



EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

SPEA- Lisbon, Portugal **“Communicating Birds”**

(http://europa.eu/youth/vp/organisation/941263848_en)

(October 2015 – Abril 2016)

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1. Project Environment

Lisbon is Portugal's capital and there are more than 2 million inhabitants in Lisbon Metropolitan area. Lisbon is by the river Tejo (Tagus) and is known as the "city of seven hills", hence, with some hilly terrain, but also with some plain areas, especially by the river. Lisbon is a cosmopolitan city, where you will find many foreigners working, studying and living in, and as has a very active cultural agenda - with many museums, historical monuments, beautiful public gardens, and lots of activities happening every day and night.

Lisbon is the centre of a big metropolitan area, including part of the upper and down banks of the river Tagus. Some of the most beautiful outskirts of Lisbon are Estoril-Cascais (beaches, walking paths by the sea), Sintra (world heritage, beaches and natural park) and Sesimbra (beaches and natural parks), where one can easily go by train or bus. The weather is mild, with not many rainy or cloudy days, being the blue skies a characteristic; temperatures in winter are around 5°C - 15°C and in the summer 25°C-35°C.

SPEA's office is located in the centre of Lisbon (Saldanha area), and is very accessible by public transportation (subway and bus).. Lisbon is very well served of public transports, with a growing urban metropolitan and bus network, suburban train lines, and from Lisbon you can go by bus/train to every place in the country; it is also served by an international airport.

2. Description of the Organization

SPEA (www.spea.pt) - Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves (Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds) is an Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation that works for the conservation of birds and their habitats in Portugal, promoting a development that safeguards our natural heritage for future generations. SPEA is the Portuguese partner of BirdLife International and one of the most important environmental NGO in Portugal. Besides scientific research and active conservation work, SPEA is also committed to make the general public aware about the importance of conservation of birds, developing several activities for that objective: communication and education campaigns, bird watching field-trips, bird watching days, etc. This project takes place in the headquarters in Lisbon, but there are also offices in Madeira Azores Islands.

In SPEA headquarters, there are 15 members of staff working in a daily basis, and the volunteer will always be in contact with the tutor and other colleagues of conservation, environmental citizenship and marketing and communication departments.

Depending on the project itself, the volunteer will be more integrated in the work of one or more departments, and he/she might have the opportunity to travel, integrated with the rest of the staff (e.g. for events or fieldwork).

SPEA main offices are now divided in 3 departments:

- Conservation Department, with Marine and Terrestrial Programmes: develops projects of bird conservation and monitoring (e.g, Common Bird Census), important bird areas protection and monitoring, ecotourism and others.
- Environmental Citizenship and Communication and Marketing Departments: responsible for

organization of birdwatching activities and events (e.g. National Ornithology Congress), membership, volunteering, environmental education and environmental communication, among other duties.

All the departments work together, based on a strategy and annual plan, and coordinated with the regional offices of Azores and Madeira.

3. Involvement of Volunteers

The volunteer will learn how an environmental non-governmental organization works, and integrate for several months a BirdLife partner (SPEA is the Portuguese partner), being acquainted with the international environmental scene. He/she will also have the opportunity to participate in several fieldtrips, and thus, getting to know the birds of the region, and to participate in events and other activities that are open to every member of the staff. Regarding language, we will try to help him/her to develop these skills by talking in Portuguese, but always translating when needed, give him/her tips on where to go and getting to learn the city and the country. This part will be facilitated with the help of Rota Jovem.

The role of the volunteer will depend on the project itself, which is related with the needs of the departments. Typically, the volunteer will be integrated in the Conservation Department (e.g. helping with fieldwork, data analysis), or more involved with the Environmental Citizenship and Communication Departments (e.g. helping the organization of congress, birdwatching activities). The volunteer will enhance the productivity of the departments in which they will be integrated on, as he/she will be integrated as part of the team.

4. Tasks of the Volunteers

The volunteer will be mainly involved in the tasks of the Marine Programme of SPEA related to the project "Life Berlengas", with both office and field work, being trained according to the specific needs and having guidance from members of staff. SPEA began in June 2014, together with other partners, including the Municipality of Peniche, the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forestry and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, a LIFE project for the restoration of habitats of Berlengas' Marine Reserve and the implementation of its management plan.

1) In LIFE Berlengas, they will support the team implementing these activities:

- Assess and minimize threats to seabird populations and endemic plants;
- Promote the sustainable use of the reserve. Mainly in terms of Fishing, Recreation and Tourism;
- Effectively implement the Management Plan of the Reserve;
- Construct artificial nests.

