

Move forward



European Solidarity Corps individual volunteer project

Idrija, Slovenia

From January to September 2022

THE BEGINNING

Hello guys!

We are so happy writing this foreword, because this means that we managed to finalize the organization of the project and that two fresh volunteers will be able to come to SLOVEnia – this little, beautiful country. We will try our best to organize things in a way that you will enjoy your stay in Slovenia and that you will learn as much as you can in the process.

The main topic of this ESC project will be co-creating community projects for locals and visitors, getting to know the local organizations, informing and promoting solidarity activities home and abroad. And, depending on your interest, organizing workshops, open events, visiting schools or initiating your own project. Read more about this in the following pages.

The Youth Center (and your accommodation) is located in Idrija (Slovenia), a small town that is known for its mercury mine and the traditional Idrija lace.

We really look forward to meet the next generation of volunteers in our green and picturesque country.

In case you have questions, we are available through info@mcidrija.si and by phone/WhatsApp on +386 51 231 049.

Last year's team with the two international volunteers (at Christmas)



ABOUT THE IDRİJA YOUTH CENTER

Idrija Youth Center (Mladinski center Idrija) is a community space and youth node in the town of Idrija, Slovenia that functions as a meeting place for young people and increasingly for the whole community of Idrija. The story of Youth Center Idrija dates back in 2008, when the need for a common youth space was articulated. After years of negotiations with the local authorities, 300 m² of an old monastery came into use by local young people and youth organizations in 2012. Youth center Idrija was thus formed as an umbrella organization by 3 local NGO (Scouts' Association Rod srebrnih krtov Idrija, Association for youth development Idrija 2020 and Students' Association Idrija). Young volunteers renovated the spaces and furnished it with second-hand and DIY furniture, donated by inhabitants and businesses of Idrija. In 2018, we took over another part of the building with the youth hostel, making it easier to host international activities in the town. There is 5 people employed by the youth center and the youth hostel currently, 2 of which work specifically in the program activities of the youth center.

We represent the interests of young people in Idrija and try to connect active youth associations and other NGOs within the field and to support them in their own projects and we regularly cooperate with local schools and municipality. The values we follow are connection, knowledge, creativity, support and social responsibility. The main topics we are addressing lately are protecting environment, youth street work, local policies for young people, youth participation, local youth tourism, international mobility and active free time in the local community.

We offer regular weekly courses (music, language, creativity etc.) and monthly events and workshops (creative, fun, educational – on education of teenagers for parents, events for young parents on their parent leave, parties, lectures about traveling etc.). One of our most recognizable projects is MC mobil, a van with which we bring big games, skate ramps, board games etc. in the town square or we travel with it to the neighboring villages, joining it with a local cinema. We also opened a library of things and occasionally we organize an exchange of clothes and a garage sale.

We are active as hosting Erasmus+ and ESE projects (youth exchanges, group volunteering project, trainings for youth works) as well as sending the local youngsters on youth exchanges. There are some of the projects we would like to mention here: group volunteering project of renovation of the hostel, youth exchange on the topic of zero-waste, another one in connection with nature and inclusion that was organized by a group of young locals, youth exchanges in cooperation with a foreign organization in which cooperation, communication and initiative are promoted through challenges for the groups of youngsters.

You can find more about us and activities on our web page www.mcidrija.si or on FB: MladinskiCenterIdrija or on IG: Mladinski center Idrija.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project aims to extend and upgrade the activities of the youth center with the focus on its community activities, sociable activities for international visitors in our youth hostel, connecting with other local organizations and informing local youngsters about the possibilities to get involved in solidarity activities at home and abroad.

The project will include 2 or 3 international volunteers who will live and work together.

Main topics

Connecting organizations in the local community

- visiting various local organizations in the local environment (become a scout, a teacher, a youth worker, a humanitarian worker, firefighter and alpine guide for a day) and participating in their activities

Community projects

- traveling with our youth workers to the center of the town and its surrounding areas with the MC mobil van (pop up playground for street youth work)
- cooperating in designing activities and tools according to your interests
- working with youngsters of different backgrounds and those with fewer possibilities
- organizing and preparing summer events at the MCI terrace
- interacting with the Idrija locals, residents and visitors in an engaging way

Activities in the Idrija Youth Hostel

- developing socializing activities for the young visitors of the hostel (movie nights, international evening, guided visits of Idrija hidden gems, language cafés)

- developing inventive ways of discovering Idrija and its surroundings
- writing about living in Idrija
- meeting guests and showing them around the Idrija's local spots

Informing and promoting opportunities for solidarity actions

- promoting international projects, such as the ESC and E+ projects
- bringing forward the intercultural component in all the other activities
- connect your ideas with other volunteers around the country.

Get involved in the following activities, according to your interest:

- participating in the promotional activities (social media, designing posters, take pictures of events etc.)
- helping out at the hostel
- taking on some technical tasks around the house
- organizing workshops for local youngsters and surrounding towns
- organizing open events such as country presentations or language cafés
- visiting schools and promoting Erasmus+ program, your country, or your personal interests
- initiating your own project.

