

Casa da Horta, associaç

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EVS Volunteering info pack

Casa da Horta, Associação Cultural

Casa da Horta, Associação Cultural (House of the vegetable Garden, Cultural Association) is a cultural, ecological, vegetarian, innovative, non-party and non-hierarchical association. It was funded in Porto, in April 2008.

The aims of Casa da Horta are:

- a) Promotion of a culture based on values such as tolerance, cooperation, intercultural communication, anti-discrimination (of any kind), respect for the differences, acceptance of the other, mutual exchange
- b) Promotion of a more sustainable lifestyle, based on low food waste, local consumption, short value chain, sustainable transportation and mobility, recycle and reuse
- c) Awareness-raising about issues related to social injustice, environmental issues, economic disparity, etc
- d) Promotion of national and international cooperation with other non profit entities, through mobility projects and participation in trainings and international conferences.

Casa da Horta's main activities include:

- a) Cultural activities such as, language exchanges, workshops, theatre, exhibitions, library, concerts, thematic dinners, lectures and conferences
- b) Awareness raising activities about social, economical, political and environmental issues, such as direct action on the street, projection of documentaries, one table dinners, production and distribution of informative material about specific issues (flyers, T-shirts, pamphlets, etc), production of a fanzine available to the members, information stands, etc
- c) Awareness raising activities about alternative and healthier lifestyle: we daily serve vegetarian food prepared with local, biological products, we have discounts for those members who reach Casa da Horta by bike, we sell local handicrafts and biological products to our members
- d) Promotion of alternative tourism through the **Slow Motion Tours**, a way for tourists and others to get to know the history of Porto through unconventional tours which highlight the social and cultural factors hidden behind specific phenomena
- e) Environmental activities, such as **environmental education** sessions with children, rehabilitation of abandoned public spaces, participation in a **community garden project**
- f) Networking activities, such as participation in festivals, international exchanges, training courses and conferences, organization of common activities with other similar entities in and outside Porto, etc

Our target group is the community of Porto, including Erasmus students and international volunteers. Our

activities are aimed at the integration and inclusion of all, with special attention to the marginalized groups (migrants, people with lower educational level, discriminated groups, people facing social and economic exclusion), which we try to involve as much as possible in all the activities we develop.

Our staff is mostly based on volunteer work. We are a non-profit organisation and we try to involve as much as possible young and local population in the activities and daily functioning of Casa da Horta. In the organisation there is a more active group of volunteers, who takes most part of the responsibility to deal with current issues and projects. This group is formed by, more or less, 10 people. Additionally, there is a wider group of volunteers who collaborate on a not so regular base but still are very important to help with the organisation of activities and daily organisation. Casa da Horta itself has, at the moment, around 1300 members.





Accommodation

Volunteers will share different houses with portuguese and Erasmus students in Porto.

Working days and vacations

5 days a week (Tuesday to Saturday), 6 hours per day

free days (Sunday and Monday)

2 vacation days per month

Volunteers activities

- share weekly shifts in the bar/kitchen
- take care of our community urban garden
- help in the ecological construction of a house
- planning events (concerts, exhibitions, cinema, debates,...)
- update our webpage and facebook
- participate in the regular activities in Casa da Horta like: Language Exchange groups (portuguese, italian), workshops, slow motion tours, concerts, activities with Social Center, etc
- Portuguese lessons
- personal project: volunteers will be encouraged to develop their own personal project in partnership with the other volunteers.

Volunteer profile

- Interest in culture, social causes, sustainability, alternative lifestyles;
- Easy to adapt;
- Sociable;
- Positive;
- Tolerant;

- Helpful;
- Teamwork;
- Active and with initiative;
- Ability to plan and organize;
- Responsible

If you feel related to our ideas and want to experience to be a volunteer in Casa da Horta, we'll be glad to have you in our team!