

Short term EVS project

**“Spring Camp in the Golden Valley”**

Duration of the activities: **13<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Venue: **Latinovac**, Municipality of Čaglin, Croatia

To begin with, thank you for your interest and taking into consideration to come to Croatia, do your EVS here and give your contribution to this Project and rural development. Herewith, we kindly would like to give you some basic information about our way of living. This Infopack serves as a means to provide you with valuable insights and information prior deciding to come to Latinovac, Croatia.

**1. Information about the Organization**

Our organization is called Eko Centar Latinovac. It was founded here in Latinovac, Croatia, in 1995 and received its legal status three years later in 1998.

The main goals of our organization are:

- The promotion and support of peace building in the local community
- The protection of the environment and the exertion of an ecological way of living
- Intercultural learning: promote differences among human beings and decrease prejudices
- To inform and raise awareness about environment degradation and ecosystem
- The support of personal growth and community development
- The promotion of philanthropy and cooperation and finally
- The development of rural activities



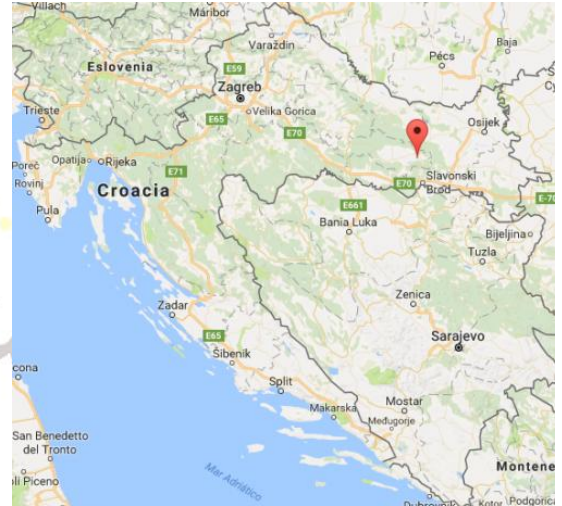
All activities will be based upon an educational and practical part, responding to the principle of lifelong learning. The goal our organization pursues is to contribute to the community development as such, connect and network with local people, attempting to create possibilities for better life and future, providing higher quality of living for both generations. Examples to achieve this are for instance different programs, touristic offers, social and small entrepreneurship and sustainable living education.



## 2. Information about the village

Latinovac is one of the smallest villages in Croatia, located in Easter part. It is part of the municipality of Čaglin with approximately 60 inhabitants. This municipality is on the eastern part of the county of Pozesko-slavonska. It is consisting of 31 settlements. All together, this counts a population size of 2.691 inhabitants according to the 2011 population consensus index. What is striking however is a constant decrease of local population from 312 inhabitants in 1961 to currently **60 in 2015**.

This area is characterized by outstanding **beautiful nature reserve and protected areas**. The area illustrates enormous potential for development. As the number of inhabitants already indicates, Latinovac is a very little village and “somewhere in the middle of nowhere”. We don’t have lighting on the streets; there are no shops or anything similar in our lovely village. The closest shop is in Čaglin, approximately 3km distance reachable by walking. However, there are two mini mobile shops passing through Latinovac twice a day providing basic products.



Nearby bigger cities are **Požega, Slavonski Brod and Našice**, with a distance of approximately 30km. Thereby it is worth mentioning that Požega is the main city of our county Pozesko-slavonska. There you will find coffee places, shops and everything you may need. Other bigger cities are Osijek (80km) and Zagreb (200km)

The major challenges that our village is facing are:

- The abandonment and extinction of the village leading to declining population
- Low economic activity causing young people to move away and search for better career and educational possibilities out of Latinovac
- Passivity among the younger and older generations



### 3. Arrival to Latinovac

Usually volunteers arrive by plane to Zagreb's Airport. Once you arrive, you should take the bus connection to "Zagreb Central bus station". Every half an hour buses depart outside of the airport on the right side. Inside of the airport there is also a tourist information desk to obtain further information if it is needed. The bus ride from Zagreb's airport to Zagreb Central bus station takes approximately 30 minutes. Take in mind to have some cash with you as you may need it to pay the bus. If you leave the luggage in the bus trunk you should pay around 7-10 kunas that can only be paid by cash.



