

Célia De Schrijver

My experience as a ESC Volunteer

I'm Célia, from Belgium and I am 27 years old. I studied human resources and worked for a year in recruitment. I wanted to travel and to participate in a social and environmental project, so I decided to take part in an European Solidarity Project in Poland for 9 months. It was the first time I lived that long in a foreign country.

DURATION



February 2021



October 2021

LOCATION



Klimontów, Poland

My volunteering project was in a small village called Klimontów, 1 hour away from Kraków. Fundacja Camposfera is an ecological and social association located in a former school building. We, the 7 long-term volunteers lived and worked in this nice creative space and enjoyed the garden a lot from Winter to Autumn. From June to October, we also had 3 different groups of 13 short-term volunteers. It was a great experience to live, work and share with people from many different countries. We were responsible for a permaculture garden with the help of two Polish coordinators. We also did activities (online and presential) for local kids, helped social and environmental associations, participated in the organisation of a local festival and created two small festivals in our village.

I have supported solidarity while participating in different local projects and helping and supporting social and environmental associations. This project was also about living and working with people from different countries and cultures, and to offer an international atmosphere to the village.

I learned to live and work in a community of 20 volunteers. By living in a multicultural environment, I learned to consider and respect others' needs and lifestyles. I also learned to create a permaculture garden, to lead workshops and to do a lot of manual work. I improved my English and tried to learn Polish, not an easy task ;)

One of my best memories was the (summer) evenings around the fire in our garden. We barbecued, danced, sang all together, solved riddles, talked, celebrated birthdays, etc. It was great moments with everyone.



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