



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

**HOSTING PROJECTS 2024  
BELGIUM FLANDERS**  
AFS INTERCULTURELE PROGRAMMA'S VZW

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# I General info on projects in Belgium Flanders (BFL)

**Age limits:** 18-30 years.

**Number of volunteers:** Most of the projects only host one volunteer, some have two

**Application deadline:** until suitable candidates has been found

**Hosting:** In general participants will be hosted in a host family or at the work place, depending on the project. **Only volunteers who are truly motivated to live in a Belgian host family should apply for the projects!** Please do know that our host families are not necessarily living near the project. Be aware that you might have the travel time from your home to your project might take a while. Especially, when your project is situated in a large city (like Brussels, Antwerp or Ghent), it's very likely that you will be hosted in the suburbs and not in the city centre.

**Language:** The will to learn the Dutch language is a very important aspect. We expect people to be dedicated to learn Dutch. In most projects the motivation to learn Dutch fast is a requirement. We will offer online Dutch language courses, but motivation remains the most important factor to communicate at ease. A good communicative knowledge of English is desirable and sometimes required. All communication with AFS BFL is done in English. Depending on the volunteer work you want to do, in most projects it is necessary to have a very good level of communication skills in English.

**Travel:** From Brussels national airport – (airport code = BRU) all projects can be reached. If you want, you can arrive at other airport, but please consult the coordinating organisation before booking your trip so we can advise.

# II Project – Communication assistant @ Rikolto

City: Leuven

Period of the project: Duration to be agreed (at least 6 months), start preferably spring 2024.

Number of volunteers searched: 1

(other non ESC volunteers / interns might be present though)

Accommodation: host family (incl. meals)

Activities and mission of the organization:

*A sustainable income for farmers and nutritious, affordable food for everyone.* This is what Rikolto works for. We reach our goals by building bridges between smallholder farmer organisations, companies, authorities and other actors across rural and urban areas. Together, we create innovative ways of accessing, distributing and producing nutritious, quality food, so no one is left behind.

Through our global network, we wish to inspire others to tackle with us the inter-related challenges of food insecurity, climate change, and economic inequality. Because a better world starts on our plate.

Our communication is a key part of the puzzle: we show how Rikolto – in partnership with other organisations – is tackling the above-mentioned issues by proposing innovative and inclusive solutions. We aim for a communication that embodies the power of partnerships and collaboration, not a traditional view on “development cooperation”.

Sector of the organization: **social challenges – Environment and natural protection – Employment and entrepreneurship**

Location of the project:

Rikolto is located in Leuven, which is the capital and largest city of the province of Flemish Brabant in the Northern Region of Belgium. It is located about 25 kilometres east of Brussels and has about 100.000 permanent inhabitants. Giving the presence of the University of Leuven, there is not only a strong historical character to the city, but also a large population of students (more than 45.000), which makes it a lively place to be.

Rikolto is situated in the town centre where public transport is easily available. A bike can be provided by the school to get to the bus/train more quickly if necessary. This means the volunteer will easily get to Rikolto and will also easily be able to visit other parts of Belgium (or even Europe as all connections are possible from Brussels) in his/her spare time.

Benefit from the volunteer:

You will become part of Rikolto's International Fundraising and Communication team, which is in charge of external and impact communication and partnership building. We coordinate global communication campaigns and publications, and take care of the website and global social media channels. We also identify opportunities for visibility and the positioning of Rikolto at the international level and streamline internal communications.

### Tasks of the volunteer:

We want to give you the opportunity to learn and develop the skills you are interested in, while also making the most of your talents and interests. Below, you can find a list of tasks that you could be working on during your period as volunteer at Rikolto – they relate to external and impact communications, as well as to partnership building. We find it important to refine this task or bigger project list together with you.

- Based on impact data, develop track records and fact sheets;
- Publish content on Rikolto's international website and social media channels;
- Write content for Rikolto's international website;
- Design content for Rikolto's social media channels and co-create social media campaigns;
- Give communication support to international colleagues, e.g. technical support, translations (if possible), design of PowerPoint or Canva presentations, sharing knowledge of your own field of expertise...;
- Screen possible new (European and other) donors or partners working on a specific topic of interest to Rikolto;
- Identify key events that Rikolto staff should participate in to meet specific donors or partners;
- Give input and proactively participate in international team meetings with communication and fundraising colleagues
- Monitor and analyse performance of communication platforms (KPIs);
- ...

Of course all the tasks described above are performed under the guidance of a mentor.

### Working hours during a normal day:

The participant will voluntarily work 5 days a week from Monday to Friday, during business hours (+- 9 am until +- 5 pm) ...

At least two days a week you are expected to work at the office, it might be possible to perform the other working days remotely (from your residence in Belgium).

### Specific skills volunteer should have:

The skills and attitude that are needed for this position are the following:

- You have excellent communication and social skills.
- You are resourceful, well organised and can work efficiently.
- You are creative and willing to implement bold ideas,
- You know your way around current information and communication technologies.
- You are interested in sustainability and the link with food.
- You have a strong affinity with Rikolto's values: people, sustainability, open dialogue, innovation, interconnectivity and integrity.
- You have a positive attitude that is focused on win-win solutions.
- You act with integrity and respect others.
- You are able to constructively challenge yourself and others.
- You are willing to learn and share lessons learnt.
- You feel both challenged and inspired to work in an international and multicultural environment.

