

## MUNICIPALITY OF CANTALUPO IN SABINA

The municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina, a little community counting about 1750 inhabitants in Rieti district, is characterized by the huge network activity it manages both with the voluntary and non voluntary associations operating in the territory, the educational agencies and with the bordering towns of Bassa Sabina. Through the department Social and Environmental Policies and the department of Culture, Sport and Tourism, the municipality promotes, supports and realizes, during the whole year, social and educational services, artistic and cultural events, principally dedicated to three target groups: minors, youngsters and elderly people. In particular, among the regular activities, we have a project called "Scuola Aperta Tutto L'anno" (all year long open school), realized in cooperation with "Cassio Sgrignani" elementary school and the local public civic center. This project comes from the need to offer minors extra scholastic activities supporting learning but also socializing and recreational activities, considering the absence of structures such as cultural centers and playgrounds. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the after school days, it realizes expressive and manual laboratories, courses focused on the integration of non European children (for example Italian alphabetization) and disabled kids inclusion (for example music therapy courses for autistic kids or with functional diagnosis). It also develops thematic paths about specific topics related to arts, history, nature, animals, etc. deeply analyzed firstly through meetings and enriched and completed afterwards with excursions on the territory. The educational offer is completed, on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays afternoon, with activities taking place in the public civic center: art, music, theatre, dance, chess, reading education, painting and jewels creation labs; cinema, books festivals, poetry and fable labs for the knowledge of fable's morphology which give life to a publication with children works. In addition, to sensitize new generations to separate waste collection, a lab on the reuse and recycle is born, which realizes objects with plastic bottle, used jeans, socks, paper jewels, etc. This lab will be cyclically proposed and will be enriched by new activities finalized to the creation of objects destined to citizens (for example to decorate town streets during events or cultural shows).

In relation to aid services for the disadvantaged target, the municipality of Cantalupo, cooperates with the voluntary association Banco alimentare di Roma giving help to poor families through the distribution of a monthly food pack. The municipality also collaborates with Salvamamme, which has two desks in two bordering towns: Forano and Stimigliano. Through the take in charge signed by the social assistant of the Municipality, it supports minors with clothes, toys, babies food and equipment.

For what concerns the promotion of the territory, in 2009 funded the Youth Hostel, launched through a job educational project for disabled youngsters. The Hostel has both a social and cultural and touristic vocation, and is totally managed by the municipality. The structure is a great opportunity for Cantalupo, which is beginning to enter local development topics through the presentation of territorial marketing projects, in cooperation with others municipalities of Bassa Sabina.

Regarding the more specific artistic and cultural area, the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina, closely collaborates with Centro di Ricerca e Sperimentazione Metaculturale (Center for metacultural experimentation and research), with the aim of operating in the field of research, experimentation and diffusion of innovative cultural models, capable of integrating dominant culture with different local cultures present in our regions, both on the political and organizational side, and on the sociological and anthropological one, with the aim of promoting citizens active participation.

Thanks to the experience of Centro di Ricerca e Sperimentazione Metaculturale, during the years took life a mixed work team which actively and regularly cooperates with the municipality in order to organize the

festival called ARTE.r.i.e., together with all the other initiatives preceding and following it. Between all the cultural events taking place in town, in fact, “ARTE.r.i.e.” Festival is the artistic-cultural event which mainly engage the Municipality and the local community in a four day international festival every September.

Many other projects, cultural and artistic paths are linked to this event. The Festival ARTE.r.i.e. and the connected events take place all year long and include:

