

Call for participants: Utopic Urban Garden II

ESC Volunteering Team project in Rome



Are you interested in the topics of Urban Gardening? “Utopic Urban Garden II” is a Volunteering workcamp taking place in Rome from the 9th of October to the 24th October 2025

About the coordination Organization

[Servizio Civile Internazionale](#) (SCI Italia) is the Italian branch of [Service Civil International](#) network, an international voluntary movement that is present in more than 80 countries around the world.

It's been promoting international volunteering projects for 100 years on the themes of peace and disarmament, conscientious objection, human rights, and international solidarity, sustainable lifestyles, social inclusion and active citizenship.

It is based in Rome and it is supported by several regional and local groups of activists. The regional and the local groups support the work of the National Secretariat by dealing with training and the promotion of volunteering in various Italian regions.

La Città dell'Utopia

["La Città dell'Utopia"](#) (Utopia City) is a project of SCI Italy located in Rome (San Paolo neighborhood) inside the Casale Garibaldi, an old country house located on a green hill in the middle of modern buildings.

The project is an ongoing workshop on active citizenship and local development. There are different events, initiatives, courses and workshops organized around different main themes: interculturality, sustainable lifestyles, antifascism and active citizenship. In recent years, work has been done to **improve accessibility to the garden areas** to enhance the plant richness that surrounds the farmhouse and enjoy the green spaces.



About the project

Urban gardening is the practice of growing plants, fruits, and vegetables in urban areas. There are an immeasurable number of benefits when it comes to urban gardening: reducing food miles, promoting healthy eating, improving air quality, and providing green spaces for communities.

The garden of La Città dell'utopia is a wonderful green space in the middle of the urban context, which has meant for many people social co-planning for the protection and preservation of the medium environment. In this small green island in the city, communities of people active on social and political issues coexist with animal species that find refuge where, in the urban environment, they are much more subject to urban impact.

The garden was built thanks to the passion and commitment of local activists, enriching itself with a botanical collection of Mediterranean and exotic plants. Even now a group of activists takes care of it by continuing to add new plants.



This project is part of a process of participatory construction through voluntary work with the aim of improving the accessibility of the garden. In addition to local activists, more than 50 international volunteers participated in this evolution.

The next step is to continue maintaining the trails and building facilities for community activities. Furthermore, the study of the botanical species present in the garden will also be important. With the aim of making the garden usable, it also means describing it through the creation of labels and a map of the plants.

Activities

During the workcamp, the volunteers will have a workload of around 6 hours per day. The main activities will be:

- Continue the fixing of the paths and the terracings
- Build boxes with the reclaimed wood
- Organizing a public event open to all the neighborhood
- Create a map for the trees and plants of La Città dell'Utopia



Study Part

The study part will be dedicated to naturalistic research in the garden to begin to build a collection of observations useful for reflecting on the importance of green areas in the city. Furthermore, a map of the botanical species present will be built and labels will be installed in the garden to identify them along the path.

At “La Città dell'Utopia”, the volunteers will also have the chance to meet the group of volunteers who take care of the garden and the farmers of the Terra Terra project. It will be an opportunity to learn the history of the garden and other projects present in the Rome area.

Requirements

- Interest in gardening
- Group working skills
- Interest in organizing and creating events
- Artistic and manual skills
- Motivation for cooking and gardening
- Basic cooking skills
- Being under 30 years old.



Logistics, financial conditions, and sustainability

Simple life: You will be hosted in the hostel of "La Città dell' Utopia". You will share a room with other volunteers. You will also share the two bathrooms of the hostel. We provide sheets and blankets, but don't forget to bring your own towels!

Money, money, money: This project is founded by the European Solidarity Corps program. Therefore, we can cover all essential costs of the program (including food, travel costs up to a maximum amount per country, visa costs, accommodation, and pocket money). The travel is reimbursed after tickets and boarding passes submission.

Distance	Not green travel (plane, ferry)	Green travel (shared car, train, bus)
10 – 99 km	23 euro	23 euro
100 – 499 km	211 euro	285 euro

500 – 1999 km	309 euro	417 euro
2000 – 2999 km	395 euro	535 euro

The distance band is calculated according to the distance between Roma and your sending organization: check [here](#).

Important: arrival day is 9th of October, departure is 24th. It is important to attend all the activities from the arrival to the departure day. Any different travel has to be communicated to exchange@sci-italia.it

Sustainable food: The food we will cook will be vegan/vegetarian. This is not just a practical decision, but also an ideological one: SCI believes in the values of sustainability and climate justice – and if we want to contribute to a more peaceful planet, we need to give up on industrialized animal agriculture and its destructive effects on our planet. You can tell us if you have any diets, allergies, or intolerances that we should be aware of.

Sustainable travels: This is also why we ask you to come to this youth exchange by any more sustainable means of transport rather than flying (e.g. by train or bus), if somehow possible. We will guide you on how you can reach the venue once you are accepted to the project.

How to apply?

You can send your CV and Motivation Letter underlining why you want to volunteer to this project and what you could bring, until the 25th of September 2025 to exchange@sci-italia.it

We invite you to apply as soon as possible (all applications will be processed on arrival order).

For more information please contact: exchange@sci-italia.it