



EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Rota Jovem – Cascais, Portugal
[\(\[http://europa.eu/youth/vp/organisation/947874689_en\]\(http://europa.eu/youth/vp/organisation/947874689_en\)\)](http://europa.eu/youth/vp/organisation/947874689_en)

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1. Project Environment

Cascais is a former fisherman's village, today one of the most touristic towns in Portugal, lying by the Atlantic Ocean. Nearby you can find beaches, mountains and countryside. The social reality reflects big social and economic asymmetries, where very rich people and very poor people live in this municipality just separated by few kilometres, presenting also a demographic diversity and multicultural population. The town of Cascais counts with 33.000 inhabitants.

40 minutes/30 km away by train and laying on the north bank of the Tagus estuary you can find the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, the most western capital in continental Europe. Around 700,000 people live in Lisbon, but the population of Greater Lisbon rises to approximately 1.9 million people .Commerce, services and tourism are the main economic working areas.

Both Lisbon and the suburban area of Cascais are well provided with public transport facilities, connecting the most important locations. Train, bus and metro are some of the transports that can be easily used at all convenient schedules.

2. Description of the Organization

Rota Jovem is a non-profit Youth Association based in Cascais, which promotes and supports activities for young people. Founded in 1992, presently it counts with more than 1000 members, mostly youngsters from 16 to 30 years old. Rota Jovem's activities and projects are open to its members and also to young people from the community in general and they take place at a local, national and international level. The philosophy of the association is to give youngsters the opportunity to develop their ideas and projects having all the support to do it. Rota Jovem's structure promotes the voluntary work of several young people and its main areas of action are: international activities (such as youth exchanges, EVS or Leonardo da Vinci mobility internships), trainings, environmental activities, education for citizenship, and leisure activities in the area of sports, adventure and culture.

Currently there are 5 full-time workers in Rota Jovem. The association counts with the active participation of the local and national volunteers, as well as of and local and international trainees.

3. Involvement of Volunteers

The EVS Volunteers will be part of the organization at full sense- they are going to support the work of the team in the different areas and activities, to be integrated with the youngsters that come to Rota Jovem and they themselves are going to be responsible for developing their own personal projects and activities. The whole team speaks good English, but we will motivate our volunteers to learn the Portuguese language and get involved with Portuguese people. Above all we wish the EVS volunteers to have a personal enriching experience and that this project suits their expectations and allows them to use their creativity and express themselves freely.

The integration of the volunteer is thought to happen in two different periods: in the first period, which will comprise the first month after the arrival, the main goal is to create the basis for the development of the project, providing the volunteers with the opportunity to learn the language, with the facilitation of a basic Portuguese course; to have the first contact with the local community; to get to know Rota Jovem and the

different kinds of activities developed, and to get to know all the specific projects being run at the time of their stay. During this period, the volunteer will also have the time to evaluate and plan what will be their involvement and tasks. This is intended to be more of a preparation period, where the grounds for the volunteers' participation and learning process will be created.

In a second period, the volunteer will engage more directly in the tasks foreseen, which are described below, with full support from the tutor and from the staff of the association. A very important part of the project in Rota Jovem will be dedicated to the development of one or more personal projects within the interests of the volunteer. This will require a pro-active attitude from the part of the volunteer. The volunteers will have the possibility to share their knowledge by organizing some workshops, and can bring in new ideas and personal skills in other formal trainings and non-formal workshops we promote.

With this organisation of the project we intend to privilege the development of the volunteers' personal skills, thus creating both formal and non-formal opportunities. At the same time, the service of the volunteers will bring a strong added-value both to Rota Jovem and to the community in general, through the direct results of their work and through the different points of view that they will bring.

4. Tasks of the Volunteers

For this project we will choose two volunteers, with different skills, but who will complement each other. They will both work individually or together. The volunteers will always receive proper support from the staff whether developing their own personal projects or with other volunteers or staff members.

In any case, the volunteers are expected to have openness to a pro-active volunteering attitude. These are the kind of activities in which the volunteers will be involved:

- Participating in the coordination and implementation of activities, in articulation with the association's staff or with other volunteers (sport and adventure activities; cultural activities and other);
- Dynamization of their own local activities (sports activities, workshops, cinema sessions, language tandems, group discussions...);
- Supporting other local volunteers in developing their own projects;
- Presenting the Erasmus + Programme and other international opportunities in schools;
- Supporting Rota Jovem in the communication and promotion strategy (integrating the valorisation of the project and visibility of the Erasmus +);
- Creating promotional material (mainly posters other image-content);
- Supporting in administrative work (if needed);
- Documenting Rota Jovem's activities (video, photography, radio);
- Creating documentaries (in several fields, depending on the volunteer's interests), video editing and promotion of the materials created;
- Creation of online podcasts;
- Writing different texts for the blog and Rota's youth magazine;
- Collaborating on the Book Crossing project;
- Decorating the space of Rota Jovem;
- Integrating the youngsters who come to visit Rota Jovem, by introducing them the association and its work;

- Collaborate in the planning and implementation of international projects;
- Developing an own project, according to the interests of the volunteer with follow-up and evaluation.

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;
- Flexibility to work with different teams and target groups and also to work on weekends (only if needed);
- Willing to develop new projects in a young youth worker's team;
- Motivation to self- development and engagement in volunteering;
- Motivation to learn Portuguese in order to communicate with the people who come to Rota Jovem;
- High sociability skills (in an organization like Rota Jovem, with people coming in and out, it's important for the volunteer to adapt to all these different people and integrate them in the dynamic of the organization);
- Interest in decorating the association (exhibitions, walls decorations, disposition of furniture...);
- Interest and autonomy to develop their own personal activities with the support of the team;
- Willingness to develop workshops in areas which they like: Photoshop, dance, language tandems, theatre, team games, group discussions, sports activities...it's up to the volunteer! We want our space to be as dynamic as possible and to correspond to the different personalities of all people involved;
- It would be very good if the volunteer has some skills in one of these areas: **crafts and arts; music; design (photoshop/GIMP); dance and theatre; video editing; radio, writing small articles for the blog/magazine.**

We don't require any particular qualification however interest in developing activities for youngsters and proposing new ones is essential for the integration of the volunteer.

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 volunteers have a small language course (in case the EU online language course is not yet active) 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.

2) Working hours and Days off

The standard timetable of volunteers is from 10-17h.

Volunteers have days off on Saturday and Sunday. If there's an event during the weekend and volunteers are working in it, they can take 2 days-off to compensate.

Volunteers will be entitled to 2 holiday-days for each month of volunteering (22 days). The holidays have to be negotiated with Rota Jovem and it's not possible to leave them all for the end of project.

3) Food, transport and pocket money

The volunteers receive 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) Lodgement

Volunteers 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 is the host organization for this project and therefore the volunteers will be totally integrated in the association. They will have one tutor and one mentor and they will also have the support from the other people of the staff. They will be part of our team, of the Rota Jovem community ☺ !

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 apply4evs@rotajovem.com
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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