

2025 Semillistas ESC INFOPACK



Volunteering



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ESC REGENERATING THE FOREST



WE HAVE ESC VOLUNTEER VACANCIES!!!



DO YOU WANT TO HELP REGENERATE THE MEDITERRANEAN FOREST ?
Location: Orgiva, Alpujarra - Granada, Spain
When: From January 12 to March 13 - 2025
For people from 18 to 30 years old
Applications open till October 23

  www.semillistas.es
esc@semillistas.es 



Where: Las Alpujarras, Granada, Spain.

When: 59 day placement (plus 2 traveling days). January 12th to March 13th 2025. Short term placement .

What: Regenerating Sierra de Lujar - Mediterranean forest

Who: 12 motivated young people (18 to 30 years) who reside in program and partner countries. 4 of these places are available to volunteers on a national level (Spain) and 5 placements are reserved for people in vulnerable situations.

Unfortunately we cannot accept participants that need visa this year. We hope this will be possible in years to come.

Hosting Organisation: Asociación Semillistas



ABOUT SEMILLISTAS

Semillistas is a non-profit association working since 2018, located in the mountainous rural area of Granada – Las Alpujarras. The association's aim is eco-social regeneration with their main objectives being;

EARTH CARE: to stop desertification and climate change through reforestation and regeneration of lands eroded by fires, human action and climate change while using innovative techniques of direct sowing of native forest species.

PEOPLE CARE: holistic care and promotion of mental and physical health of the volunteers and the population.

COMMUNITY CARE: promote a participatory, empowered, cohesive and resilient society that take care of their environment.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT: sustainable development and repopulation of rural villages, creation of new economies, heritage conservation, cultural visibilization, maintenance and care of the land.

BIOTECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN OPEN SOURCE: development of reforestation techniques by direct sowing of seeds, using biotechnology of priming and pelleting. Publish research results openly for use by other organisations



We cover:

Daily meals;
Accommodation in a hostel in
Órgiva in shared rooms;
Pocket money (6€/day);
Health insurance;
Mentoring service;
Travel costs - green travelling

Volunteering hours - days:

30-38 hours each week
(includes training & study)
5 days each week
2 free days each week

Reforestation Activity: sowing seeds in the land, mapping Sierra Lujar, plants identification, visiting previous sowing areas & see survival, setting up fencing.

Manual Activity: building seed protectors, creating a map of Sierra Lujar.

Open Space Technologies: Each participant is welcome to share a talent, knowledge, workshop

Weekly Lecture/Workshop: Given by one of our collaborators/coordinators

Weekly organisational meeting: Discuss how the week has gone, redistribute communal responsibilities, shopping etc.

Basic schedule of the week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
On land reforestation activity	Manual activity	On land reforestation activity	Shopping market day	On land reforestation activity	DAY OFF	DAY OFF
Lunch						
Weekly organisation meeting	Weekly lecture/workshop	Mentoring sessions	Languaje study time shelfmanaged	Movement activity (Rio abierto?)		
Movement activity (Qigong?)		Movement activity Yoga	Open Space Technology			
Dinner						

Some of the activities depend on the weather and the rain prevision and other situations. So it could be that they need to be adjusted or reschedule.

ESC ACTIVITIES

Volunteers will be part of the ongoing investigation and establishment of regeneration through direct seed sowing. Volunteers will dedicate from 30 - 38 hours weekly to the project. These activities include:

- Reforestation activities 3 mornings a week: sowing seeds in the land, mapping Sierra Lujar, plants identification, visiting previous sowing areas & see survival, setting up fencing.
- Manual working activities for reforestation 1 morning a week: building seed protectors, creating a map of Sierra Lujar.
- Participation in lectures and workshops once a week about sustainable lifestyle, regeneration, permaculture, deep ecology, project design...etc. .
- There will be an emphasis on self (health) care practices 3 days a week in the afternoon: yoga, qi gong...etc. In addition, once a month each volunteer will receive a body-care treatment which they can personally choose from a list of professional practitioners around Orgiva.
- Each volunteer will have a mentor with which they may meet one afternoon a week to discuss the wellbeing, development and learning path.



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- Community care. Volunteers will be guided in co-living. This includes group meetings, organisation of the week, shared responsibilities such as cooking and cleaning, logistics, emotional circles, conflict management and participating in a sustainable lifestyle, learning how to minimise the impact on our environment. With rotations throughout the week, 3 different participants will be in charge everyday for cleaning and cooking and therefore will not participate in the communal activity that day.
- Language study. During the placement, the volunteers will have the opportunity to learn and practise Spanish as well as English. They will have time for self-managed language study through the EU Academy platform
- Activities with local community: once a month, there will be a reforestation activity held in collaboration with the local community. Also there will be organised activities to meet and share with local young people, at the High School and young centre.

The first week will focus on getting to know each other.

- Introductions of each volunteer and the coordinators
 - Where are you from, what brings you here, what is your experience, what expectations do you have, what would you like to take with you?
- Getting to know the area/ orientation
 - History of the place
 - Familiarising with Orgiva
 - Getting to know Sierra Lujar and planting areas.
- Getting to know the association.
 - Who is Semillistas?
 - How is the organisation held together?
- Introduction of our internal agreements and rules
 - Rotation of rota and internal responsibilities (Cooking/Cleaning)
 - Health and Safety
 - Shared spaces
- Application of the EU YouthPass
- Getting to know your mentors and the mentoring process

The last week will focus on closing and learning journeys



TRAINING DURING THE ACTIVITY

Knowledge in regenerating landscapes, skills in direct sowing techniques, community living precepts, cultural awareness, responsible consumption, ecology, permaculture, health, self care and body care, basic vegetarian cuisine.



