

Infopack for **European Solidarity Corps PROJECTS 2019/2020**

EU.MOTION



COMMUNITY

Placement in youth center



Associação Mais Cidadania (AMC) is a European Non-profit NGO that operates in Bairro Alto, Lisboa (Portugal), since 2003.

Our mission is...

...to promote Citizenship through cooperation with local and international partnerships

...to train youngsters and young adults to share competencies and skills as a tool to serve society

...to contribute for a responsible and active involvement of citizens in civil society and in the construction of solutions for the challenges of modern society

We believe...

...in the strength of non-formal education as a methodology to acquire new competences and know-how both at personal and professional level

...in the potential of cooperation with an efficient and active network

...that every individual can and should contribute for a better world, to turn the society more participative, solidary, inclusive, democratic and human.

Find and follow us here:

Website: <http://www.maiscidadania.pt/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/maiscidadania/

Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bbtft_ipaE

Twitter: [amaiscidadania](https://twitter.com/amaiscidadania)

Instagram: [amcidadania](https://www.instagram.com/amcidadania)

WordPress: amcidadania.wordpress.com

Contact person for this project:

ana.farelo@maiscidadania.pt – Volunteering coordinator

PROJECT NAME AND CONCEPT



The EU.motion project is a 3 year Volunteering Partnerships, which includes individual volunteering activities and advance planning

visits, consisting of 3 rounds, each lasting 18 months. At the end of the 3 years, it is intended to have involved in voluntary actions 34 volunteers. 2nd Round it will be between 1 August 2019 and 31 January 2021 and we will host 10 volunteers in Portugal.

This project, which is the responsibility of the Associação Mais Cidadania, involves the participation of several organisations from the following countries: France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Poland, Malta, Hungary, Croatia, Ukraine and Georgia.

With EU.motion, we propose to address two problems: (1) low participation rates of young people in decision-making processes and (2) cultural integration and social exclusion. The themes that will guide all the action are: **Citizenship, Participation and Cultural Diversity** and the **objectives** of the project are:

- promote solidarity among peoples, cooperation and mutual understanding;
- boost the participation of young people in public decision-making processes;
- promote volunteering as a tool for civic participation and a mechanism for acquiring skills;
- support populations in processes of social exclusion, including migrants and minority groups;
- promote intercultural learning by working the negative representations on certain groups.

We want to work for a more supportive, just and equal society, where young people are concerned about the "state of the world", have their own thoughts about the aspects that affect the community, are able to share and debate ideas and opinions about what is going on in society, are able to have critical thinking on the subjects that concern them, and it is desirable that the volunteers integrate / become attached to some association or civic movement.

DATES AND PLACE

This infopack is related to the placement in the youth center +Skillz for a volunteer from Italy, taking place in **Lisbon, Portugal**, from **December 2019 to September 2020** (10 months).

PLACEMENT IN YOUTH CENTER **+SKILLZ**

The volunteer will work in a voluntary environment and the tasks will change according to the period of the year, as a consequence of the different needs of the target groups the hosting association works with. The volunteer will never replace the professional staff of the hosting organization.

Check out about what happens in +Skillz in their Facebook and Instagram pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaisSkillz>

<https://www.instagram.com/mais.skillz/>



CONTEXT

Bairro Alto is one of the historical neighborhoods of Lisbon, built in the beginning of the XVI century just outside of the city walls. It stands on a hill and this is where its name comes from: it means Upper District. For many decades, a neglected area, that people from outside would avoid, connected with drug trafficking and prostitution, it began to turn into the nightlife hub of Lisbon in the 80's. Nowadays, it is a thriving area, with commerce, art galleries, many bars and restaurants. During the night, its streets are full of people drinking outside, having dinner and dancing in the small bars.



The population of the neighborhood was, until some years ago, very aged: people who have been born and lived all their lives in the same house. It was a preferred area for students from other parts of Portugal to stay as well. Currently, it is a favorite spot for tourists to rent houses, with the consequent rise in the prices of the houses, which has expelled many locals.

