



Basic Information

- Hosting Organization: Società Cooperativa Ture Nirvane, Ecovillaggio Torri Superiore
- Web Site (ITA / ENG): www.torri-superiore.org
- E-mail: info@torri-superiore.org
- Facebook Page (ITA): <https://www.facebook.com/EcovillaggioTorriSuperiore/>
- Office Address: Via Torri Superiore 5, 18039 Ventimiglia IM Italy

About the project

- Dates: August 2020 – January 2021
- Number of Volunteers requested: 2 volunteers, 18-30 years old

Description of organization

Ecovillage Torri Superiore is a 30 years old community and cultural centre in western Liguria, next to the French border. It has a long history of hosting volunteers from all over the world, starting in 1992 with the International Civil Service-SCI (www.sci-italia.it) and Legambiente (www.legambiente.it). All through the years, the doors were kept open for individual volunteers, and now we have an average of 30 independent volunteers per year. We are now in the fourth year of the EVS programme, all is going very well and we are very happy to continue.

The EVS volunteers will therefore meet a well structured organisation, and spend their time in an open "family" of adults and children, well acquainted to sharing time with non residents, guests, and visitors from different countries. A variety of languages is normally spoken at the tables, Italian, English and German being the three main ones.

The hosting organisation is the Ture Nirvane Cooperative Company, founded in 1999 by members of the Associazione Culturale Torri Superiore to transform the abandoned medieval village of Torri (XIII sec) into a thriving Ecovillage. To develop local activities and be registered as a fully licenced enterprise, a cultural centre and a guesthouse were created in a large part of the village that is now open to the public and managed by the Cooperative. The centre includes a guesthouse for holiday accommodation, a restaurant, training facilities for courses and workshops and a little library. The cooperative employs six people, mostly women, and is largely supported by the resident community in daily chores like cooking, shopping and cleaning. The guesthouse dining area and meeting rooms are shared by the resident community, the volunteers and the guests; buffet meals are served at fixed times, and everyone eats together at large tables either in one of the three dining rooms or on the terraces.

Where we are

Ecovillage Torri Superiore is located near the coastal town of Ventimiglia, Imperia, in western Liguria, north Italy, close to the French border, between the Mediterranean sea and the Maritime Alps (see map). From Torri it is possible to travel to the town of Ventimiglia with the local bus, and from there catch trains or buses in the direction of Genova or Nice (France). In the Torri village, one can find the bus stop to and from the town of Ventimiglia and a church (open only on Sundays). The local food store and bar have been recently closed as a consequence of the financial crisis.

Profile of volunteers

The profile of the ideal volunteer should include most of the following features: a deep interest in ecology and sustainability related topics; willingness to share a part of his/her daily life with the resident community and guesthouse guests, and enjoying some private moments as well; mental openness to meet new situations and people; flexible approach to work regarding tasks and times, than can change also on a short notice; willingness to learn basic Italian to communicate with non-English speakers. Above all, we value a high level of motivation to try out community living and sharing time with the local residents.

Description of the tasks and learning process

The tasks for the EVS will focus on the non profit-making aspects of the Ecovillage activities, and will not replace any paid employment. His/her activities will vary greatly and touch many aspects of the different Ecovillage activities, also according to personal inclinations and skills, and the most urgent needs of the moment.

The volunteer will also have the chance to propose activities related with his/her country of origin (films, photos, debates) and offer practical workshops to share his/her abilities with the community (like regional food, handicraft, etc.).

Here is a list of activities that may be carried out by the volunteer:

- support the office team in organising and managing cultural activities with adults and children, i.e. setting up the meeting room and preparing necessary materials, welcoming participants, assist trainers and focalizers during and after the event, collecting feedback and cleaning the room;
- support the office team with IT work, i.e. social networks, website, management of mail and database, and solving simple hardware problems; meeting guests and help the staff in orienting newcomers with information and assistance;
- participate in organic farming activities in the vegetable gardens, greenhouses, olive groves, fruit orchards, based on permaculture principles and concepts;
- helping with maintenance of the surrounding landscape, foot trails, dry stone walls and water canals, in partnership with the Torri village and other local hiking associations
- helping with maintenance of the medieval building, alleys and courtyards, based on conservation principles that were adopted and applied by the Cultural Association

The EVs will share the daily chores, like cooking and cleaning, with the other staff and residents.

The conceptual framework for the EVS programme is based on action learning, that will ideally include an initial moment of theory and instructions by the EVS mentor, a long-term resident or an expert, followed by practical doing and field work; later on, a moment of individual reflection will be encouraged to evaluate personal achievements and progress; a weekly session with feedback

from peers and tutors, and sharing in group, will also be organised.

Mentoring

During the volunteering experience, one of the residents will be in charge of personally mentoring the volunteers: he/she will organise separate meetings to listen to the volunteer's experience and needs, and give appropriate feedback to encourage the learning process and facilitate integration in the group. However, direct contact with all residents and visitors will also be possible at all times, to the extent desired by both parts. The presence of different age groups (from 7 to 65) and the turnover of other volunteers will make the experience stimulating and not repetitive. A member of the cooperative will be the volunteer's tutor and will supervise practical activities, learning process and integration in the work team.

Practical arrangements for the volunteers

The volunteers will live at the Ecovillage in a private apartment where they will have individual bedrooms. The kitchen and bathroom facilities in the apartment are shared with other volunteers and / or residents. Each bedroom is fully furnished, and bed linen, blankets and towels are provided. Laundry facilities are available in the ecovillage. All meals will be prepared by the cooperative and available in the dining area at fixed times. All guest and residents also have access to a small library with open wifi, a large meeting room, a yoga room. About transportation, most Ecovillage residents have their own cars and regularly drive to and from the town of Ventimiglia for shopping or other errands, so lifts can easily be arranged.

Language support

EVS will have the possibility to access a free Italian language course offered by an Italian resident, a former school teacher with good experience in the field. In addition, personal support will be provided to the volunteers throughout their stay in Italy. A free wifi connection will enable the volunteer to follow the online language course offered by the EVS programme.

Daily schedule and time organisation

Our organisation works normally between 8.00 a.m to 10.00 p.m. Volunteers will work between these hours and will not exceed 35 hours a week. The volunteers are allowed 2 free days a week, in agreement with the tutor and according to the general work plan. The volunteers also have 2 extra free days per month, so in total they have an average of 10 free days in a month.

How to apply: Send your **CV** and **motivation letter** in English at esc@xena.it specifying in the object "Application for Torri Superiore".



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