



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

EkPot

Association for the promotion of
organic farming and volunteering

“Organic Farm Warriors”

Short Introduction:

“Organic Farm Warriors” is an European Solidarity Corps project for active participation of volunteers in 2020.

The project offers a hands-on experience on the functioning of an organic farm project as an organism. Three young people (age 18 to 30) will be included in the project from EU program countries. The activity will take place from the 1st of March till the 15th of December 2020. The project offers an unique opportunity, where on-farm practical experience, workshops and educational seminars with the presence of professional support increases the formal and informal education of participants from Slovenia and abroad. In 2020 we will for the first time form a school garden based on traditional agricultural practices and permaculture where people from all ages can broaden their horizon on local production, sustainability and natural cycles.

Experience of the EkoPot (Organic Way) NGO:

Through different programs we have hosted more than 135 volunteers from all over the world in the last six years. After their return home the gained knowledge and activities are spread by them in their local environment and helps them create their own successful projects and stories. All of the active members of the association have an Erasmus experience on their own.

In addition to the on-farm experience, the volunteers help with the organization and execution of workshops, lectures and excursions each year (from which two to four on average are international). Everyday work on the farm provides an opportunity for personal growth (group work, to start and also execute a project, co-living) and getting to know in depth innovative ways of direct social marketing. With living in an environment, which offers more than 80% self-sufficiency, holistically supports a living community, is directly connected to its consumers and creates new approaches towards sustainable living the volunteer gains invaluable knowledge, which as a whole form his/her personality and work in the future.

International and national activity including youth:

- Youth Exchange;
- European Solidarity Corps Service (ESC);
- Erasmus + projects in the frame of Erasmus + internships;

- Workshops and seminars;
- Willing workers on organic farms (WWOOF) activities in the last six years;
- Job shadowing projects with the Slovene scout's organization.

For more than 350 people yearly we widen the knowledge and skills about organic farming and sustainable lifestyle on the personal and local levels.

Activities of the Organic Farm Warrior project:

- hands on experience in production, processing and direct marketing of vegetables (more than 60 different vegetables), field crops (everything from Einkorn to Buckwheat is processed in flours, porridge, flakes, bread) and fruits (apples, cherries, berry fruits are processed into juice, marmalades, syrup)
- help in organization and carrying out of workshops, seminars and excursions from the field of organic farming and handicrafts as a support for a sustainable lifestyle;
- the setting up of a school garden with the needed know-how for empowering the local community;
- participants develop a wide set of skills, which will improve the employment options or enable the development of own sustainable projects;
- increase the meaning of youth work in a local environment (leading by example).

As an equal and active part in all the activities the volunteers will contribute to the successful realization within a 35-hour week from Monday to Friday.

The EkoPot (OrganicWay) association:

The association EkoPot (OrganicWay) is a non-government non-profit organization with the aim to assist and help to evolve in all kinds of on farm projects which include everything from day-to-day on a farm in the frame of locally sustainable projects like:

- CSA (Community supported agriculture);
- co-op project (which is situated in Ljubljana – state capitol);
- crowd-funding project (the first in the field of agriculture in Slovenia, running for two years);
- setting up, maintaining of a school garden (including workshops in collaboration with the local schools);

which have to be implemented as a whole on a 11-ha family run farm.

The accommodation and living:

The project is to 80% self-sufficient in produce, the rest we buy from local farmers or if not possible otherwise from a store (in organic or biodynamic quality).

The accommodation is in a house extension (with two beds and a bathroom) that can accommodate up to four people (two per room). The kitchen and all other appliances are used in the main house. We have Internet accessibility.

Language used is English and/or German.

The cost of transport, accommodation, food, health insurance and monthly allowance are financed by the European Solidarity Corps project "Organic Farm Warriors".

Application process:

We accept all applications (CV, motivation letter, picture) until the 15.12.2019. From the 18.12.2019 we will have scheduled Skype calls with people where the application best fits the project description and framework. On the 23.12.2019 we will let you know if you got accepted for the 10,5-month ESC project. The start of the activities is the 1.3.2020.

We are looking for people (age 18 to 30) from the EU program countries who want to spend 10,5 months in a rural area of one of the most beautiful country sides in EU, are seeking for knowledge in theory and practical aspects of organic and biodynamic farming, food production, processing and alternative ways of farmer-customer connection for a more locally sustainable development.

Location of the project:

The project is located in the village Jarenina with 1200 inhabitants (Podravje region) which is close to Maribor, the second biggest city in Slovenia (with 90.000 inhabitants).

If you have more questions please write us at drustvo.ekopot@gmail.com or call us 00 386 31 368 162 (Maja) or 00 386 41 960 972 (Matjaž).

For more information visit:

<http://www.zlate-misli.si/european-solidarity-corps.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/zlatemisli/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Dru%C5%A1tvo-EkoPot-NGO-OrganicWay-2161740333909109/>

We look forward to build a sustainable model in the field of environment and social development with **YOU!**