



**Call for participants:
ESC Volunteering Team project “Bologna’s Edge
Landscapes: Youth in Action”**

International Volunteering Team in Bologna (Italy)

ESC Volunteering Teams Project

“Bologna’s Edge Landscapes: Youth in Action”

Dates 13–28 July 2026

Apply by 19 May 2026, 2026 using this [google form](#)

Who are the organizations involved in this project?

Hosting Organization: Associazione Oltre...APS



Description of the organization

Oltre... Is a non-profit organization with the aim of fostering inclusive, participatory and eco-sustainable urban animation projects on the territory.

Oltre...Association runs two spaces in the city of Bologna: il B.U.C.O. since 2007 close to the center and cameredaria.net in the outskirts.



Camere d'Aria is a multipurpose space, active in Bologna since 1998, where artistic practices, ideas, and insights meet and take shape. We believe in co-creation and informality as gestures capable of transforming spaces into places of relationship and belonging.

Oltre... has since the beginning a "glocal approach": local projects with a wide network of partners are usually linked to projects on a european level.

Coordinating organization: Servizio Civile Internazionale

Servizio Civile Internazionale (SCI Italia) is the Italian branch of Service Civil International network (sci.ngo), 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. In the core, there is a real commitment to make a change against inequality, injustice, and violation of human rights.

SCI Italia, founded in 1948, is an NGO recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Advisory Member of UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

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 trainings and the promotion of volunteering in various Italian regions.

To know more...

- Web site: www.sci-italia.it
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sci.italy>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sciitalia>

About the project

Bologna is a vibrant city in northern Italy, well known for its historic center and large student population. Around it, the city slowly blends into other kinds of spaces: roads, green areas, neighborhoods and everyday places that are often passed by without much attention. These are what we call “monstrous landscapes” — spaces that feel mixed, unfinished or hard to define, but that tell important stories about how the city works and how people live in it.

This project invites participants to explore these areas together, combining urban walks with hands-on volunteering moments in local community spaces.

Participants will move beyond the old town, following the ugliest paths that lead out from the ancient city walls, beyond the railway belt, past the ring road, to walk through the contemporary city, crossing a variety of everyday environments, amongst shopping centers, old factories, rivers, railways and motorways.

The walks are a way to observe, notice details and exchange perspectives in an open and informal way. By entering these overlooked and in-between spaces, participants will be encouraged to look at them with curiosity and openness, filling their personal walking journal.



Along the way, the group will also connect with local spaces and realities through simple practical activities, getting a closer understanding of how these places function.

Let's work with these landscapes

“Monstrosity” and “Ugliness” can be used as a tool for understanding and activation.

Participants will collect impressions from the experience and rework them using creative tools like mapping, storytelling and practical collective activities.

This part of the project invites the group to engage with such unusual and changing landscapes, exploring how they can be seen, told and understood in different ways from diverse perspectives.

Towards shared socio-ecological futures

Starting from what has been seen and experienced, participants will reflect on how cities can become more inclusive and livable.

The project encourages looking at these “monstrous landscapes” not only as difficult or problematic spaces, but also as places full of potential, where new ideas and possibilities can emerge.

What is the European Solidarity Corps and the ESC Volunteering Teams?

The European Solidarity Corps is a programme that brings young people together to build a more inclusive society by supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop.

Through the European Solidarity Corps programme, you can choose to volunteer individually or in a group. “Bologna’s Edge Landscapes” is a group volunteering experience. As it is an ESC project, at the end of the project you will fill in and receive the official “Youthpass Certificate”. For more information about Youthpass, please visit: <https://www.youthpass.eu/en/>.

These are solidarity activities that allow groups of participants from at least two different countries to volunteer together full-time (30-38 hours) for a period of between 2 weeks and 2 months. The composition of the volunteer groups must be international, which means that at least a quarter of the volunteers with whom you will participate in the activity come from a country outside of Italy and that the group will be composed of a number of volunteers between 10 and 40 - in our case around 15.

What will be done?

The volunteer group during the ESC camp will be engaged in the following activities for approximately 6-7 hours per day:

- Urban walks
- Theoretical and methodological focus groups
- Personal field journal
- Collective mapping, collage and narration
- Landscape and public space interventions



Specific activities dedicated to the group are also planned, such as teambuilding and group knowledge activities, sharing expectations regarding the experience, training on the topic of intersectionality, a final evaluation and mentoring moment regarding the skills actually developed.

What we ask you

- be between 18 and 30 years old (31 not yet completed)
- Have an interest in socio-environmental justice
- be passionate about creative collective methods and urban walks
- Want to have a group experience
- Willingness to have a simple experience of activism and sharing with other people
- Adaptability, positivity and kindness!

What we offer you

This project is funded by the European Solidarity Corps programme.

Therefore, we can cover all the essential costs of the programme:

- Travel to and from your home up to a maximum amount per country. Please note: Travel is refunded after sending the tickets and boarding passes.
- Vegetarian food, ingredients, and basic cooking supplies will be provided (all costs covered), allowing volunteers to cook and prepare their own meals throughout the activity, from dinner on the day of arrival to breakfast on the day of departure.
- Basic accommodation in bedrooms with 5-6 beds with well as all organizational costs (training materials etc.), will be fully covered thanks to the co-financing by the European Union.
- Pocket money (pocket money): each volunteer will be given pocket money for the project, 6 euro per activity day.
- Youth Pass Certification: each participant at the end of the experience will have the opportunity to receive the Youth Pass for the certification of the skills acquired.

Economic conditions

Food and accommodation as well as all organizational costs (additional insurance, training materials, etc.), will be fully covered thanks to the co-financing by the European Union.

Reimbursement of the travel tickets (including visa and visa-related costs) will be 100% up to the maximum amounts after receiving the original documents. Maximum travel reimbursement will be according to the 2025 European Solidarity Corps.

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 determined according to the distance between Bologna and the departure city. For further details, check [here](#).

Important: arrival day is 13th of July and departure is 28th of July, there is not possibility to come earlier or remain after the end of the project. It is important to attend all the activities from the arrival to the departure day.

How to apply?

Fill out the [form](#) and send a motivation letter to ginevra.pierucci@gmail.com

We will get in touch with you! Then, once we have confirmed your participation (places are limited!) we need you to do some bureaucratic steps.