- “Waiting for...ARTE.r.i.e.”, from February to September, including a contest for the creation of the graphic image of the event (Project-contest “ImmaginArterie”); the “ImmaginArterie” contest dedicated to the school section, involving kids and youngsters from the local public schools adhering to the project; the national literary contest “Premio Arthé” in collaboration with the homonymous association located in Poggio Mirteto, in order to stimulate young authors, with more attention to locals, giving them the possibility of an important showcase and the realization of an anthology containing the best short novels; the participation to the globally known event “Palabra en el Mundo” – global simultaneous poetry and literature. In addition, the team working on ARTE.r.i.e., also collaborates with other cultural appointments in the territory, such as Fara Music Festival, La Notte Bianca in Fara Sabina, Sant’Adamo’s feast and Paparacchio’s feast.
- ARTE.r.i.e. – Rassegna di Ipotesi Espressive (Expressive Hypothesis Festival), taking place in September. This four day festival - through the individuation, within Cantalupo in Sabina city walls, of theme paths in which different forms of art are expressed and experimented - provide the visitors with a training/cultural mix that is understood and tailored by everyone following their taste. These separated paths, will end up together, in space and time, in common moments in which there will be occasions of elaboration and creation (laboratories) and confront and synthesis (shows). ARTE.r.i.e. is also a cultural context where it is possible to experiment new forms of relation between actors and audience, from the point of view of an active divulgation of art. To make all this possible, to make the “culture little city” grow, the hosting of artists is made in collaboration with Cantalupo in Sabina citizens, who “adopt” in their houses not only an artist, but with him his way of thinking, his stories, his tales, adhering this way to a behavior of maximum social and cultural integration, which is the basis of a festival like ARTE.r.i.e. The festival holds some primordial cardinal points: the festival is essentially cultural; it is non-profit; considers ethics, respects its artist and their different languages; considers and respects places and people living in the town; each participant has the opportunity to express his/her artistic opinion; the audience, in respect of all opinions, can choose whether to participate or not to what is proposed to them, even at the cost of compromising the success of the festival, its goals and the functionality of the proposal. Artists participation is for free and with the only aim of showcasing their production.
- “ARTE.r.i.e. dei Piccoli”, the parallel festival to ARTE.r.i.e., focused on children, that is one day dedicated to children in the sign of creativity. Participants are not mere spectators, they are protagonist actors of the day, attending game-labs which lead them through different artistic languages. This event is, at the same time, the ideal scenery for expositions, readings and shows prepared by the young artists thanks to the activities proposed by the project for schools, libraries, youth centers.
- “Scheggie di ARTE.r.i.e.”, from September to December, composed by events such as the “Festival degli oggetti volanti della Sabina” (Sabina flying objects festival) and “NoemArt Film Festival...UN CICLO DI DONNE”

ARTE.r.i.e., in addition, puts its spaces, technical equipment, professionals and all its social marketing channels at free disposal of other events in Sabina that collaborate for the success of the Festival:

- Colavecchio, with the Festival Sabino di Bande di Strada, two days of street parade, in which more than ten bands march in the streets, in the alleys of the town, and play in a common concert after having shown each one its talent and sympathy.
- Farfa Fara Sabina Abbey, with Lib(e)ri sulla Carta – Independent publishers Fair, born thanks to the collaboration between ARTEr.i.e., ARTHE' and LIVE associations.
- Cottanello with “A spasso nel tempo” (walking through time) a festival focused on the revival of “fabulous 60’s” with revisited items, songs and vintage motorbikes.
- Poggio Mirteto with GAT, theatre festival with young and amateur companies.

Thanks to ARTEr.i.e. workers and volunteers, the Municipality of Cantalupo during the year works on formative paths within schools, proposing them laboratories, meetings, conferences, concerts, shows and exhibitions dedicated to children, in order to stimulate in them the interest to penetrate the artistic language – giving them the opportunity to recognize its interpretative key – and to let motivation and creativity grow thanks to the proposed activities.

## **WHY TO HOST A VOLUNTEER**

The municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina is very careful and sensitive about the topics of social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, equal opportunities and social inclusion. That is why, for several years, it has been fostering and supporting the realization of youth initiatives, artistic and cultural events, activities which support the inclusion of the minorities in the community, sustaining disadvantaged families, actions inciting active participation through the support of the local voluntary associations network, recreational and educational services for all ages, in cooperation with local organizations and educational agencies.

In particular, through the department of Cultural Policies, the Municipality supports since several time cultural events for the valorization of local traditions and the promotion of the territory. It also supports cultural and artistic shows and events which, during the whole year, connect the bordering cities and eventually end up with an internationally known Festival, thanks also to the free participation of artists coming from abroad, too.

The department of Social and Environmental Policies, works to answer on one hand to the growing need for assistance from the poorest subjects and families, on the other hand to give impulse to activities and places for socialization and active participation especially for children and youngsters.

Thanks to this purpose compatibility, in 2009, the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina came in contact with CEMEA del Mezzogiorno onlus who manages active education for all ages, through its territorial services (playgrounds, youth centers, educational and cultural training in schools, etc.) and international learning activities through mobility.

Since the first meeting with CEMEA del Mezzogiorno onlus, through the Centro Servizi del Volontariato del Lazio (Voluntary service center of Lazio), a solid and constant collaboration developed. This brought the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina to host foreign volunteers and trainees and to promote the participation of local youngsters to international exchanges.

In 2010, the Municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina was one of the hosting organizations of the pilot project AMICUS, developed by CEMEA del Mezzogiorno within Youth in Action. The project has seen the participation of volunteers coming from France, Greece and Estonia, contributing to explore the possibility to establish a European Civic Service.

Through AMICUS, the municipality had its first direct hosting experience of two foreign volunteers with different backgrounds. The first volunteer, an Estonian girl, made a three months service and the second one, a French coming from a disadvantaged context, made a one month service. The volunteers have been

included in the educational activities in cooperation with the school, in the recreational center during the afternoon and in the local summer camp.

