

Background and Experience

Tempo Libero is a social cooperative founded in 1987 and active in the province of Brescia in the framework of educational services, social welfare and job placements.

We work mainly with young people and people with fewer opportunities (immigrants, disadvantaged people, families in difficult socio-economical situation, people with disability, minors).

In particular we manage:

- Nursing schools and pre-primary schools;
- Supporting services for students with disabilities;
- Home care services for children;
- Youth centers and summer recreational centers;
- Youth information centers;
- Guidance and training activities;
- Educational projects aimed at supporting the autonomy of families;
- Intercultural activities and integration for immigrants;
- Community projects;
- International mobility projects for young people;
- Tickets-collector services at theaters and at a cinema in Brescia;
- "Ostello Antica Pieve" (<http://www.gardalakehostel.com/en>), a Youth Hostel in Manerba del Garda (<http://www.manerbaservizituristici.it/EN/index.asp>), on the Lake of Garda.

Tempo Libero has been working in the framework of international mobility since 1997. After having managed for many years projects aimed at sending young Italians under "Leonardo da Vinci" and "Youth in Action" programmes, since 2009 it has extended its range of actions to the following activities:

- Hosting of European trainees (with special attention to young people with fewer opportunities): today it represents the main service of our international mobility department: for this reason we have dedicated to it a specific focus below;
- The exchange of good practices and innovative projects carried out under the previous action "Transfer of Innovation" (LLP-LDV) and the new KA2 (Erasmus+): in particular, over the past four years, Tempo Libero has participated in an experimental project on the implementation of ECVET in the framework of social and health professions, and it has given an added value to the creation of a device for the recognition of soft skills based on a serious game translated into 5 languages (Skillpass);
- Specialist training in various professional fields, organised at training centres and local companies and addressed to:
 - students of vocational training centres and schools, school leavers and graduates, young people in the process of re-orientation;
 - professionals of formal, non-formal and informal education: in this case, the training also provides the participants with tools, methodologies and innovative learning and it can be carried on the job as well, in local companies.

Project context

Brescia is a city in the region of Lombardy in northern Italy. It is located at the foot of the Alps, a few kilometers from the lakes Garda and Iseo. With a population of 196.120 inhabitants, it is the second largest city in the region and the fourth of northwest Italy. The urban area of Brescia extends beyond the administrative city limits and has a population of 672.822 inhabitants, while over 1.5 million people live in its metropolitan area. The city is the administrative capital of the Province of Brescia, one of the largest in Italy, with over 1.200,000 inhabitants.

Brescia is considered the industrial capital of Italy. The metallurgy and the production of machine tools and firearms are of particular economic significance, along with mechanical and automotive engineering.

Nicknamed the Leonessa d'Italia ("Lioness of Italy"), Brescia is the homeland of Italian caviar, and is known for being the original production area of the Franciacorta wine and for the prestigious Mille Miglia car race that starts and ends in this city.

Brescia has two universities. The University of Brescia is a public university founded in 1982 and ranked among the top 700 universities worldwide. It is divided into 4 faculties: Economics, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Surgery.

The Catholic University of Brescia, founded in 1968, is a satellite campus of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. It is divided into 6 faculties: Literature and Philosophy; Psychology; Education; Language Sciences and Foreign Literature; Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences; Political and Social Sciences.

The city is at the centre of the third largest Italian industrial area.[48] The local Confindustria, the AIB – Associazione Industriale Bresciana (Industrial Association of Brescia), was the first industry association founded in Italy in 1897. The Brescian companies are typically a small or medium-sized, often family-run, ranging from the food to the engineering industry.

Brescia is one of the cities with the highest rate of immigration in Lombardy: people come from over 150 countries of origin, including Pakistan, Romania, Moldova, Ucraina, Albania, India, Cina, Egitto and Filippine.

The significant historical and artistic heritage of Brescia (since 2011 in the UNESCO World Heritage list) and the natural beauties of its surrounding area (like the Lake Garda, the Val Camonica and the Lake Iseo) have allowed the city to attract an increasing number of visitors. In 10 years, the number of tourists who visited Brescia has almost doubled from 142.556 in 2003 to over 280.000 in 2013.

Additionally, Brescia is close to important tourist destinations (Milan can be directly reached in 45 minutes by train, Venice and Florence in about 2 hours) and is one of the cheapest cities in Italy in terms of hotel stays. For these reasons, tourists often use Brescia as a base to explore the surrounding places. In Brescia there is a metro and the local transports system is quite efficient.

Proposed activities

Volunteers can be involved in the following services:

- Youth centres

Tempo Libero manages 3 youth centres located in the province of Brescia (Gardone Val Trompia, Sarezzo and Rezzato).

Volunteers can assist the educators and youth workers in the following tasks:

Participation in the weekly equipe aimed at designing, assessing and evaluating the activities;

According to the non-formal competences of the volunteers, they can support the staff in the organisation of courses (for example guitar courses) where the Italian language knowledge is not essential. Each kind of language, coherent with educational goals, can become an entertainment activity;

Support to homework activities;

Organization and participation in workshops.

