



## **European Solidarity Corps - Volunteering Activities: project description – Jugend- und Bildungshaus St. Arbogast**

**Voluntary Project:**

**Jugend- und Bildungshaus St. Arbogast  
(PIC 933747124)**

**Number of volunteers:**

**1**

**Looking for volunteers from:**

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| - Belgium        | - Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| - Bulgaria       | - Denmark                |
| - Germany        | - Estonia                |
| - Finland        | - France                 |
| - Greece         | - Ireland                |
| - Iceland        | - Italy                  |
| - Croatia        | - Ukraine                |
| - Latvia         | - Liechtenstein          |
| - Lithuania      | - Luxembourg             |
| - Malta          | - Netherlands            |
| - Norway         | - Poland                 |
| - Portugal       | - Romania                |
| - Sweden         | - Serbia                 |
| - Slovakia       | - Slovenia               |
| - Spain          | - Czech Republic         |
| - Turkey         | - Hungaria               |
| - United Kingdom |                          |

**Project Topics:**

- Youth (Participation, Youth Work, Youth Policy)
- Ethics, religion and philosophy (incl. Inter-religious dialogue)
- Intercultural/intergenerational education and (lifelong)learning

**Contact (where to send the application):**

Name: Clemens Rüdissler  
Email: [clemens.ruedisser@aha.or.at](mailto:clemens.ruedisser@aha.or.at)  
Phone: +43 (0)5572 52212-24

### **Hosting organisation:**

Jugend- und Bildungshaus St. Arbogast  
Götzis, AUSTRIA

### **Supporting/Coordinating organisation:**

aha – Jugendinformationszentrum Vorarlberg  
Dornbirn, AUSTRIA

### **Project description:**

The Youth and Educational Center St Arbogast is owned by the Catholic Church, Diocese Feldkirch/Vorarlberg. It's a place of encounter and of education for young people and adults. The house is available for courses, conferences, excursions and rural weeks for school classes, educational and recreational holidays and adventure and nature experiences. Location and atmosphere are well suited for longer stays. We cultivate an atmosphere of simplicity, hospitality inspired by open-minded Christian spirituality. By encouraging people in self-chosen personal development, we support and equip them to take part in family, social, ecological, church community and political life. The Youth and Educational Center St Arbogast provides different seminar rooms in several sizes. The rooms can be arranged individually and technical equipment is fully available. Our restaurant offers local cooking and we accommodate our guests in about 45 bed rooms with more than 100 beds. A playing field, a meadow for games, a fitness trail and facilities for treading water are also available.

#### Target groups

In the Educational Center St Arbogast everyone is welcome. Our main target groups are youngsters and adults. Nevertheless we do offer courses for children and the elderly too. The number of guests is about 29.000 annually, from that we talk about 7.000 youngsters per year.

#### Young Initiative Arbogast

Originally founded as a Youth Center, over the years established as an Educational Center, in September 2014 we came back to the roots - the Young Initiative Arbogast was born. This project is targeting young adults between 16 and 26 years. The program is based on a cooperative approach and works intensively together with other organizations throughout the youth and social landscape of Vorarlberg.

Our aim is it to enable new forms of young living culture and new formats of participation in the social change. We want to provide young

people with the room for spiritual experiences and personal development. We try to encourage them to find out their strengths and talents and find their personal way to add value to the world they live in. The program of the Young Initiative Arbogast can be divided in the following four sections: projects, courses and seminars, single events and activism, in-house youth work

### **Tasks of the volunteer:**

The volunteer will work five days a week, 34 hours a week including German course. S/he will have two days holidays per month. The volunteer will work in all areas of the organization Youth and Education Center St Arbogast. The focus of her/his work is building relationships to the youth, visiting our house.

S/He should be one important contact person for young visitors. Also important is the teamwork (regular team meetings, reflection meetings, exchange between the different professions). The volunteer is also welcome to bring her/his contribution to the so called in-house 'Education Team'. We are open to any suggestions and ideas for projects or courses. If the volunteer wants s/he can realize her/his own project. Therefore, s/he will have any support needed from the team.

As we operate a guesthouse, restaurant and bar too, the volunteer will also help our staff in these working areas.

Another assignment could be the support of our facility manager. This may include taking care of our in-house art work or technical assistance during public events.

