



Vacancies EVS :: Portugal 2013



Dates: 01.03.2013 – 28.02.2014 (1 year)

Place: Aldeia das Amoreiras, Portugal

Hosting organization: GAIA Alentejo / Centro de Convergência ([2010-PT-4](#))

<https://centrodeconvergencia.wordpress.com/>

Organization description:

GAIA is one of Portugal's leading environmental associations and is established as an independent environmental NGO. Since 1996, GAIA has been conducting numerous campaigns, on both local and national levels, and has been involved in campaigns operating on European level. We are a youth organization in every respect – young people run GAIA and are responsible for mounting campaigns, as well as the day-to-day tasks of managing the office and finances. Our projects are targeted at young people, who seek to be informed and active about important issues of the environment and society.

GAIA is a member of MARE Mediterranean Youth Network; EYFA European Youth For(est) Action; YEE Youth and Environment Europe; CPADA Confederação Portuguesa de Associações de Defesa do Ambiente and Transition Towns Movement. GAIA focuses on different topics concerning the environment, such as: eco-consumption, food sovereignty, desertification, ecological debt, peace and non-violence or non-GMO.

At Alentejo's regional office, the "Convergence Centre" is a project resulting from the campaign against desertification. As a pilot project composed by an international working team of 7 people, we aim to put together different disciplines which supplement and interact between social sciences and the environment, the culture and the art, with the final target of giving dynamism and developing rural areas. Located at Aldeia das Amoreiras since 2006, an isolated rural area of Southern Portugal, the Convergence Centre has been responsible for dynamizing this village, namely by organizing cultural activities, educational workshops, information dissemination and local sustainable development.

To the volunteers we provide an integration in a friendly mood in an horizontal organization, where decisions are taken by consensus. Responsibility is a major necessity that gives the freedom to have a flexible schedule and timetable.

Place 1:

Applied Permaculture in the Convergence Centre and village of Amoreiras

Tasks:

- To implement permaculture technologies (DIY social and ecological solutions for practical sustainability) for houses, farms and Convergence Centre in the village of Aldeia das Amoreiras. We ask the volunteer to be proactive in relating with the people from the village and learning from them;
- To support the begging of a permaculture demonstration site. Activities can be implementing one or two of the following: vegetable garden, building compost bins and compost toilets and solar cookers, solar dryers of fruit, reed bed systems, planting trees, solar heaters of water, building in wood and clay;
- Previous knowledge of Portuguese or other latin languages;
- Additionally, we want the volunteers to clean the facilities of the Convergence Centre once a week;
- Finally the volunteers are asked to give help to any practical activities that are organized by the Convergence Centre

Why?

We need to research, try, experiment and demonstrate technologies that can sustain life on a small village and at the same time can create a good quality of life, low maintenance and energy consumption, providing us with extra free time to have some fun and community life.

Profile of the volunteer:

- Motivation and experience in permaculture and/or other holistic/sustainable systems;
- Highly practical, engaged and proactive person;
- Environmental consciousness and ecological practices in daily life;
- Motivation and experience to work with the community in a participative way;
- Motivation to work with a rural community and to live in a small village (180 inhabitants);
- Additionally, we want the volunteers to clean the facilities of the Convergence Centre once a week.

Place 2 - Terra das Crianças (Land of the Children)

Environmental Education in the schools around and in the village of Amoreiras.

Tasks:

- Willingness to learn and work with the methodology of [Tierra de Niños](#) (Land of the Children) adapted to local community;
- To support the project Terra das Crianças and its activities in:
 - the public school of São Martinho das Amoreiras, which has about 30 children aged from 3 to 10 years old (the volunteer will have support from Convergence Centre and the the teachers from the public school);
 - the public school of Colos working with the troublemaker teenagers, ages from 14 ton 18 years old.
 - iAldeia das Amoreiras, working with the local children in a collective project as well as in their own homes.

Why?

We believe that children and youth must be empowered in order to learn and be responsible for taking care of the Earth. We do this by giving them a piece of land and the responsibility to manage it and make of it their dream place.

Profile of the volunteer:

- Sensitivity about nature and children;
- Highly motivated to work with children and teenagers;
- Environmental consciousness and ecological practices in daily life;
- Motivation to work and learn tools and different pedagogic models and/or other holistic/sustainable systems;
- Artistic skills;
- Ability to learn Portuguese quickly and be able to fully interact with youth after 1 month of living in Portugal)
- Motivation to work with a rural community and to live in a small village (180 inhabitants);
- Additionally, we want the volunteers to clean the facilities of the Convergence Centre once a week.

Application:

Send your **CV with photo** and **specific motivation letter**, in Portuguese, Spanish or English, to armanda.goncalves@gaia.org.pt till **20th of September 2012**.

For further information:

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