From Zagreb Central bus station you have to take the bus or train to Slavonski Brod. Under the following link you can check the bus availability and the bus timing: <http://voznired.akz.hr/VozniRed.aspx?lang=en>

The connections by bus are better and more regular. Train and bus station are 15-20 minutes' walk away from each other (or 5 minutes by tram nr.2 or 6)

For those who prefer not to come by plane, you can also travel by bus or train. In those cases, also come to Zagreb Central bus station and choose a direct connection to Slavonski Brod. When you arrive to Slavonski Brod, the organization will arrange someone from the team to come and pick you up by car and drive you to Latinovac.

Travel expenses are covered by a specific amount per country, according to the distance calculator of the Erasmus+ program. Please note that we will organize an introduction meeting for you once you have arrived.

<b>Greece</b>	<b>275€</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	275€
<b>Macedonia</b>	180€
<b>Hungary</b>	180€
<b>Spain</b>	275€
<b>Italy</b>	275€
<b>Estonia</b>	275€



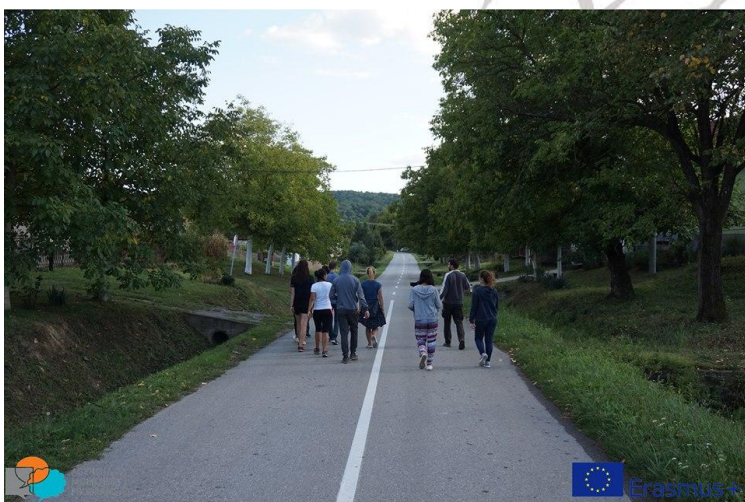
#### 4. Currency

The national currency in Croatia is “Kuna” despite being the youngest member in the European Union. The international currency code is HRK while the shoring kn is usually referred in Croatia. Approximately 1€=7.6 Kn, depending on the exchanging rates.

Please check the latest updates. You can always exchange currency in your home before coming to Croatia, exchange money in the Exchange Offices in the airport or to withdraw money from the ATM

#### 5. Accommodation

To begin with, please be aware that Croatia is among the poorer countries that just recently joined the European Union. You may have different expectations and standards in your home country.



If you agree to come and do your EV here, you should be open minded towards your hosting country and culture. Things are not better, worse, right or wrong, things are just done differently.

Volunteers are going to live in the village Latinovac, being the Eko Centar Latinovac part of it. Volunteers will be hosted in the village and live

together with villagers in their houses. These are valuable experiences; the accommodation is simple and not exclusive. This means that you should be willing to share room, toilet and bathroom with other volunteers.

**Simple accommodation** means that you will be provided with bed, pillow, sheets, duvets and blankets, furniture heating and warm water. Upon your arrival we will arrange your sleeping place and provide you with the points mentioned above.

If you wish, you can bring your sleeping bag or your favorite pillow.

## 6. Food

Food is covered by us, we buy the ingredients and we prepare the 3 meals (in agreement with you). Volunteers will **help in the preparation of the food**, and we are happy to exchange recipes and ideas with you.

During free days, food is not covered in the Eko Centar, but we will provide you the money for it (6€ per day). The food in the **Eko Centar is vegetarian**, but during the help in the community most of the meals are prepared meat-based, so volunteers have the opportunity to eat with them in their house.

