assistant (PA) if required. If you are bringing a PA with you VSI will not charge her/him a project fee but they must become a member of VSI for insurance purposes, (see table above for fees).

The PA will have to pay for their own travel. Alternatively it may be possible to arrange assistance on the project from the host organisation or a local PA but this would of course require more planning and time so please contact VSI as early as possible.

In general these projects accept applications on a first come first served basis, they can fill up pretty quickly, that's why we have reserved places on them for wheelchair users, as it can take more time to get the information that you need before you can apply. It's possible for more than one wheelchair user to take part on a project, the reserved place is to make sure that they will hold at least one place for a wheelchair user. It's possible to go with a friend, as long as places are available. The projects are listed with the 'place reserved till' date, this means that a place will be held for a wheelchair user from Ireland until this date but don't leave it till the last minute! If



Photo: Dachau 2013

you're interested in a project but would like more info before applying we can hold a place for you and then if you decide not to apply, that's ok.

So, if you're interested apply or contact VSI as soon as possible!!!

VSI provides pre-departure training for all volunteers to take part in our projects and supports volunteers while they are away volunteering, where needed we provide extra preparation and support.

Volunteers on these projects will need to be prepared! Volunteers should know that it will definitely be less comfortable than at home, you will need to be prepared to make compromises, to be challenged and to solve problems yourself!

VSI offers various volunteer opportunities in Ireland and internationally, we offer support for people with disabilities to take part in volunteering and we have lots of experience in hosting and sending volunteers with disabilities, both internationally and in Ireland.

If you think one of these projects might be for you or for more info on these or other VSI projects, please contact Helen in VSI: helen@vsi.ie

VSI International Volunteer projects 2014 – wheelchair accessible

| | Project name and code | Country | Dates (all 2014) | Reserved until | Total number international volunteers | Extra info |
|---|--|----------|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Barlicka 3 | Slovakia | 10 th to 23 rd August | 30 June | 10 | |
| 2 | Äijälä Gardening | Finland | 2 nd to 19 th July | Early May | 8 | Not all worksites are accessible |
| 3 | 'Camp of young paraplegics, tetraplegics and international volunteers' | Slovenia | 28 th August to 5 th September | 31 July | 6 | |
| 4 | Dachau | Germany | 26 th July to 8 th August | Early May | 12 | 18 – 26 year olds only Extra fee: €140 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Project name: | Barlicka |
| Code: | SK-INE 9.1 |
| Country: | Slovakia |
| Dates: | 10 th to 23 rd August |
| Link to description on VSI project search engine: | http://www.workcamps.info/icamps/IE-VSI/en/camp-details/camp-7000.html |

Description: Association Barlicka (Little crutch) has been working with young people with physical disabilities since 1999. Barlicka created a centre for helping its clients to live independently and it has been offering activities of a daily social centre, practical school, courses (theatre, dance, music etc.) as well as a centre for mothers. Services for elderly people in the centre were added in 2011. This volunteer project

is organized in the Barlicka Centre for the second time, as the previous year was big success.

Type of Work: The volunteers will organize free time activities for disabled clients of the NGO Barlicka. The centre has been working with people with disabilities for 15 years, trying to help them to live independently. The activities for clients will be organized during the daily summer camp for the clients – summer activities, trips, competitions, games. The volunteers will use the activities of non-formal education to encourage waste separation and energy saving.



Photo: Participants at Barlicka

Study Theme: The volunteers will become familiar with work with people with disabilities in Slovakia.

Accommodation: Lodging will be provided directly in the centre of the NGO Barlicka on beds. Sleeping bags are needed (if you cannot sleep in a sleeping bag let us know and we will make alternative arrangements. Volunteers will be in charge of preparing the food together. Vegetarian catering is possible.

Requirements: Bring sleeping bag (if using), swimming suit, some info, materials and pictures of your country, material which you could use in your workshop for elderly clients, musical instrument to play nice music, some ideas for games with the children, your enthusiasm and smile on your face :)

Approximate Location: The project will be organized directly in city of Presov – the 3rd biggest city in Slovakia in the eastern part of the country. The volunteers can enjoy the old historic centre, castles around Presov and cultural life in the city.

Notes: Motivation letter is needed, please contact VSI/send application first. For more info about BARLICKA: <http://www.barlicka.com/>

| | |
|---|---|
| 2. Project name: | Äijälä Gardening |
| Code: | FI-KVT 9.1 |
| Country: | Finland |
| Dates: | 2 nd to 19 th July |
| Link to description on VSI project search engine: | http://www.workcamps.info/icamps/IE-VSI/en/camp-details/camp-7105.html |

Description: Äijälä Family Home is situated near Jyväskylä in Central Finland. It has a charming old farmhouse which has been renovated to be a home for disabled people. The community wants to encourage the integration of disabled and non-disabled people. Äijälä has been hosting KVT workcamps since 1980. The community works with organic gardening as well.