2) Communication and Environmental Citizenship:

- Update the website of the project LIFE Berlengas;
- Communication activities related to the activities of the marine department of SPEA;
- Write articles (also about their EVS project) for SPEA's online magazine "Pardela";
- Developing content related to the work of SPEA;
- Collaboration in the promotion of bird watching activities
- Organizing workshops on birds and ornithology in Rota Jovem.

- 3) Support other staff members of SPEA with their projects;
- 4) Developing a personal project.

5. Volunteer's Profile

We consider that the following profile features are particularly important to the adaptation of the volunteer to this project:

- Enthusiasm, motivation to participate in our specific project;
- Love for nature (specially birds)
- Experience in handling birds (experience on ringing is a plus)
- Used to hard field work and climbing
- Available to spend several 4-5 night periods in remote islands (e.g. Berlengas archipelago)
- Good physical fitness
- English language (good writing) and IT skills
- Team-work and autonomy skills
- Responsible and organized, able to work with deadlines
- Experience in fish identification is preferable, mostly using microscope or magnifier
- Motivation to self- development and engagement in volunteering;
- Interest and autonomy to develop their own personal activities with the support of the team;

We don't require any particular qualification however interest and experience with birds and motivation to spend time in nature is important.

All candidates applying will be considered in the selection process regardless of their nationality, ethnical groups, religion, sexual orientation or political opinion. We are open to volunteers with emigration background or from ethnic minorities.

The selection procedure will include a specific "application form", where the Sending Organization should give a brief presentation of the candidate. For the final selection, we'll make phone interviews. In the end, an email will be send to selected and non-selected volunteers as well the Sending Organizations.

6. Volunteer's Conditions and Logistics

1) Language course and cultural programme

In the first month and half, more or less, the volunteer has an 40 hours maximum language course and a small cultural programme which includes some visits to important historical places in the area of Lisbon. During this time they are free to discover the city and get used to their new EVS life. They will visit the project, get to know the people but will only start really working after the end of the language course.

Volunteers will have a local mentor at SPEA and also a coordinating mentor at Rota Jovem, both committed to make this project a valuable learning opportunity and enriching personal experience.

2) Working hours and Days off

Volunteer's main working hours are from 10h30 to 17h30 from Monday to Friday. The volunteer will have one hour for lunch break, preferably according to staff lunch period: 13h-14h. According to EVS rules, volunteers will be entitled to 2 holiday-days for each month (24 days as a whole) of volunteering and they can choose when to take their holidays in cooperation with the hosting organization.

3) Food, transport and pocket money

The volunteer receives an individual monthly allowance for their food. Each month they will get transportation and pocket money. The money is given in cash in the beginning of the month and it is the responsibility of the volunteer to manage it well.

4) Lodgment

The volunteer will share an apartment in the center of Lisbon with other EVS volunteers. The house is fully equipped and the location is near to metro and bus station, supermarkets, pharmacy and shops. By metro it takes 7 minutes to the city center, by walking 15 to 20 minutes. Most volunteers will share a double room.

7. Applying for the Project

ROTA JOVEM (www.rotajovem.com) is the coordinating organization (CO) and **SPEA** the host organization (HO). Volunteers applying for the project "Communicating" will not work in Rota Jovem at all, but will always be able to join the activities of the coordinating organization whenever they want. As CO Rota Jovem is responsible for all the administrative process regarding your application, as well as the implementation of the project and its management. The final selection of the volunteers is done together by Rota Jovem and SPEA

If you wish to apply for this project please read very carefully its description, the requested profile of the volunteers, and why you would like to join it. Think critically why this project might interest you, what it can bring to you and what you give in return. Do not choose a project just because you like the country or the city where it takes place! And most of all be aware that you will be developing your activities in a youth association, which requires high social skills and also lots of patience to deal with many different young people. Other important factors to take into consideration are that some periods of the year are more active than others and that many activities have to be changed because of some unexpected reason. But in the end it will show you a whole new world and new people and help you find out a bit more about yourself (hopefully!!!!) Are you ready for this challenge?

Application deadline: **10th April 2015.**

IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR THE PROJECT YOU HAVE TO :

1. **FILL IN AN APPLICATION FORM** (click [here](#)) and send it to vanessa.oliveira@spea.pt
2. **Fill in the google form:** (click [here](#))

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1-If you have never heard about EVS in your life, please check the following website from the European Commission for more information about it: http://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/46/73_en

2- If you don't have yet an accredited **Sending Organisation** (you can't apply individually to EVS and therefore you need an EVS organization in your home country) contact the National Agency in your home country (if it is a Programme Country, mostly EU countries): http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/national-agencies_en.htm or if you come from South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus please contact the Salto Resource Center of your area : <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/>

CONTACTS

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Rota Jovem (Coordinating Organization)

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