For us, it is really important to buy local and organic products as much as possible, we produce some of it in our property and we visit local food producers.



Usually, when volunteers arrive are skeptic towards vegetarian diet, but all of them are satisfied after some time. We consider it a great opportunity to try something new and break with stereotypes about vegetarian food.

We organize international evenings and volunteers can present food from their countries (we invite you to think about vegetarian recipes) and feel free to bring the spices needed for that.

## 7. Working time

Volunteers are supposed to work **5 days per week and 6 hours per day** according to the EVS Charter, having 2 free consecutive days.

From Tuesday to Saturday we meet at 9am and we start working, being lunch break at 13am and working 2 hours more in the afternoon. Mostly physical activities are scheduled in the

morning and theoretical and creative activities will take place in the afternoon.

It can happen that on some days we will work a little bit more while on others less – depending on the weather and the job. Please be as flexible as we are.



## 8. Pocket money

Every volunteer will receive as pocket money 4€ per day. Pocket money will be handed out to the volunteers at the beginning of the month.

## 9. Volunteer's profile

Volunteers should be interested in environment, sustainable development, permaculture, cultural differences, living in rural area.

As well, they should be creative, communicative, open minded about differences, **willing to live in rural area** and to share knowledge and information about their culture and their country. Team players, with community spirit, **active participants**, adaptable and willing to work on promotion of mobility and the project in **social media**.

To have a successful EVS it is important that volunteers have **self-initiative** in order to develop their personal projects and have a real impact.



## 10. Useful data about the project

Spring Camp in the Golden Valley will gather 15 participants from 7 countries: **Greece (2)** , **Czech Republic (3)**, **Macedonia (2)**, **Hungary (2)**, **Spain (2)**, **Italy (2)** and **Estonia (2)**.

The overall objective of the project is to create a sustainable community with all its diversity, to develop rural areas and to improve the quality of life of local people.

### Specific objectives:

- To develop the knowledge of **permaculture** in theory and practice
- To educate local people how to treat their **waste** in the most Eco-friendly way
- To spread and share knowledge about permaculture and sustainability and raise **ecological awareness** using theoretical and practical workshops
- **To organize events** for local people and to improve their quality of life
- To clean up properties after winter and prepare them for spring / summer season



- To empower young people to use their opportunities participating in mobility **projects** and doing voluntary work
- To introduce work of Eko Centar Latinovac to wider community and inform people how to be more active and involved in **community development**
- To support solidarity and community spirit, intergenerational and intercultural exchange and mutual understanding through **non-formal activities** in local community (decrease prejudices)
- To develop rural paths for **hiking / cycling** (to support rural and sustainable development of the community, to promote active way of living and healthy life styles)
- To promote **European values** (like youth activism, professional growth etc)

### Specific Activities:

- Promotion and education of permaculture
- Help in the community
- Promotion of mobility
- Promotion and education of recycling
- Greenway - development of hiking routes
- Spring welcoming festival
- Healthy food education
- Intercultural exchange
- Project newspaper "Škakiljikaš"
- Volunteer's personal projects





AGENCY FOR  
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*Eko Centar Latinovac*



Erasmus+

### **11. What can/should you bring?**

In March/April the weather can change from hot to sunny to cold and rainy, so bring with you some warmer and summer clothes

- Bring old clothes and shoes that are good for working outside and comfortable
- House sleepers
- European Health Card (blue European card insurance) even though you will have CIGNA (provided by Sending Organization)
- Towels
- Music instruments if you play, or some music that you would like to listen
- Laptop is not necessary but it some points it can be useful. There is Wi-Fi in the Eko Centar but the connection is limited
- Flashlight: for walking outside in the evening, as there are no street lights, just the moon and the stars!
- Some presentations, food or ideas for presenting your country
- Vegetarian recipes and spices for traditional cooking
- Gumboots/Rain boots
- Energy, smiles and good will to enjoy this opportunity!!

**Apply until the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 by sending you CV and Motivation Letter in English to: [evslatinovac@gmail.com](mailto:evslatinovac@gmail.com)**

We are looking forward to meet you here and cooperate with you!