There are many youngsters living in and around Bairro Alto, from different cultures. The school that serves the population of Bairro Alto, Escola Passos Manuel, has currently a percentage of 20% of foreign students (from Brazil, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Russia, etc.). The school dropout rate is around 15% and there are dozens of youngsters without occupation.

A VOLUNTEER IN +SKILLZ



The youth center project is based on building life projects with and for youngsters coming from diverse and susceptible family backgrounds, some of them having with no or little family support. The main feature of this placement is the act of being at the youth center: able to listen and interact with the youngsters and attending to their individual needs regarding activities and topics. The work can vary and should be adaptable to the interests of the youngsters.

The main tasks of a volunteer in +Skillz are:

- Understanding and participating in the day-to-day life of **+Skillz**, interacting and being close to the youngsters, providing positive examples and guidance
- Supporting all the activities developed in **+Skillz**
- Helping in logistic way to the planning and implementation of animation activities (sports, school support, music and dancing, meetings, cooking, arts, visits, etc.); four days per week, participating in animation activities in the local school
- Participating in the day-to-day life of the youth center at the side of youth workers in order to acquire the tools we give to youngsters and the



- methods we use, following our prevention approach in challenging neighborhoods, achieving experience in the field of multicultural contexts
- Promoting active citizenship through animation, artistic, sports and outdoor activities and multimedia projects
 - Proposing, planning and implementing visual multimedia activities for youngsters, with special incidence on working on the audio studio and video/photography
 - Participate in the online Portuguese language course

To know more about the life of EVS volunteers in AMC, visit the previous blogs <https://voluntariosdobairro.wordpress.com/> and <https://upthelisboahills.wordpress.com/> where they share pieces of their experience 😊

VOLUNTEERS' PROFILE

The way we define the profile for the volunteers is based more on motivation than on skills. We believe motivation to be the driving force of someone who intends to be an international volunteer: motivation to learn, to share, to listen, to acquire skills, to GIVE 😊

The volunteer should be **very interested** in:

- Living and working in a multicultural and cooperative/empathic environment (with the team,



youngsters or other participants in local activities and daily life of the organisation but also in common living arrangements with other volunteers – the



more personal side of the project at the volunteers flat)

- Finding solutions for the common good.

- Respecting ways of work and methodologies of the youth centre and be willing to learn aspects of the daily

management of a youth centre and how to work with adolescents in a risk prevention approach

- Learning about and experiencing a different work context under the Non Formal Education framework and sharing skills
- Understanding and being part of Mais Cidadania (AMC) spirit and work
- Learning about and incorporating the values underlying EU.motion project
- Working with the team of youth workers and volunteers with availability, interest, care and a smile 😊
- Developing the capacities of empathy and commitment
- Intercultural and intergenerational learning and dialogue, accepting its difficulties and embracing its challenges
- Sharing interests, skills and values with other youngsters
- Artistic work and music specifically (there is a music studio in +Skillz we are looking for someone that can give life to this space) – do you sing? Do you play any instrument? Great! ;)
- Visual Multimedia – someone able not only to work in the studio, but also able to work with video and photo
- Learning a new language and different cultures, communicating in English and developing the knowledge and communication in Portuguese
-

CONDITIONS

- Your age should be between 20 and 30
- Travel costs to and from Portugal will be reimbursed within the available budget for the Erasmus+ Programme depending on the origin country
- The volunteer will have a single room in a flat with other volunteers



- S/he will work in +Skillz up to 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday and occasionally on weekends (time compensations will be arranged)

- Pocket money will be given at first week of the month
- The money for food at second week of the month
- Local transportation in Lisbon will be provided through a monthly public transportation card
- Health insurance will be provided under Erasmus+ Programme
- The volunteer will have a mentor helping her/him to develop the learning, social skills and improve the process of integration

If you just read this and consider yourself as a person willing to expect the

Unexpected, this placement is for you!

We will be here waiting 😊

“Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer”