

# **Volunteering experience**

## **Boschi per la Biosfera**

### **Giacche Verdi – Bronte**

*-Personal report –*

04.09-01.12. 2017

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#### **Introduction**

I found out about this program and project thru a mailing group with different Macedonia's youth and ecological organizations. From the first moment I was surprised by the organization of the project because I applied and got answer in less than a week. All of the further communication before my arrival was on point and very supportive. I have to mention Birte Kuttler from MHS who was very supportive and kind around my preparation for my arrival in Sicily.

#### **Living conditions**

The housing in which I was during the 3 months period was ok. I think this is one the couple issues I had during my stay. With all the respect for the project and its financial construction, but I think the living conditions and the pocket money are things that need to be improved. When you are a volunteering at least you should have a nice, warm and cozy home. All the volunteers did the best they can to make the house feel like home.

#### **The work in the office**

First of all I have to give my biggest respect and kind greetings for the Giacche Verdi team. Gino, Lidija, Andrea and Tobia were doing their best to make us fill well and give us good working conditions. Maybe 20 people in that office space is too much, but as long as there is good communication and work tasks everything will be fine.

#### **The life with the volunteers**

I consider myself as a lucky, because during my stay in Bronte I was part of really good functioning group of volunteers. Young, brave and capable people from every corner of Europe. I appreciate every moment spent with them. We shared a lot of experience together- thru work on the project, outdoor activities, cooking, party and long conversations.

## **Opinions for the project**

This kind of project is perfect for this kind of region, culture and community. Networking schools, local policy makers, local experts and local issues are good way to progress. The ecological education is a complex scientific and social problem so every time we can change something or do it better. I was going to be happy if the volunteers had bigger role in this whole project and even more freedom with expression towards giving solutions on some problems during the work.

## **Advices for the future**

I feel responsible to give real feedback for the sake of the organization and the project towards creating better work in the future.

*Better communication*- when you are working with big network of people, communications is necessary for better functioning. Short daily briefings, weekly office meetings and sometimes harder discipline for a plan are ways that the communication will get better.

*Trust the volunteers* – A big part of the volunteers were and are young but educated and with some form of experience. You have to cherish and respect that. Don't look at the volunteers just as a resource look at them as partners.

*Evaluate the work* – Volunteering or not, a work is work. Better evolution on every volunteers work will motivate and discipline them to do a better job.

## **Conclusion**

I have to say I enjoyed every moment spent in Bronte and I will miss it a lot. I got chance to visit landscapes and places that I have only read about it before. I meet wonderful people and made new friendships. I returned home with different value for work, science and education.

The rule in the office was that you always have to be honest. I was honest with this report.

I would thank Gino Montagno and Stefani Hensen were providing me with this life changing experience.

in bocca al lupo,

Kiril