APPLICATIONS

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for motivated candidates who like to work in teams and are passionate about meeting and working with local (young) people and are interested in promoting solidarity opportunities and organizing youth activities for the foreign visitors of Idrija. Background is not relevant, age is from 18 to 30. The working language will be English (or Slovene), so you should be able to communicate in any of these.

Before applying, please get to know our organization (www.mcidrija.si) and the town of Idrija (www.visit-idrija.si). Read the articles from previous volunteers to see what their experience was: [Enya](#), [Adele](#), [Roni](#), [Mireille](#), [Inés](#) and [Salvador](#). Currently, we have 2 volunteers from France and Spain, so stay tuned on our social media to see what their experience in Idrija is about! 😊

Where to apply and when?

Apply by sending an email to info@mcidrija.si which includes your **CV and a motivational letter**. The **deadline is 10th December 2021**, but if you are decided you'd like to come, send us an email as soon as possible.

When you will be notified about your successful candidacy, we will start preparing your learning agreement that will be in accordance with our and your expectations.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

ESC and other trainings

The two volunteers will be able to participate in an introductory language course of Slovene (organized only for them), costs will be covered by our organization. The volunteers will take part in an on-arrival and mid-term trainings organized by the National Agency – MOVIT for all Slovenian ESC volunteers.

Travelling

Beginning of the project:

5th January 2022

End of the project:

6th September 2022

Duration of the project:

max. 245 days plus 2 travelling days

The exact day of the beginning and end of the project can vary according to previous agreement.



Transportation from your home to Idrija (airplane and shuttle/bus)

As far as the means of transport is concerned, there is plenty of possibilities to come to Slovenia. The most used are the plane connection to Ljubljana (Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport), Graz (airport in Austria), Zagreb (airport in Croatia) or Trieste/Venice (Italy). There are shuttle buses available from all the surrounding airports by a company called GoOpti. It works like the public transport, but it is much faster and adaptable. So as soon as you know your arrival time to sLOVEnia, book your transport either to Ljubljana, Logatec (if you arrive with the shuttle from an airport in Italy) or to Idrija.

You are entitled only to get a reimbursement of travel costs if you use public means of transport. The costs of a car ride or car rental cannot be reimbursed.

!!! Make sure you **keep all travel documents!** Online boarding passes and tickets can be forwarded by e-mail as well.

The travel costs (for a return trip) will be reimbursed up to the amount of 180 € (for distance of up to 500 km), 275 € (if the distance is 500 – 1999 km) or up to 360 € (if the distance is 2000 – 2999).

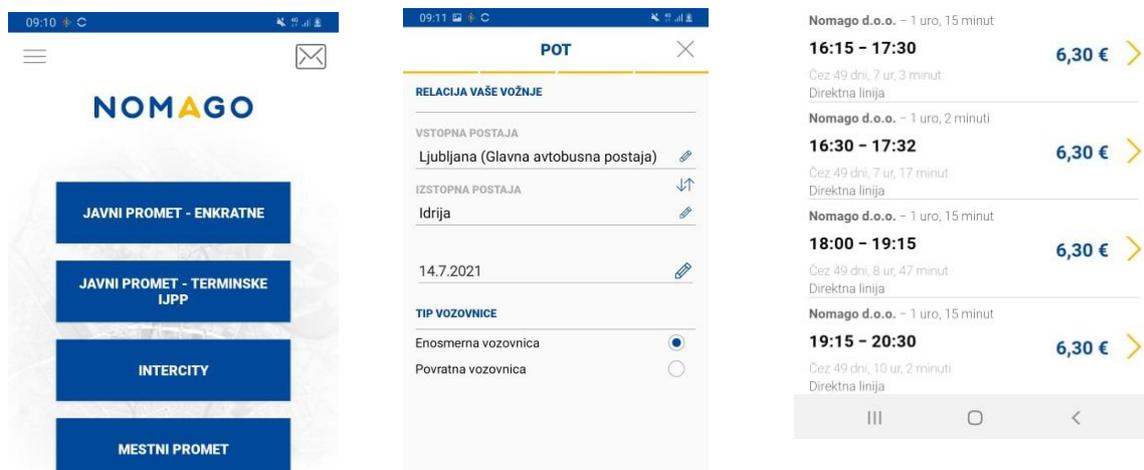
Arriving to Idrija

If you arrive to Ljubljana (or Logatec petrol station), the bus schedule is available on the “Nomago” app that you can download where you get your phone apps.

In the first screen you click “javni promet – enkratne”.

You can buy the tickets via the app with a credit card or you can buy them directly at the driver with cash or at the main bus station.

Once you are at the bus stop in Ljubljana, the bus will be somewhere between the numbers 11 and 13 (the board above it will say).



