



***Volunteering team project***  
***Our common path***

***13.8.2024 - 11.9.2024***



# *Our common path*

## *Volunteering team project in Perho*

### *Welcome to Perho!*

8 volunteers from all over Europe will gather together at small but beautiful Finnish municipality Perho where they will work in cooperation with students to renovate nature trails in rural areas in Central Ostrobothnia. The work is physical work including cutting bushes, measuring and cutting timber, and constructing the path using different tools, creating signs for the paths, painting etc.

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### *Contact information:*

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### *Your coordinating organisation*

#### *Youth Centre Villa Elba*

Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work. We work under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education.

Our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity.

Our work consists of international camps and programs, education, practical training and voluntary work for young people, information and guidance about international programmes, projects and coordination of volunteering projects.



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## ***Profile of participants:***

The participants are young people seeking new possibilities to their lives. The volunteers can be unemployed, face educational, economic, social or physical challenges or have low language skills. We wish that the volunteers are interested in working in nature. There is no need of previous experiences just the interest to try it out and learn more!

### **We offer to volunteers:**

- a chance to live in a new culture
- possibility to do volunteer work for the local community
- a chance for intercultural learning
- a project where you can use your skills to help restore a nature path
- opportunity to meet other international volunteers and make friends
- develop your skills and abilities

### **Volunteers should be prepared for:**

- physical outdoor work
- coldness, mosquitos and workdays in the forest
- life in a small rural community
- adventures in nature
- new experiences
- changes

### **We expect from volunteers:**

- flexibility
- respect
- ability to follow the rules and schedule



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## ***Tasks:***

During this project the volunteers work to renovate a nature trails in rural areas in Central Ostrobothnia. The work is physical work including cutting bushes, measure and cut timber, and construct the path using different tools, create signs for the paths. painting etc.

During the project, volunteer can, for an example learn to:

- design outdoor trekking routes and areas together with experts in the field
- build and refurbish various types of outdoor routes and areas according to the plans given
- build hiking trails for the needs of different users
- use the most common tools used to produce route structures
- use personal protective equipment, take into account occupational safety and maintain work ability

We encourage participants to bring in their own ideas and competences when planning and realizing the content of the different events and activities organized during the project.



## ***On-arrival training:***

Volunteers will have a one day on-arrival training in Youth Centre Villa Elba. The aim of the training is to get to know the other participants and learn about ESC.

We will also tell about the aim of the project, intercultural learning and about volunteer's rights and responsibilities. There will be Finnish language lessons to learn basic words and sentences.



### **Accommodation during on-arrival training:**

During the first two days, (arrival and on-arrival training days) the volunteers live in Youth Centre Villa Elba, in Kokkola.

Meals are served in Villa Elba during on arrival training. Villa Elba provides bed sheets and towels.

After the on-arrival-training volunteers will move to Perho. Either with bus or with Villa Elba minivan.



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## ***Perho, community where project takes place:***

Perho municipality, located in Central Ostrobothnia, has about 2800 inhabitants. Perho is 175 km from city of Vasa, 150 km from city of Jyväskylä and 100 km from city Kokkola. The nearest railway station and airport is in Kokkola, bus station in Perho centre.

In Perho you can find the Finlands southeast widespread wild areas with excellent hiking- and berry areas. Nature adventures, hobbies and refreshing services are very good possibility in Perho. "Peuranpolku" is one of the most beautiful nature footpath by "Salamajärvi" naturepark, which is one of greatest protectorate in southern Finland with marsh areas untouched forest, lakes and rivers gives a special feeling for Perho municipality. Most of the people make their living from agriculture and woodcraft enterprises.



## ***Tips for travelling to Kokkola:***

Please notice, that even though the project is hosted in Perho, participants should arrive to Kokkola city and departure from Kokkola. The participants can search for flights to Helsinki. The best way to travel to Kokkola from Helsinki is train, timetables and prices at: [www.vr.fi/en](http://www.vr.fi/en). There is also one very cheap bus connection <http://www.onnibus.com/en/>, but the ride is very long (approx. 7 hours). Villa Elba organizes transportation from Kokkola airport/train/bus station to Villa Elba. This transport cost is covered from the travel grant. After the on-arrival training, transport to Perho is organized and paid by Youth Centre Villa Elba



### **What to bring along:**

- Outdoor clothes and shoes (also gloves, cap) temperature can be something between +20 and -10 Celsius
- **European health card (very important, you will need it if you need to go to health center/ hospital!)**
- Personal medication and hygiene products
- Swimming suits if you want to wear them in sauna or want to go to swim
- Something typical from your country to present your culture (music, songs, dances, something to eat etc.)



## ***Working hours :***

The volunteer will work 5 days a week, approximately 35 hours. The working hours are usually from 8-16 including lunch break, but sometimes work times can vary a bit depending on logistics and weather conditions. The volunteers earn 2 holidays during the project.

## ***Accommodation and meals:***

Volunteers live in a student house in Perho campus area. They will have two flats with both four bedrooms. So they will have their own room. Flats include small living room, shower and a sauna. In the building there is also washing machine and dryer. Volunteers will receive money for preparing meals.





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## ***Support measures:***



Extra support is available for volunteers 24/7 during the whole project. The support persons help with everyday issues (cooking, cleaning, shopping), to get familiar with local community and culture, help in difficult situations and support the volunteers to reflect on their learning outcomes. There will be organized mentoring meetings.



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## ***Financial issues:***

### **Travel grants**

Travel grants are paid after the project according to the funding rules of Erasmus+: Travel grants depend on the length of the journey and for measurement of the journey we use Erasmus+ distance band calculator: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en)

Villa Elba will arrange pick up volunteers from the airport or train station, costs for transport are deducted from the travel compensation. We try to organize common rides to keep costs as low as possible.

#### ***Regular travel:***

10 – 99 km	28 €
100 – 499 km	211 €
500 –1999 km	309 €
2000 – 2999 km	395 €
3000 – 3999 km	580 €
4000 – 7999 km	1188 €
8000 -> km	1735 €

#### ***Green travel:***

10 - 99km	56€
100 – 499 km	285 €
500 –1999 km	417 €
2000 – 2999 km	535 €
3000 – 3999 km	785 €
4000 – 7999 km	1188 €
8000 -> km	1735 €

### **Pocket money**

The pocket money is 7€ / day which will be paid in parts in cash during the project.



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Hopefully, this infopack helped you to get to know more about the project. You are about to start an amazing adventure so don't hesitate and participate in everything! We have a very supportive staff, in case you have any kind of questions - you are more than welcome to ask.

***See you at Villa Elba!***

[www.villaelba.fi](http://www.villaelba.fi)

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