At our Youth centres volunteers can acquire the following competences: communication in the mother tongue, communication in foreign languages, digital competence, learning to learn, social and civic competence, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

Volunteers can be involved at youth centres every afternoon from Monday to Friday.

- Pre-primary schools (kindergartens) and nursery schools

From September to June Tempo Libero manages pre-primary schools in Nuvolera, Prevalle and Ospitaletto and school nurseries in Ospitaletto, Capriano, Collebeato and Prevalle (all the towns are located in the province of Brescia).

Volunteers can assist the staff (teachers and educators) in the following tasks:

Supporting educational and teaching staff: all volunteers can support the teachers during the daily activities, both general and specific: workshops, projects, specific educational pathways;

Supporting the implementation of specific activities in a foreign language: the volunteers could support the implementation of specific playful routes (readings, motion games, music tracks, etc.) in their own language or other languages;

Supporting the implementation of early learning pathways in English language: in our pre-primary school of Nuvolera we are implementing activities aimed at allowing children to learn language, habits and traditions of other countries.

Volunteers can develop non-formal competences such as communication in mother tongue, communication in foreign languages, digital competences, learning to learn, social and civic competences, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

Our kindergartens are open every day from Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 17.00.

- Youth Information Centres

Tempo Libero manages the Youth Information Centres of Brescia and Ospitaletto, aimed at providing young people with information on leisure activities, job opportunities, courses and international mobility.

Volunteers can support the staff (educators and operators) in the following tasks:

Support to the management of the website www.breciagiovani.org and social media. Volunteers can develop digital and social competences;

Twice a week, support to the organisation of "Aperitivi in lingua" (happy hour activities using foreign languages), where the volunteers could develop communication and relational skills and be involved in role playing activities;

Workshops in schools and at Youth Information Centre on Erasmus+ supporting Caterina Betti, an expert on European granted projects who has been working at Tempo Libero since 1997. Thanks to these activities volunteers will have the opportunity to inform other young people about their EVS experiences.

At our Youth Information Centres volunteers can acquire the following competences: communication in foreign languages, digital competence, learning to learn, social and civic competence, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

Our centre is open on Monday from 10.00 to 13.00, on Tuesday from 15.00 to 19.00, on Wednesday from 15.00 to 19.00, on Thursday from 17.00 to 21.00 and on Friday from 15.00 to 19.00.

- International mobility department

Since 2009 Tempo Libero act as an intermediary organisation in the framework of Erasmus+ Key Action 1 VET (Vocational Educational Training). We host European participants willing to carry out an internship in companies located in Brescia.

Volunteers can support our staff (educators and youth workers) in the following tasks:

- Activities of socialization aimed at promoting their integration in our local community;
- Activities of promotion of Erasmus+;
- Welcoming them at their arrival and meeting them during welcoming sessions (sessions aimed at providing the participants with all the information about their accommodation, their internship, etc.), evaluation and final meetings.

At our International mobility department volunteers can acquire the following competences: communication in foreign languages, learning to learn, social and civic competence, cultural awareness and expression.

Our cooperative is open from Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 17.00.

- Support to young people with disabilities in local schools

Volunteers may support our youth workers during activities with young people with disabilities.

Support

Volunteers can be hosted in single or double rooms in our self-catering apartments located in the city centre of Brescia. They will have the opportunity to share the accommodation with Erasmus+ VET participants.

All the apartments are equipped with a kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, living room and WI-FI.

Volunteers will be able to have their meals at our apartments: we will provide them with a weekly pocket money so that they can buy their food.

With regards to local transportation, we will provide the participants with a bus card whenever they have to take public transports in order to reach their volunteering place.

Upon their arrival, the volunteers will be involved in a welcoming session, allowing them to know each other's, the environment, the staff and the guests of the hosting organisation.

It will be a precious opportunity to clarify and to share every details and potential doubts about the project.

The staff of Tempo Libero and a technical supervisor will be daily available to support the volunteers during their activities, while the mentor will take care of personal issues, linguistic support, social integration, recognition of non-formal skills acquired during the project.

We will organise monitoring meetings involving all the volunteers currently hosted by us and other hosting organisations. Since the middle of the project, Youthpass will be used as a crucial instrument aimed at recognise the in-progress acquisition of non-formal competences and to make the volunteers aware of their learning outcomes (especially in terms of social inclusion and social cohesion, European awareness, intercultural learning).

The Training Cycle organised by the National Agency will be a key moment for volunteers' monitoring and non-formal competences evaluation.

There will be 2 crucial moments organised by us: a mid term evaluation and a final evaluation. Both the meetings will take place at our premises and will involve the volunteers both individually and in groups.

Also the Final Report to be filled in by the volunteers will be used as an in-progress instrument to evaluate their experience.