

Let's talk about Europe !

Project environment

The Communauté de communes Erdre et Gesvres is an inter-municipal authority gathering 12 towns and about 56 000 inhabitants on 51 000 Ha in the Loire-Atlantique Department in France. It is a growing suburban territory located at the Northern border of the Nantes metropolitan area but it remains mainly covered by natural and agricultural spaces. The size of the 12 towns is quite balanced, the priority is to match the gap between the number of working people and jobs (about 25 000 working people for 11 000 jobs), and of preserving the farming background and the living environment. The main challenge of the territory is to develop a suburban framework based on a balanced development, on proximity and on soft transitions between the city and the countryside, while welcoming an increasing young population.

The organization: The Communauté de communes Erdre et Gesvres

The main competences of the Communauté de communes Erdre et Gesvres are the economic development, urban and environmental planning and management, and services for the population (social services, transport, sport and culture).

In these fields, the Communauté de Communes develops territorial development strategies to ensure a good quality of life for its inhabitants and it tries to coordinate the actions of the towns.

A few years ago, the local authority has wanted to enhance the visibility and vitality of the European citizenship on the territory. Many associations and schools are active as European actors in developing the European culture, and citizenship. A steering group has been set up to better coordinate and stimulate these activities and the European culture and the feeling of belonging.

Among the activities carried out by the local authority, the following are vehicles for the development of European citizenship development:

- **Culture and youth policy:** the Communauté de communes is in charge of an active local cultural programme dedicated to the youth and aiming at developing social inclusion, citizenship as well as developing the openness and cultural and artistic education of the young people.
- **LEADER programme:** the Communauté de communes is in charge of managing a European funded LEADER programme, whose main objective is to support innovative local projects and initiatives in rural and suburban areas, either public or private, with European grants.
- One of the 12 towns is a partner in the European cooperation programme **URBACT** on the economic revitalisation of city centres of small cities called "City Centre Doctor", with 9 other European cities from 9 EU countries.
- The local authority is in charge of two "Maison de l'emploi" (job centre) with a **European Info Point** dedicated to inform young people and job seekers on European studies/apprenticeships/careers.... opportunities.

The volunteer will also work close with a resource centre on European initiatives in Nantes and Loire-Atlantique, la Maison de l'Europe.

This organisation brings together all kinds of projects and initiatives on Europe in the department.

The Maison de l'Europe will be in charge of the administrative and logistical details of your welcoming.

The volunteer will be in touch with the European volunteer hosted by Maison de l'Europe.

European voluntary service

Role and activities of the volunteer

Within the Communauté de Communes d'Erdre et Gesvres, the European volunteer will have the opportunities to realize the following activities:

- The volunteer will make presentations on Europe, on its own experience abroad and about his country, especially towards young people in schools. He will be assisted by the steering group and the Maison de l'Europe.
- He will also realize communication tools (writing articles for the website, magazine ...)

- Support the organization of events of the Communauté de Communes with the Culture department and especially for the European Day in May.
- The Communauté de Communes manage the European fund "LEADER", as a part of the team the volunteer will participate in the search of European partners to create a cooperation project.

Learning opportunities

Thanks to cooperation between the steering group, mentors, the Maison de l'Europe and the schools the volunteer will have the opportunity to consolidate his knowledge on the European Union.

Learning French language will also represent an important opportunity. Taking part in the daily work in a French environment, and receiving French lessons, the volunteer will develop comprehension and expression skills, both spoken and written. As the Maison de l'Europe is used to be in contact with many Europeans people in Nantes, the volunteer will also be able to exchange with other languages.

Far from being fixed, intern projects will have the possibility to be modified in a joint reflection. The volunteer will support initiatives taken by different services of the Communauté de Communes, and become part of the overall projects led by the Maison de l'Europe.

The volunteer will be invited to attend all training sessions, conferences, debates, organized by the structure throughout the year.

The volunteer will also have time during the working time to develop a personal project, half a day will be dedicated to this every week.

Volunteer profile

The volunteer will have to demonstrate a clear interest for questions connected to the European citizenship and will have general knowledge about the European Union.

Basic French language skills are needed for a better integration.

As the Communauté de Communes is working with numerous partners, it is important that the volunteer testify of a good contact with the public and especially the young people. The volunteer will have mainly to be motivated by transmitting his knowledge. He / She will have to also be dynamic, and creative! He / She must be open minded, showing abilities for communication and take initiatives.

The volunteer must have a driver's licence.

How to apply

Please send an email to l.allanos@maisoneurope-nantes.eu with :

- your CV
- a motivation letter
- the contact details of your EVS sending organization

The holidays and days off will be negotiated according to the volunteer will.

The volunteer will be backed by 2 mentors : one in the Communauté de Communes, dealing with regular activities and managing the good integration of the volunteer, and one from the Maison de l'Europe and part of the steering group, dealing with daily life and checking that the volunteer feels fine and appreciate his experience.