

ABOUT US

Our ideals

We at VIA e.V. are convinced that the volunteers' way of experiencing their host country and its people, by working in a local project, helps to establish close relationships and to expand mutual understanding. Intercultural relationships work against prejudices and racism and stimulate instead an attentiveness for a conscious and reasonable global cohabitation.

The VIA Team, Photo: Matthias Flührer



Our motivation

We would like to give interested people from all over the world the possibility to live, learn and work with each other in heightened awareness of togetherness and to strengthen their ability to live together in a globalized world.

Our goals

Understanding, trusting and valuing each other grows through working together and living together, thus also tolerance and respect. We want to motivate our participants to actively take part in raising social consciousness by sharing their experiences with others. We build bridges and learn about other countries and cultures through speaking their languages.

Our pedagogical assistance

We know that people are different, and it is important to us to find an appropriate stay abroad for everyone. Intercultural exchange is not a matter of age or previous knowledge, it is more a question of individual consultation and professional assistance to find the program that fits to each volunteer. We offer program- and country specific trainings and everyday mentoring by our staff in charge, local coordinators, and partner organizations. With us it is possible to find the right match for each individual volunteer.

Quifd: Our quality is certified

In 2016 VIA e.V. has been re-certified by Quifd – agency for quality in volunteer programs. For obtaining the Quifd label we had to undergo a thorough examination proving the quality of our pedagogical supervision, evaluation of our own work, furnishing information, reliable organization etc.



CONTACT

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We support



Our partners:

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weltwärts



Voluntary Service - Germany / Photo: Matthias Flührer
Photo: Dóra Kazsai Horváth



www.via-ev.org



VIA e.V.

non-profit association for international and intercultural exchange

NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION SINCE 1992

Our roots

The VIA story began in 1992 in Lüneburg; VIA e.V. - the nonprofit organization for international and intercultural exchange was founded by people with idealism, curiosity and who enjoy international contact. The organization is non-partisan and non-religious.

Voluntary Service EFD, Malta



Photo: Chiara Friggi

VIA - locations and team

At our locations in Lüneburg, Berlin, and Leipzig we have approximately 20 employees, who have long-term experience in intercultural and educational work. They supervise and support our volunteers.

About 30 trainers offer a thorough and intensive pedagogical preparation in diversified preparatory- and follow up seminars.

Former volunteers enrich our work by giving helpful feedback and sharing their experiences. Some of them work for us either in student jobs, as seminar assistants, or support us as volunteers.

Many of them keep in touch with their former projects on a long-term basis and continue to actively support them even after their return to Germany. Our volunteers spread informations by giving presentations and writing blogs. Some set up their own nonprofit organizations, collect donations, or actively become a part of other NGOs that work toward common global goals.

VIA incoming seminar on sailing boat, Germany



Photo: Astrid Paesler

OUT INTO THE WORLD...

Whereto with VIA ?

We offer volunteer projects in the following regions:

- ➔ Europe, Israel
- ➔ Australia and New Zealand
- ➔ North-, Central and Latin America
- ➔ West-, East and Southern Africa
- ➔ India, Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan

For volunteers from all over the world coming to Germany...

Voluntary Service IJFD, Canada



Photo: Latitude

Long-term volunteer service

is our main focus.

With the funding programs „weltwärts“, „IJFD“, and “EFD” we send volunteers over 18 years old to work in many different social services. For example, work with disabled people, or in schools or in children’s homes.

This volunteer service is usually for one year.

Long-term volunteer service is co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth (BMFSFJ), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as the European Commission (EC).

Host family stays and internships

Host family stays and internships have been a part of our program since the very beginning. Interested people of all ages can use this opportunity to immerse themselves in another world, through different internship possibilities (for example, teaching, researching, taking care of children) or through spending time in host families where they get a chance to learn about other countries, and engage in an intercultural exchange with its people. Language courses, social activities and return visits complete our portfolio. Host family stays and internships are available in various countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

...THE WORLD WITH US

Coming to Germany: “Incoming”

It has been part of our exchange philosophy right from the beginning of our organization to receive young people from foreign countries to volunteer in Germany.

Voluntary Service Incoming, Germany



Photo: Matthias Fluhrer

Currently about 80 international volunteers from all over the world are working in facilities for disabled people, senior citizens, children and youth in Germany.

The incoming programs are called “European Voluntary Service” (EFD), “Federal Voluntary Service” (BFD), “Voluntary Social Year” (FSJ) and “Weltwärts South-North “. They are funded by the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) as well as German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Commission. The programs are usually planned for a one-year period.

For more information about our programs please visit our website:

➔ WWW.VIA-EV.ORG ⬅

Voluntary Service EFD, Poland

