



# Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs asbl (2010-BEFR-35)

## Organisation

The Association des Compagnons Bâtisseurs, aka CBB, is a non-profit, non-political youth organisation recognised by the French Community of Belgium. The organisation proposes different kinds of activities, mainly based on *volunteering* and *non-formal education*: local and international work camps, medium and long term voluntary services, leisure time activities for and with disabled people.

All these activities would not be possible without a network of 350 Belgian volunteers, 100 international volunteers during the summer and a team of 7 employees.

As we are a Youth Organisation, most of our public is aged between 16 and 25 years, even if there is not upper age limit to integrate our groups of volunteers. Within our members (+- 350 people), one person out of ten has a mental disability.

We participate in the EVS Programme both as sending and hosting Organisation since 1997. We are accredited as coordinating organisation since 2007.

We believe that this programme perfectly fits with our organisational goals and methods: non-formal education, citizen awareness, volunteering, interculturality are keywords in our daily action.

We also particularly appreciate the learning opportunities that the EVS offers to all young people, regardless to their origins, background and economical means.

CBB is member of the ALLIANCE of European Volunteer Service Organisations.

## Tasks

The volunteer will be mainly involved in the promotion, preparation and follow of our voluntary projects. He/she will also work sometimes in partnership with other local youth and social organisations.

1) Promotion of CBB activities:

- To prepare and to hold information stands in the universities and high school or in fairs in order to present our activities and to increase young people awareness about volunteering and intercultural exchanges.



- To lead workshops and talks in schools (about group dynamic, conflicts resolution and intercultural relationships) with an employee of the organisation.

- 2) Preparation of the weekend projects and of the international work camps:
- To visit organisations that would like to host an international camp organized by CBB.
  - To maintain the contact with our partner organisations through Internet communication and to send them regular updates about our projects.
  - To receive and answer to the application requests of volunteers who'd like to participate in our projects and to follow-up their registration process (this is an important task in from April to July that permit to develop a lot of contacts, but can also be considered as very administrative).
  - To give a support in the preparation of the activities: preparation of material, food...

3) Co-animation of weekend and international work camps

International work camps are short-term voluntary projects, with duration of two or three weeks. They gather young people from different countries that work voluntary for a non-profit organisation or a local community. The tasks can be very varied: renovation, construction, environment protection, and child animation...

In collaboration with the camp leader, the EVS volunteer will help to maintain a good group dynamic and to favour the learning experiences within the participants.

**IMPORTANT:** CBB works for the correct inclusion of disabled people in its activities. When a person with handicap will participate in a camp, the EVS volunteer will be especially in charge to help him/her to integrate the group.

4) Activities according to the personality of the volunteer and to his/her desires:

We really hope that the volunteer will bring us innovation and creativity. Depending of his/her preferences, of his/her desires and his/her capacities, he/she may make a short film or a photo report presenting the organisation, create posters or write texts about its activities, to take part in the development and the promotion of an ecological charter that will have to be respected on all the activities of association...

5) Collective activities with other EVS volunteers :

The EVS activity within Compagnons Bâisseurs is usually part of an EVS group project that aims to increase European awareness among youth in the town of Marche-en-Famenne and to improve a closer collaboration between the local youth services. For that reason, some activities will be run with other EVS volunteers (hosted by two other local youth organisations).



The volunteers will work together especially during special youth events organized once a year in Marche-en-Famenne: Rock festival, Carnaval, youth services open day, end of exams party.... The volunteers will help to prepare and follow-up these events. In some occasions, they will hold an information stand presenting EVS program and youth exchange opportunities. They will have the opportunity to organize a "European night" in the local youth house and to present therefore their country and traditions.

## Project time

EVS activity will start on 01/02/2010 for duration of 12 months

## Location

Compagnons Bâisseurs asbl presents the specificity to develop of lot of international exchanges and to be located in a small town of the south -french speaking- part of Belgium. From our office, by the church place of Marche-en-Famenne, a 17 000 inhabitants town of the province of Luxembourg, we organise projects all over the French Community of Belgium (Brussels and Wallonia) and maintain close partnerships with non-profit organisations from all over the world. This unique situation will permit the volunteer to share the semi-rural life style of the area, but also to meet young people from different places of the country as well as to be in contact with people from the other side of the earth.

During his/her EVS, the volunteer will live and mostly work in Marche-en-Famenne. The town offers all modern facilities (shops, supermarkets, sport center, cinema....). For the urban-life-style-lover, it is however

IMPORTANT: our town is located in a semi-rural area. Even if it is not far away from the biggest Belgian cities (57 km from Liège, 106 km from Brussels, 47 km from Namur) and well connected by train, Marche-en-Famenne can sometimes look remote and very quiet.

## Contacts

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