### Level of language skills:

Good knowledge of English and strong motivation to learn Dutch

# III Project – In Flanders Field Museum

Native City: leper

Period of the project: January 2024 – July 2024

Number of volunteers searched: 1

(other non ESC volunteers / interns will be present though)

Accommodation: host family (incl. meals)

Activities and mission of the organization:

In a country where the war was fought, it lingers, even if that war is already a century behind us. For each of the over 600,000 lives which were lost here, for each of the over 425,000 graves and names on memorials and for the hundreds of traces and relics where the battlefield once was, for each of the millions of affected people (physically or psychologically wounded, refugees and displaced persons) there is a story of suffering, pain and ordeal somewhere in the world.

Ypres (also known as the City of Peace) and the In Flanders Fields Museum aim to preserve the memory of the past. Remembering the war is important for those who want to speak about peace today.

Because WWI was a global and multicultural conflict, people from all over the world visit our museum. Because of the ever-growing interest in the subject, the research centre of the museum receives a lot of questions from individuals enquiring about their ancestors.

The In Flanders Fields Museum presents the story of the First World War in the West Flanders front region. The museum is located in the renovated Cloth Halls of Ypres, an important symbol of wartime hardship and later recovery. Our permanent exhibition tells the story of the invasion of Belgium and the first months of the mobilisation, the four years trench war in the Westhoek – from the beach of Nieuwpoort to the Leie in Armentières –, the end of the war and the permanent remembrance ever since.

The exhibition focuses on the human experience and draws particular attention to the contemporary landscape, which is a true testament of the war history. To better understand that, our visitors can request visits to the belfry, from where they can have a view over the city and the surrounding battlefields. Hundreds of authentic objects and images are presented in an innovative experience-orientated layout. Lifelike characters and interactive installations allow visitors to put themselves in the shoes of those who actually experienced the war a century ago.

The museum includes many possible perspectives. The military and historical aspects are important, but so are the relationship between the past and the present and our approach – as humans and as a society – to our past and that of all other countries involved. People from five continents and more than hundred different countries and cultures took part in the war in Flanders. Our public is international and extremely diverse.

The In Flanders Fields museum is much more than a permanent exhibition. We currently offer educational activities for students from both Belgium and abroad, as well as a cultural and artistic programme. In the research centre of the museum, visitors can delve deeper into that dramatic period of the history of the world. Here you can research the big, global background story as well as personal and local history.

Every year the museum also invites a contemporary artist for a residency. Amongst the witnesses of yesteryear, the artist's voice rings out loud and clear. Not only do artists bear witness through words, sounds and images, they above all call for reflection. It is important that a modern artistic voice can be heard, alongside the artists of the period. And that artistic reflection can be seen alongside historical artefacts and personal stories. The artist turns the public's eyes to reflection on war better and more directly than the museum itself could ever do, and in doing so fulfills a messenger's role for the museum.  
Sector of the organization: cultural and world heritage

Location of the project:

Ieper is a small city with 35.400 inhabitants, located in the West of Flanders. The city played a major role in the First World War. Besides the war memorials, Ieper offers its visitors plenty of entertainment options (walking, cycling and other sports, Cats Festival, a trip to the seaside, ...)

Office environment:

The staff consists of approx. 10 people, with whom the volunteer will be working

Tasks

1. General tasks:

- Helping with research on personal stories. In the permanent exhibition, visitors can activate four stories of individuals, including three war stories (1914, 1915-1916 and 1917-1918) and one post-war story. The database of those stories is currently being expanded.
- Giving assistance in preparing exhibitions.
- Helping out with different project led by an international artist

2. Artist in Residence In Flanders Fields Museum.

From the arrival of the artist (usually around January) till the installation by the end of June, the volunteer is involved in all aspects of the residency.

The volunteer assists the museum team and the artist with administrative, practical and technical issues of the residency

If possible the volunteer will assist the museum team and the artist with the making of the catalogue

Working hours

The work week starts on Mondays and ends on Fridays. On Mondays we have staff meetings at which all the staff has to be present. The working hours are: 8h-12h, 12h-13h lunchbreak, 13h-17h. The research centre is closed during the weekends.

Skills

- Strong level of English and/or French
- Strong motivation to learn Dutch
- Interested in the First World War
- Active listener
- Social, enthusiastic and friendly
- Ability to work independently and in team

Benefit for the volunteer

- During the First World War more than 50 different nationalities and cultures were present in this part of Belgium. The volunteer will realize that he/she is more involved in that part of history than he/she thought.

