

Call for EVS volunteer in Vlahi Nature School



Dear Volunteer,

Vlahi Nature School is a small educational project based on the principles of perma culture. We are located in a remote village at the foot of Pirin mountain where only several people live permanently but nature is spectacular, the landscape is dramatic and the people are resilient.

We started the project in 2002 when we bought the old building of the school and with the help of hundreds of volunteers we restored it to become again a functioning place for learning through doing, experimenting, collecting information from the local people and implementing ideas from around the world. To renovate the building and for constructing new elements in the garden we use combination of traditional and modern techniques, we rely on natural materials and sustainable use of resources. Through volunteer weekends, summer camps for children, workcamps and by our presence in the region we share our knowledge, skills and know-how with anyone who cares for a life in balance with nature.

We are looking for 2 volunteers to join and share our simple and sustainable but sometimes complicated and challenging daily life. From taking care of the garden and the animals through dealing with (small) repairs in the house through researching and implementing new ideas to working with children and young people, there are quite diverse options for learning, growing up and experiencing life following the rhythm of nature.

We guarantee that the project will be stepping out of your comfort zone and one should be ready to experience challenges, to work with different people and to be open-minded, flexible and ready to participate in the everyday life of the Nature School where there is no fixed schedule but you follow the daily and seasonal rhythm of life around you.

The Vlahi Nature School Team

Name of the project: Nature School for the Youth of Kresna

Duration of Service of Spanish volunteer: 9 months, from 15.02.2018 – 30.11.2018

Organization and place: Nature School Foundation, Vlahi village, Kresna municipality, South west Bulgaria (www.vlahi.org).

Vlahi village is small and abandoned village with only 7 permanent inhabitants, but with local people taking care of their gardens and coming to spend a weekend in the nature. There are three NGOs operating there. The nearest town Kresna is 9 km far from the village. The village is at the foot of Pirin National Park (UNESCO world nature heritage object (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ndobxFvLuw>)). The climate in the village is continental-Mediterranean.

Volunteers: 1 volunteer (from February a French volunteer will start his service for 8,5 months)

Tasks of the volunteer:

- Development of new functioning elements of the permaculture concept, which will be used for demonstration among students and visitors of the Nature School
- Everyday care for the domestic animals in the Nature school - hens, ducks, geese and rabbits and for the garden
- Workshops with children/teenagers from the local school on nature protection topics
- Development of information and educational materials for the students and visitors of Vlahi Nature School
- Presentations in the Nature School on topics as nature protection and climate change.
- Coordination of international volunteer workcamp

The volunteer will support the organization and conduction of eco-working weekends with young people from the local community, international volunteers other supporters.



Dora Lajos, EVS volunteer from Hungary

Practical arrangements:

Food: The volunteer will cook for him/herself in an equipped kitchen with the possibility to buy “real” products from local people and/or to produce them for him/herself

Accommodation: In a shared room furnished with beds, wardrobe, desk and chairs. Showers and compost toilets are outside the building. There is one shower inside as well.

Local transport: by bike or by car

Language support: Bulgarian language with teacher who speaks English

Equipment (phone, internet, etc.): limited wi-fi in the house, mobile phone with voucher.

Pocket money: per month, the amount fixed for Bulgaria – 3 Euro per day received in the beginning of the month

Insurance: The volunteer will be insured by the CIGNA insurance plan by the sending organization.

For more information, visit our website: www.vlahi.org or facebook: [Vlahi Nature School](https://www.facebook.com/VlahiNatureSchool)



Profile of the volunteer:

English speaking; mountain and outdoor lover; previous experience with activities, related to nature protection; initiative and independent; ability to work in a team; with communication skills and open for learning new things.

Students in natural sciences (biology, forestry, veterinary medicine etc.), people, who like to be outside.

Driving license if possible.