

Full name: Anass Gaebel

Age: 22

Residency country: Belgium

Country and city where you did your ESC experience: Italy, Cingoli

Dates of the project: 27/09/2023 - 15/12/2023

Hosting organisation link (Website, facebook, Instagram, etc.): <https://www.cricingoli.it/>

Brief description of the project and what you did:

This project comprised two main components: a medical aspect and a social one. The medical part primarily involved transporting patients from their homes or hospitals to other locations, while also learning about first aid. On the other hand, the social aspect revolved around organising community activities, like lotteries or Christmas events.

Your favourite moment:

On November 2nd, we participated in the Fiera dei Morti, also known as the "death fair." Despite its ominous name, it's actually a festive occasion. This annual market commemorates the deceased, attracting merchants from across the region to sell their wares. Collaborating with the Red Cross, we organised a Pesca, a type of lottery. It was a heartwarming experience to contribute to a local event, spreading joy by distributing toys and balloons to the children.

Impact in the community:

It's quite difficult to measure the exact impact of involvement in such projects. Nevertheless, I like to believe that my time spent there was meaningful. Supporting ambulance services allowed me to aid individuals every day, and while the overall impact on the community may not have been substantial, I hope that my assistance made a difference for those patients.

Impact on yourself:

Engaging alongside the Red Cross, I acquired practical skills such as the basics of life-saving actions. However, it also afforded me a new perspective. Having always resided in the city, I hadn't fully grasped the challenges individuals, particularly the elderly and youngsters, face when traversing the countryside, especially to reach hospitals. This experience broadened my understanding of various aspects during my tenure. Personally, I unearthed new facets of myself—discovering likes as well as dislikes. In conclusion, this project has undoubtedly facilitated my personal growth and self-awareness like never before.