Description of volunteer's tasks;

#### **Project work/Young Initiative Arbogast:**

Together we will organize different kinds of presentations, events, workshops or trainings for young people. This may include any step between researching the needs of the youth and the actual hosting of the event, including evaluation. We will also work together with our in-house trainees and interns in order to guarantee a sound training time in Arbogast. The volunteer is encouraged to bring ideas for any kind of projects and courses s/he finds valuable to develop and host.

#### **Restaurant and bar service:**

As the Youth and Education Centre operates a restaurant and bar, it would be reasonable that the volunteer works together with the serving staff. This work includes table service and bar tending and provides a good chance to get in contact with any of our visitors.

### Youth Corner:

Hosting youngsters in the youth corner is one of the main tasks, the volunteer should fulfil. This means being present in the open entrance area, the bar and the Youth Corner. We try to get in touch with the youth by having direct one-to-one talks and conversations. The Youth Corner provides our visitors with any useful information about our Youth Program, the courses and projects we are offering. Furthermore, the Youth Corner is an open space area where we enable low-threshold contact. We give information, share ideas, listen and provide our support as far as we can.

### Room and technical event assistance:

In general we host very interesting and well-known speakers and referees. Every course, workshop or panel discussion asks for other room settings, decoration and furniture arrangements. From time to time, we need to record a speech for radio or television. The volunteer will help our technical staff to prepare the room and equipment before and during the event.

### Assistance of facility manager:

Another very important task is to 'keep the house running'. This includes heating, parking, property maintenance, taking care of our in-house art arrangements; for example, providing participants in outdoor workshops with fire wood; making sure that the tepee/yurt is clean; that the play grounds, such as the volleyball court, are in sound condition and so on.

### Interesting events during the year:

For employees we do have several events going on: There are two staff meetings, one short and one longer staff outing and a Christmas party. If the volunteer is interested in participating in any of the offered courses in our program, s/he is encouraged to do so.

Besides the course and workshop organization and hosting, there are many events which offer great opportunities for the volunteer to be part of and for her/his contribution. For example, we do organize beneficial events such as art exhibitions or concerts. The Youth and Education Center Arbogast is very well-known for its future-leading attitude and therefore it is known for the so called 'Days of Utopia Festival' that takes place in April every other year. Therefore, please see <http://tagederutopie.org/> (GERMAN only). Furthermore Arbogast hosts different types of school projects, where pupils ask for our support and our input.

### **Volunteer profile:**

The volunteer should be open and communicative. S/He should be motivated and willing to learn the German language. A first knowledge of German language would be advantageous. S/He should be interested in meeting and working with people in general. S/He should be interested in youth projects, organizing, networking and socializing with people visiting our house.

### **How to apply:**

Please write a mail with your CV (incl. picture of you, date of birth,...) and motivation letter. After the application deadline we will have selection rounds with the staff! During those selection rounds it's possible that we will contact you for further information through mail, phone calls or Skype!

**Don't forget to add the name of the project when you apply for it!**

### **Living conditions:**

The volunteer will live in an accommodation where also other volunteers live. It is organised by the host organisation. S/He will have a room with bathroom on her/his own and share a kitchen with other residents. The infrastructure with trains and buses is easy, quick and frequent and s/he will probably also have a bicycle at her/his disposal. The volunteer will receive a ticket for free use of any public transport in the whole region of Vorarlberg during the complete time.

### **Support during the voluntary service:**

S/He will have regular meetings with her/his mentor in our organisation to talk about problems or critical incidents among other things. Additionally s/he will have a junior mentor (=former EVS volunteer) at her/his side to support her in situations of crisis. The Supporting/Coordinating Organisation will hold a monthly evaluation meeting with all volunteers in Vorarlberg. In the end of the project we will together with the volunteer evaluate the project, what s/he has learned and which competences s/he has gained and as a result fill out the Youthpass. Furthermore there will be a final personal evaluation meeting with the Supporting/Coordinating Organisation.

**Related links:**

Website: <http://www.arbogast.at> and  
<https://freigeist.arbogast.at>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arbogast.bildungshaus> and  
<https://www.facebook.com/freigeist.arbogast>

Project description on the European project databank:

<http://europa.eu/youth/vp/organisation/933747124>

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