The image shows three screenshots of the Nomago app. The first screenshot is the main menu with the 'NOMAGO' logo and four blue buttons: 'JAVNI PROMET - ENKRATNE', 'JAVNI PROMET - TERMINSKE LJPP', 'INTERCITY', and 'MESTNI PROMET'. The second screenshot shows a route selection screen titled 'POT' with fields for 'RELACIJA VAŠE VOŽNJE', 'VSTOPNA POSTAJA' (Ljubljana (Glavna avtobusna postaja)), 'IZSTOPNA POSTAJA' (Idrija), and the date '14.7.2021'. It also has a 'TIP VOZOVNICE' section with radio buttons for 'Enosmerna vozovnica' (selected) and 'Povratna vozovnica'. The third screenshot shows a list of bus routes with times and prices: '16:15 - 17:30' for 6,30 €, '16:30 - 17:32' for 6,30 €, '18:00 - 19:15' for 6,30 €, and '19:15 - 20:30' for 6,30 €. Each entry includes the duration and 'Direktna linija'.

Work load and mentors

Volunteer will work max. 6 hours/day – 5 days/week. The working hours in the center are from 9.00 to 19.00 (from Monday to Saturday). They can take two days off per month.

There will be a work-related mentor who will oversee defining work tasks and other work-related arrangements. Another mentor will be there for reflections and discussions when needed. There will also be a free-time mentor who will be responsible for helping with free time activities and you will be able to turn to them for personal support and reflection.

Accommodation and transportation

The two volunteers will live together in an apartment in Idrija and they will share the kitchen and the bathroom. The youth center is in charge of providing a place to live for the volunteers.

The youth center (the street of Ulica IX. korpusa 17) is located within the walking distance from the apartment. You can borrow a bike, but the streets around here are quite steep, so we are not sure you will want to use it all the time :)

Food and pocket money

Money for food: 170€/month

Pocket money: 4€/day

This is the money you can use during your stay to buy food and anything else you might need. You will receive it gradually, month by month.

There will be a half-hour break for lunch during working time, you can cook at home, prepare your food in the youth center or eat in the restaurants pr' Škafarju (Ulica sv. Barbare 9) or Kos (Tomšičeva 4).

General information, safety and insurance

Police: 113

Ambulance: 112

International code for Slovenia: 00 386

Youth center phone number: 00 386 51 231 049

You will be insured through the CIGNA insurance scheme and you should bring your **European health insurance card** as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Location – Idrija

Idrija is a town in the Western part of Slovenia. It is well known for its mercury mine as well as for the miners' living quarters and the miners' theatre. Mercury was discovered in Idrija in the late 15th century. Together with the Spanish mine at Almadén, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012. A year later the town's park was registered in the UNESCO International Network of Geoparks. In 2011, Idrija was given the Alpine Town of the Year award.



Idrija is located in a valley surrounded by steep hills covered by woods. Staying here makes you feel cozy, warm and sheltered. Idrija is a basin and if you would like to come to Idrija, you cannot skip going uphill and driving on winding roads. You will see ☺

More about Idrija: <https://www.visit-idrija.si/en/>

Technical heritage: Museum Idrija, Kamšt, Klavže, Mine

Cultural heritage: religious (Holy Trinity Church), lace

Heritage of the 1st and 2nd World War: Slovenian Partisan Printing Workshop, Partisan Hospital Bolnica Pavla

Natural heritage: the lake of Divje jezero, Upper Idrjica Natural park

When visiting the **Slovenia's capital Ljubljana**, we suggest you download **the USE-IT app** and the city's map to help you navigate through the streets of the old town and even discover some local secrets.

Slovenian language

Have you known that there is a dual grammatical number in Slovenian? It is a rare thing for a language to have, but it sure can sound romantic! For your first "steps", try to learn the words below!

Some useful phrases in Slovenian:

Dober dan!	Hello! (formal, meaning <i>good day</i>)
Zdravo! Živjo! Čau! Bok!	Hi! (informal)
Nasvidenje! Adijo! Čau! Bok! Ajde!	Goodbye! (the first form is formal, the following ones are informal)
Se vidimo!	See you!
Dober tek!	Bon appetit!
Na zdravje!	Cheers!
Lahko noč! Lepo spi!	Good night! Sleep well!
Lačen/lačna sem!	I'm hungry! (the second form is female)
Žejen/žejna sem!	I'm thirsty! (the first form is male)
Koliko stane to?	How much does this cost?
Koliko je ura?	What time is it?
A lahko dobim sok/eno pivo/vino?	Can I order juice/a beer/wine?
Ukradli so mi bicikel/kolo!	They stole my bike
Upam, da me ne napade medved!	I hope I don't get attacked by a bear
Gremo ven!	Let's go out!
Gremo žurat!	Let's go party!
Mi daš cifro/številko?	Can I get your number?

NUMBERS; Ena (1), dva (2), tri (3), štiri (4), pet (5), šest (6), sedem (7), osem (8), devet (9), deset (10)

If you have any dilemmas, questions, ideas, proposals or problems, do not hesitate to ask as – the sooner the better. 😊