- Opportunity to meet a variety of people (co-workers, visitors, ...).
- Free access to the museum and its archive.
- Experience in a multicultural environment
- Museumpass to access other museums with a discount
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# IV Project – Intercultural Educator @ AFS

Native City: Mechelen

Period of the project: January 2024 – December 2024

Number of volunteers searched: 1

(1 or 2 other ESC volunteers will be present in a different role)

Accommodation: host family (incl. meals) OR independent stay with a monthly allowance of 600 EUR for lodging and subsistence

Activities and mission of the organization:

AFS Intercultural Programs is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, non-profit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

Every year, AFS Flanders sends 150 high school students and young adults abroad and hosts about 150 foreign students in Belgian homes. 900 local AFS volunteers make this happen: they recruit the students and families and support them throughout the whole exchange process.

Sector of the organization: education, intercultural learning, exchanges

Website: [www.afsvlaanderen.be](http://www.afsvlaanderen.be)

Location of the project:

Mechelen is a small city, centrally located in Flanders between Brussels and Antwerp. The office of AFS is easily reachable by public transport.

Office environment:

The staff consists of approx. 15 people, who support a large group of local volunteers.

Project

The project consists of two components:

*1. Intercultural educator for intercultural learning in schools and youth activities*

AFS Interculturele Programma's wants to share its ICL (intercultural learning) experience with high schools and other organizations who are interested in building global competences. The current diversity in the Flemish schools has become an ideal environment to share our knowledge by providing educational workshops. Currently diversity in local schools is more seen as a "problem" than a privilege.

Unfortunately we also notice that the Flemish schools are dealing with a lot of drop outs, mostly by students with a migrant background. With those realities, facts and figures in mind, AFS wants to offer schools workshops based on intercultural learning. Next to schools, many other organizations face the same intercultural reality and want to work on building global competences among their volunteers or participants. AFS works together with them to share more intercultural understanding through courses and workshops.

2. *Intercultural educator for global competences and intercultural learning in AFS exchange programs*  
AFS programs are built on experience based intercultural learning and promote lifelong intercultural learning. In order to achieve this, AFS developed several educational programs and orientation workshops designed to support learners participating in an international experience in building their global competence.

One of these programs is called 'Global Up Abroad' and is composed of 18 online modules with guided reflection and live training at key points in the curriculum. Each of these online modules contains a short video, where we introduce the key topics of intercultural learning and begin the conversation online (through forums, discussion, questions, and assignments). When a participant has gone through all the online sessions and attended the reflection sessions and live trainings, (s)he receives the Global Competence Certificate (GCC).

## Tasks

1. *Educator for intercultural learning in schools and organizations (50% - not AFS program related orientations)*
  - Contacting schools: the volunteer will be responsible for contacting schools and for promoting the workshops to schools. Once a school has registered for a workshop, (s)he will do the practical preparation and follow-up with the responsible teacher.
  - Co-designing workshops and activities for better intercultural understanding with organizations.
  - Doing workshops and share the ICL knowledge with the participants in an interactive way enhancing more meaningful learning experiences.
  - Evaluate the workshops and projects together with all the stakeholders and if needed, adapt the workshops or process.
  
2. *Educator for intercultural learning in AFS exchange programs (50% - AFS program related orientations)*
  - The volunteer will be trained to become an experienced educator in intercultural learning and to become a Qualified Facilitator (QF): which is a certified facilitator of the GCC. As such, (s)he will facilitate reflection sessions and live trainings within the GCC.
  - He or she will coordinate the pool of other Qualified Facilitators (AFS volunteers): organize meetings with the QF's planning reflection sessions for participants and assigning them to a QF.
  - Be in touch with GCC participants on a regular basis as their first contact person and introduce them to the local chapters.
  - Promote the AFS orientation programs and workshops among the local AFS-volunteers.
  - Organize in person meetings together with local chapters.
  - Evaluate reflection sessions and live trainings.
  - Search for new volunteers to become QF and assist candidates in their training.
  - Offer support and act as trainer for orientation camps and orientation workshops for other AFS programs.

## Working hours

Mostly from Monday – Friday in our office in Mechelen, near the train station

Flexible working hours with start between 8 and 10 am and finish between 4 and 6 pm, with a 30 minutes lunch break.

When on location: flexible, max. 11 hours/day

This volunteering opportunity involves occasional working during evenings and weekends. In that case recuperation time can be taken within the week, after consultation with the mentor.

Average weekly working hours: 37,5h

### Skills

- Strong level of English, French and/or Dutch
- Strong motivation to learn Dutch
- Affinity with the target groups: high school students and young adults
- Interested in intercultural learning and global competences
- Pedagogical and didactical skills
- Ability to speak in front of groups
- Hands-on mentality
- Social, enthusiastic and friendly

### Benefit for the volunteer

- Enhance pedagogical and didactical skills
- Contact with a diverse audience (high school students, young adults, schools, organisations working on diversity, local volunteers,...)
- Deepening into intercultural learning
- Learn and improve a (new) language
- Opportunity to be in contact with senior teachers in Belgium/Flanders
- Becoming a Certified Qualified Facilitator of the Global Competence Certificate
- Work in an international organization
- Be part of both a fun team of staff and an enthusiastic team of volunteers
- Gain global competences
- Make the world more just and peaceful