

# Manuel Corchado

## ESC: My experience as a Volunteer at CEV



### DURATION



September 2021



October 2021

### LOCATION



Brussels, Belgium

My name is Manuel Corchado González. I am 30 years old and I am from Jeréz, a city in the south of Spain. I studied a training course about project design when I was 27 years old. I worked as a caretaker in the town hall of Jeréz and, I am a volunteer at the Red Cross of Jeréz.

For a long period, I tried to find an opportunity to go abroad as a volunteer but because I have Asperger's Syndrome it was very difficult to find a suitable placement. I really wanted to know a new country, culture and be more independent. Finally, I got the opportunity from the "Idea Alzira" European Solidarity Corps project and thanks to that, I had the opportunity to meet the Centre for European Volunteering that gives me the possibility to be a volunteer at CEV in Brussels, Belgium. I was a volunteer from 15th of September to 15th of October. My tasks at CEV have been focusing on administrative tasks, updating the website, managing documents and creating a personal diary in CANVA.

Volunteering at CEV I supported solidarity in different ways. I have always wanted to help my team achieve their goals. For example, I helped them to repair the CEV website. I got to know different people from the European Youth Forum, European Disability Forum and Out of the Box International.

During my experience, I have learnt new skills such as interacting with international people and understanding other cultures. I have learnt a lot about the Belgium culture and I visited a lot of monuments and cities around Belgium. I also developed my communication skills in English and I learnt a little bit of French. Furthermore, I learnt to use new digital tools such as CANVA and I have deepened my knowledge of administrative tasks.

My best moment during my experience in Brussels was when I learned how to cook Tiramisu with my Italian colleague and friend Melani. It was the first time I had ever cooked a dessert and even more, an Italian dessert!

