

EVS-Project 2007-DE-252, "Im europäischen Gedanken für eine Demokratische Kultur"

1. The organisation: Netzwerk für Demokratische Kultur e.V. (NDK)

The association Netzwerk für Demokratische Kultur e.V. was founded by several inhabitants of Wurzen in December 1999 and is supported by various donations, associations and single persons. With its offers the organisation wants to create an alive and even more pluralistic culture, supporting the dialogue between generations and democratic acting and thinking. Altogether, about 40-50 people are involved in the mostly honorary work. In June 2006, we opened our house named "Kultur- und BürgerInnenzentrum D5" (House for culture and citizens)

At the moment there are the following main work areas:

- "history workshop" (yearly "march of remembrance", holocaust-remembrance-day...)
- "culture workshop" (concerts, films, readings and theatre);
- work-camps (partner of multinational work-camps in Wurzen);
- EVS (we are both hosting and sending-organisation);
- "media workshop" (making films);
- "politics workshop" (conferences, information, workshops, discussions...)

2. The volunteer's tasks

2.1. Organisation of cultural events

The cultural events organized by the NDK are there to enrich the town's cultural offers. Together with several partners (external institutions, single persons) we arrange film performances, concerts, readings and theatre performances. The volunteer works here with the support of our "culture workshop" manager. During the first months of work the volunteer gets to know our program and takes over little tasks. By the time, events should be organized and carried out independently. The volunteer will learn to use the projection and technical instruments, so that he will be able to show films, organise his own cultural projects and support other people. Once a week, the volunteer works in our cultural bar.

2.2. Documentation of NDK-projects, working with myspace and NDK-homepage

For NDK it is very important to make documentation (fotos, films) of all projects and activities. The volunteer takes care of this documentation. He puts knew information and material on the NDK-homepage and myspace-profile.

2.3. Media workshop (film)

In 2003 we started to establish a media workshop with a focus on film. We got the necessary technology (camera, computer for digital editing etc.) and put them in an extra room. The volunteer's task is to help realizing different kind of projects, like:

- making documentaries about other NDK events
- organizing movie projects (from storyboard to final version)
- cooperating with other NDK projects (like, for example: helping participants of an educational trip from the history workshop to make a movie about this experience)

The media workshop depends highly on the ideas and energy of the persons making use of it. We have no personal running it full-time.

2.4. EVS-Information day and European Evening

From November to March, short time before finishing school, young people start to think about their future. Taking part in a European Volunteer Service is one opportunity for them – so we introduce the EVS with its possibilities and conditions to the people in our region. The volunteers will plan and organise these events in collaboration with other volunteers and the office team. We also want the volunteer to organise an European Evening about his home country.

2.5 Individual tasks/Helping with the daily office work

As the NDK comprises versatile projects, which live from the arrangement of single persons and groups, we want to include the strengths and interests of the volunteers from the European foreign countries in helping the running projects. This could be: layout flyers and posters at the PC, helping with project management. We also want the volunteer to help with the daily office work: service in the office during opening times, taking part in weekly team meetings, distributing flyers/posters in Wurzen...

2.6. Our requests to the volunteer

Because of our experiences we noticed that it is a great advantage when the volunteer has basic knowledge in the German language. It makes it easier to get along here and to do the office work. Furthermore, we expect that the volunteer has basic PC-knowledge (word, excel, internet, email), that he/she is able to work independently, but also in team, and that he/she is interested in politics and culture. If these requests are fulfilled, the cooperation is much easier and problems can be prevented.

Also important for the work here: to be open-minded, sociable, communicative, eager to learn, creative, independent, brave to try new, don't worry making mistakes.

We also ask the interested persons to contact us to get to know more about each other answer existing questions and clear up possible misunderstandings.

3. The town

Wurzen is a small town in Saxony (in the Eastern part of Germany) on the river Mulde. It has about 18.000 inhabitants. A very important son of the town is the author and poet Joachim Ringelnatz. The centre impresses by the castle and the cathedral. The "Stollwerck AG" is one of the town's most important factories. The next bigger town is Leipzig, about 20 miles away from Wurzen. By train you are in Leipzig in about 15 minutes.

4. The flat

Our volunteer-flat is in the centre of Wurzen about 5 minutes away from the NDK by foot. It is a renovated flat with kitchen and bathroom. Both of the volunteers live in the flat and everyone has his/her own room. Next to the flat the volunteer can find shops, supermarkets and other facilities.

5. Websites for further information

5.1. Wurzen

www.wurzen.de
www.wurzen-info.de
www.wurzeninformation.de

5.2. Saxony and surroundings

www.sachsen.de
www.leipzig.de

5.3. NDK

www.ndk-wurzen.de

5.4. Partners of the NDK

www.tolerantes-sachsen.de

www.amadeu-antonio-stiftung.de (Amadeu-Antonio-Foundation)

5.5. Others

www.bahn.de (train schedules)