MENTORING

- Participants will be accompanied throughout the process by a mentor. Mentoring sessions are there in order to guide each participant, it is a non-formal methodology through experiential learning which requires the participants involvement. Mentors bring experience, perspective, objectivity and distance into the mentoring relationship. They can offer a long term view for the organisation and the individual. They help the ESC participant reach their goals and aspirations and focus on the needs of each individual by:
- giving technical assistance and clarifying roles and responsibilities,
- identifying and analysing learning experiences, opportunities and gaps
- Encouraging analysis and reflection
- Structuring learning and work and confronting through questioning, listening and giving feedback
- Each participant will have the opportunity to meet with their mentor once a week to share their learning journey.

ACCOMODATION, TRANSPORT, FOOD, INSURANCE

These costs will be covered by the ESC.

ACCOMODATION

- Volunteers will be hosted in shared accommodation in the Albergue of Orgiva. The hostel is equipped with everything you need. It has a nice kitchen, beautiful bathrooms and spacious rooms, a living room and a dinning room. It is located close to the town centre.



FOOD

- All meals will be cooked by the volunteers on a rotational basis and will be vegetarian. Meals will be eaten together. The ingredients for the meals will be provided by the organisation or the money for the volunteers to buy as an organised group.

TRANSPORT

- to and from the Albergue to the activities sites will be with electric bicycles provided by the association, with the option to go by car (limited spots). These bikes will be only used during the ESC activities, there won't be available for free time.

HEATH INSURANCE

- in addition to the European Health Insurance Card (which is compulsory to have, if you meet the legal requirements to obtain it, and which must be requested before departure), during your stay as a volunteer, you will be covered by a complementary health insurance Henner, to cover any eventual needs that may occur..

TRAVELLING

- The ESC covers the travel costs to and from the country where you are going to carry out your voluntary activity. These costs are obtained on the basis of distance sections that are calculated using an official European Commission application and the final decision of the Spanish National Agency. We enter the details of the origin and destination and it gives us the maximum amount we will be able to spend for the outward and return journeys. It covers the costs from the time you leave home until you arrive in the ESC country (and vice versa) and it has a maximum amount. For this, the cheapest means of transport will be used.
- The conditions of purchase of the tickets, tickets, etc. and when and how they are to be reimbursed (transfer, cash, etc.) must be agreed with us in advance. And you must keep the supporting documents required (boarding passes, purchase invoices, etc.) in order to be reimbursed.



ORGIVA AND THE SURROUNDINGS



- Orgiva is the capital of Las Alpujarras, in the province of Granada. It is located on the south facing side of Sierra Nevada. In a fertile valley of the Guadalfeo River, it sits at 450 metres and has a milder climate than many other places in Las Alpujarras.
- It has around 5000 inhabitants, from more than 50 nationalities.
- It is linked by bus with Granada, Motril on the coast and the higher villages of Alpujarras.
- The municipality of Orgiva holds many smaller villages surrounding it, the town itself is a commercial town that supplies the whole region with basic necessities. The town mixes modern features together with ancient characteristics and culture from the area. It is a unique and diverse space that attracts many people looking for an alternative lifestyle, and offers a wide range of activities related to health, dance, arts, etc... in English and Spanish.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

- Basic level of English and Spanish desirable
- Physically motivated - as the activities require strength and stamina to be up in the mountains on steep slopes and overgrown (prickly) areas.
- Motivation and Interest- in the topics of regeneration, eco-sustainability, environment, healthy lifestyle, personal development, interculturalism, community life.
- Disposition to dialogue- among the participants, with organisations, with the mentors, with the rural area and with the host community
- Commitment to participate in all activities (training, reforestation, meetings, movement/yoga activities, mentoring, etc.) from the beginning to the end of the ESC
- Flexibility, sometimes plans could need to change due to weather (rain or lack of it) or other contingencies. Flexibility or the willingness to cultivate it is important to be able to adapt the situations and don't get frustrated.
- Team work- willingness to participate in group dynamics for team cohesion and personal growth.



APPLICATIONS AND TIMELINES



- For more information about the project visit: www.semillistas.es,
- If you feel the call, we encourage you to read carefully all the detailed information of the project on our website.
- Please note, that by participating in this ESC you are still compatible to apply for a long term ESC placement, up to 10 months.
- You can sign up to this placement by filling out our inscription form below: <https://forms.gle/1DQeGpvJS23iZXJ98>
- Closing applications on October 23rd 2024
- Around 28 October we will shortlist the applications received and notify the shortlisted applicants by email, convening them for an online selection interview in early November 2024. Please check your spam folder to make sure in case you receive an email.
- Those who are not shortlisted will not be notified, as we receive hundreds of applications and cannot respond to all of them, we hope you understand.
- Notifications of selected participants from November 12 to 15.
- If you are selected you must have a support Organisation that will be providing all the help, preparation and documents to make possible your participation. Without it, we can't accept you. If you don't have a support organisation from your country we will try to help you to find one.