

Dear international colleague,

Hannibal, a Belgian youth organisation, is searching for new partner groups for future (bilateral) exchange projects in the frame of the European Youth in Action programme.

Who we are

Feel free to visit our webpage www.hannibalvakanties.be. On the English page you can find a leaflet.

direct url:

<http://www.hannibalvakanties.be/Portals/0/presentation%20folder%20Hannibal%20international.pdf>

Some history

We've been organizing youth exchanges since many years.

I am involved in the international work for my job since 11 years, and I've been a European volunteer before. I am the person in our organization who coordinates the administrative part of the exchange.

We don't have a fixed group. The youngsters (aged 17+) are recruited nationally. The candidates are coached by me to make up a programme with activities and qualitative methods. They have to execute the programme themselves, in cooperation with the partner group.

Until two years ago we had some experimented youngsters who were able to lead ambitious youth exchanges.

Actual situation

Since two years all our experimented leaders left the organisation, because of their age, family or job. In the meantime we didn't find enough new (strong) youngsters to take it over.

So in fact we have the knowhow in the organisation, but we'll have to restart from the beginning with a new pool of youngsters, who will taste for the first time what intercultural exchanging means.

Looking for a partner group with experience

I prefer to do this exchange with an organisation who has some experience in organizing youth exchanges. I'm looking for a partner organisation that not only participates in projects organised by others, but also takes responsibility, is able to set up a programme, to host a group, to use good methods etc.

Duration and period of the exchange

The exchange should take at least 6, maximum 8 programme days. We prefer to do it between 10. July and 25. August 2011.

Theme and title of the exchange

We are open to every topic that might interest the youngsters. In the past we worked about themes like media, employment, relations and sexuality, film, future dreams, body issues...

Some new ideas: money, sustainable living, photography, socialize with strangers, volunteering, make a game about disability issues and how to involve disabled youngsters in a 'regular' youth group, religion in a multicultural world, creative recycling, music, dance...

It's up to the youngsters to come up with ideas and to pick a theme. A title will be chosen as soon as we know what the main topic will be.

Activities

How we are used to do it:

The first day we focus on getting to know each other, group dynamics, exchanging expectations, introduction of the theme topic, agree about rules and tasks, discover the place.

We usually plan at least one 'theme session' each day. Theme sessions are interactive and may be playful. Generally they are run by the youngsters themselves. Sometimes it can be good to invite an expert to give input.

We also do some excursions (preferably linked to the theme), and activities for distraction and interaction.

Generally we have a 'national evening' per partner group, to present some cultural aspects of their country.

All activities are done by both partner groups together. Also when the group has to be split up, we prefer to work with mixed-nationality groups. The leaders of both groups should work together and communicate very well to get their groups integrated.

We don't like endless theoretic powerpoint presentations and (obliged) meetings with politicians. We prefer to avoid this.

Our group

Our group is always a mixed-ability group. Generally our groups are composed of youngsters (aged 18-25) with a physical disability and able-bodied youngsters.

Our groups counts at least 8, maximum 15 people (leaders included). The leader of our group generally is one of the youngsters themselves (maximum age 30).

Most of our participants are students at university, or young graduates. They all speak English quite well. (Dutch is our mother tongue.)

Our disabled participants may need assistance for some daily life activities (mobility, eating, washing, dressing, wearing luggage etc.). Our youngsters will organize the necessary assistance tasks within their group. Of course it would be nice if the youngsters of the partner group are open to help too.

Partner group

Exchanging with an organisation of disabled people is most comfortable to us, as they understand very well the special needs of this target group (adapted accommodation and transport, sometimes adapted rhythm and activities).

However, we would be very pleased too if we could find a 'regular' youth group to exchange with.

Venue

We would like to send our group to the partner country first, so the exchange should take place in your country.

If your group likes to come to Belgium afterwards, they are very welcome in the next Summer (2012).

Conditions/expectations

You can be our partner if your group (or at least the responsible)

- is willing and able to shape the programme (goals, activities, methods, practical arrangements...) in close and clear communication with us;
- will make up the application form together with us. The application should be sent to your national agency before the **deadline of 1. February 2011**;
- is open to deal with the special needs of physically disabled youngsters (wheelchair users). We have all the necessary experience to answer all your questions, and extra costs for special needs can be funded 100% by the YIA budget.
- can work at this project very soon. I need to know some details **at the latest end of November 2010**: period, venue, title, number of participants, programme concept. We will present the exchange project in our yearly brochure that has to be printed in December.

Go for it?

If you feel interest to plan an exchange with us, taking into account the above conditions, please give me a sign! Don't hesitate to ask all your questions.

It would be nice to get from you some explanations too about the way you work, profile of your group, expectations, theme proposals etc.

Kind regards
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