Type of Work: Organic gardening, planting trees and plants, cutting grass, harvesting, chopping firewood and cleaning up the forest. All work will be done together with the disabled people living at the centre.

Study Theme: Life as a disabled person in Finland and organic farming.

Accommodation: In the farmhouse.

Language: English

Requirements: All welcome, disabled people and families!

Approximate Location: Jyskä, near Jyväskylä

| | |
|---|---|
| 3. Project name: | Dachau Studycamp |
| Code: | DE-SCI 1.32 |
| Country: | Germany |
| Dates: | 26 th July to 8 th August |
| Notes: | 18 – 26 year olds only. Extra fee: €140 |
| Link to description on VSI project search engine: | http://www.workcamps.info/icamps/IE-VSI/en/camp-details/camp-7017.html |

IMPORTANT: 18 – 26 year olds only. Extra fee: €140

Photo: Inside Dachau



Description: The KZ Dachau was the first concentration camp built by fascist Germany in March 1933. It was also used as an SS training centre. More than 200,000 people from all over Europe were imprisoned here. Many prisoners died as a result of terror, inhuman work, diseases, exhaustion and hunger. The study camp will take place within the framework of the 'International Youth Meeting' (IYM), which

takes place since 1983 and hosts around 120 teenagers and young adults from about 20 nations every year. In contrast to other projects, the main emphasis will be put on the studies in the camp. The volunteers will learn about the history of fascism through communication with survivors and through active participation in workshops. Current political situations will also be discussed.

Type of Work: Maintenance work at the memorial site (1-2 mornings/afternoons).

Study Theme: Fascism and the concentration camp in Dachau; workshops within the framework of the IYM, tours of the memorial site, excursions, lectures.

Accommodation: Youth Guest House Dachau (4-bed-rooms), suitable for wheelchairs.

Requirements: Being interested in taking part in workshops, working knowledge of English and/or German.



Photo: IYM 2013 in Dachau

Approximate Location: Dachau is a town in the southern part of Germany (Dokow in English). It is now a popular residential area for people working in Munich with roughly 40,000 inhabitants. The historic centre of town with its 18th-century castle is situated on an elevation and visible over a great distance. Dachau was founded in the 9th century. It was home to many artists during the late 19th and early 20th century

Notes: Motivation letter is required, please contact VSI/send application first

[More information about the IYM](#)

| | |
|---|---|
| 3. Project name: | Camp of young paraplegics, tetraplegics and international volunteers |
| Code: | SI-SCI 4.1 |
| Country: | Slovenia |
| Dates: | 28 th August to 2 nd September |
| Link to project description on VSI project search engine: | http://www.workcamps.info/icamps/IE-VSI/en/camp-details/camp-5454.html |

Description: Our association aims to assist paraplegics and tetraplegics after the end of their rehabilitation and offers them a professional network of activities that enable them to settle down and reintegrate to their local environment. We aim to equip them with tools so they can start independent and active lives. We



Photo: Participants and volunteers 2013

offer them transportation to schools, health centres etc. and organize different sport and educational activities. Every year we also organize a summer camp for the members of our association with the participation of foreign volunteers.

Type of Work: The volunteers will help paraplegics and tetraplegics (the members of our association). Their main job will be preparing the meals and taking care of house cleanliness. Also they will talk with members and spend time together, play chess and cards. The volunteers will not need to help our members in personal care. During the project we will organize some tours around Bela Krajina and the coastal region of Slovenia, which is very beautiful.

Study Theme: The volunteers will learn about the day to day life of our members.

Accommodation: The volunteers will be accommodated in a house together with our members (single sex rooms).

Language: We will use Slovenian and English language (knowledge of Slovenian is not necessary!).

Requirements: The association prefers students of humanistic sciences but this is not essential, we would be glad to accept anyone who is a paraplegic or quadriplegic too.

Approximate Location: The project will take place on two locations, Semic and Pacug. The closest terminal is Brnik in Ljubljana. The association will take care of all the transport during the project, wheelchair users will be collected from Ljubljana airport by the host organisation or if full wheelchair accessible transport is required it will be arranged (at the cost of the volunteer but it may be possible to share), contact VSI for more info. Other volunteers must arrive to the meeting point by themselves, which will be a 5 min walk from main train station in Ljubljana (capital of Slovenia).

Notes: Our association works with members who use wheelchairs, therefore we will arrange accessible accommodation, transport, food (please report any preferences or allergies in your application form before you arrive). Volunteers must be at least 21 years old, but we might make an exception once in a while.