Given the positive and enriching experience with AMICUS volunteers, the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina, in collaboration with ARTE.r.i.e. team, an artistic-cultural show promoted by the same municipality, hosted two trainees within the Leonardo Da Vinci Programme. They experienced a three months professional stage, and contributed to the organization, preparation and realization of the show ARTE.r.i.e. together with other satellite events taking place before and afterwards in the bordering towns.

Thanks to these experiences the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina developed a particular sensitivity and interest towards European youth exchanges. In fact, the daily presence of European volunteers and trainees in town, counting about 1750 inhabitants, who contributed to the realization of local activities, stimulated in the local youngsters new interests, open-mindedness and curiosity towards new cultures, and also a different evaluation of their own territory, fostered a more positive approach to foreign language learning and practicing. This has also made them feel European citizens and motivated them to propose themselves as protagonists in the international non formal educational activities through Youth in Action. Moreover, since 2010 the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina regularly hosts the National Civic Service. Five volunteers each year are included in services realized in collaboration with voluntary associations and schools, in elderly people services, and supporting activities for disabled kids and the integration of immigrant kids.

In general, the experience of volunteers and trainees hosting in these years, stimulated in the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina and in its population, a growing interest in the promotion of sharing, knowledge and intercultural exchange between local and European youngsters, having seen the impact and the effects of the previous hosting projects and the participation of local youngsters in projects abroad, and also the increasing sense of European belonging grown in them.

That is why the municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina would like to continue this mutual enriching experience through the regular and constant hosting of European volunteers. The municipality decided to deal with the accreditation procedure entrusting to the experience of Cemea del Mezzogiorno onlus in the field of non formal education and especially in the EVS. The municipality would take advantage, for at least the first three years of hosting, of Cemea's coordination, that would take charge of some of the most specialized functions concerning EVS and international partnership.

## **WHICH ACTIVITIES**

The volunteer will be part of different project teams that implement the socio-educational and cultural activities promoted by the Municipality of Cantalupo in Sabina through the Department of Social Affairs and Environment and the Department of Culture, Sport and Tourism, in cooperation with the voluntary organizations and training agencies in the area, with a synergy of action for the development of the local community and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. Thanks to the variety of services offered, it will be possible to design a personalized learning paths, responding as much as possible to the learning objectives and interests of the individual volunteer and, at the same time, organized to put him in a position to add value to his/her tasks.

Specifically, the EVS experience offered refers to the following learning paths that, in a more or less combined way, depending on the motivation of the volunteer himself/herself and the duration of his/her project, they represent the backbone:

- **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND LEISURE.** The volunteer will support operators in the laboratories of artistic and musical expression, body, manuals and recycling offered to children in cooperation with the civic

center of municipality and will assist educators in the business of entertainment and socialization, out-of-school language laboratories with active methodology focus to the first approach to foreign languages and group games, with particular attention to children with disabilities or immigrant background.

- **SOCIAL SERVICES AND SOLIDARITY NETWORKS** (in support of disadvantaged target groups). The volunteer will support, in fact, operators in the actions related to the Food Bank and the “Salvamamme”. Specifically, the volunteer will be part of the team responsible for the distribution of food and basic necessities to disadvantaged families, the distribution of meals to the elderly and support them in their chores, assistance to disabled children.
  
- **ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**. The volunteer will be part of the team that deals with the promotion of the territory, art and culture. It will therefore be involved in supporting the organization, communication and realization of cultural events (festivals, as ARTE.r.i.e.) and recovery of local traditions.

In general, the expected results concern the offer to the volunteers, through the participation in an experience abroad, the opportunity to increase their self esteem, their ability to adapt to other realities and the development of their social skills, as essential tools for a conscious and participatory understanding of the context in which the young lives. Other expected results concern the development of attitudes and skills directly related to these learning paths, from planning and organizing actions, materials and contacts needed to create workshops and cultural events, to the skills and attitudes needed to realize them, from the team work to the techniques of socio-cultural animation.

Encourage the spirit of initiative and active participation, facilitate in-depth knowledge of the hosting context and the intercultural and intergenerational exchange, will be essential elements supported by the project in a small community within which enhance the impact of EVS as experience of European citizenship and solidarity.

We believe that the improvement of the Italian language will help the volunteer in the integration in the local community and in the project. For this reason, an intensive Italian language course will be provided. The language course (format, duration and frequency) will be adapted as much as possible to the volunteer needs, abilities and learning difficulties.

The EVS volunteers will be part of a working team and they will have a special reference person inside of it (supervisor), that will guide in their tasks and responsibilities management, at the same time taking care of their integration in the team and with the users to which the services and the activities are addressed. The project structure has been designed together with the coordinating organization, during the preparatory meetings, sharing principles and functionalities; It can be divided in different phases, each of them lasting differently and having different form, depending on the kind of volunteer involved.