

ESC VOLUNTEERING



ARUBA





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Introduction

GENERAL INFORMATION

European Solidarity Corps



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

The project you'll be part of is funded by the European Solidarity Corps (ESC), a program with a meaningful objective: to make the world a brighter place by bringing together young people to tackle big issues and support vulnerable communities. With ESC, you'll gain the skills and confidence to make an impact and learn about inclusivity in a way that's both inspiring and uplifting.

The ESC program covers flights, accommodation, food allowance, pocket money, public transport, health insurance, and (online) language lessons. Volunteers work an average of 35 hours per week, with weekends off and 2 vacation days per month. Time is also reserved for mentoring, youth pass, and language lessons.

Project Goals

Our ultimate goal with this project is to create a space where everyone can learn from one another, respect diverse values, and bridge possible divides that may exist. By joining together across international borders, we're confident that volunteering will help create deeper connections and more empathetic and inclusive adults.



Introduction

MEET THE 'EU PROJECTS' TEAM

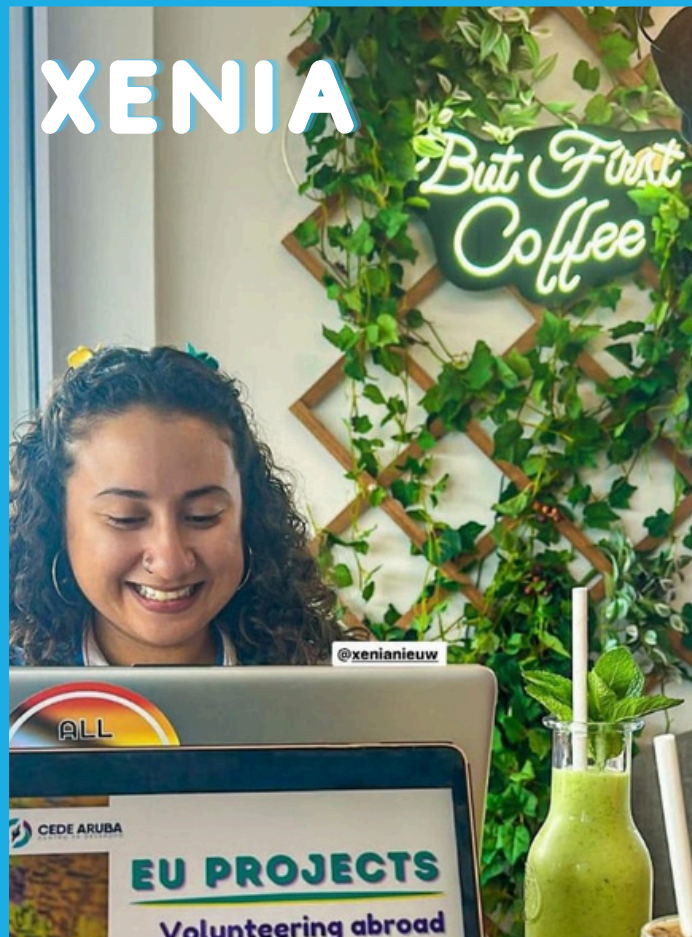
Bon bini!

We are Yolanda and Xenia, and together, we manage the EU Projects Department of CEDE Aruba.

Your contact person before and during the project will be Xenia. She coordinates and manages all ESC volunteers.



YOLANDA



XENIA

CEDE Aruba is a non-profit organization that has different initiatives, and also guides and supports other non-profits on the island with the implementation and funding of their own projects.

You can read some more about CEDE Aruba on our [website](#).

What Are You Going To Do?

CEDE ARUBA

EU Projects Aruba

Your main responsibility will be promoting the ESC and Erasmus+ programs in the local community either as a Promotions volunteer or a Content Creator volunteer. You will be able to plan activities, presentations, and events as the Promotions volunteer, and you will be creating and sharing content on social media platforms as the Content Creator volunteer.



ArubaDoet

Your main responsibility will be assisting in the implementation of a 2 day island-wide volunteering action. You'll be providing support to organizations with projects via phone, email, and in person. Also, you'll be making adjustments to the ArubaDoet website, assisting with marketing on Facebook and Instagram, participating in promotional events, such as being a mascot. Lastly, you will also be involved with documentation after the event (computer/office work).



What Are You Going To Do?

COMMUNITY CENTERS & ARUBA VOLUNTEERS

Community Centers

As a volunteer at one of Aruba's community centers, you'll be able to help schoolchildren with their homework, organize activities for kids and youth in the areas of sports, music, and arts & crafts. You'll be working closely with teachers and other volunteers, receiving on-the-job training, while also having the space and support to create and implement your own ideas.



Aruba Volunteers

All volunteers coming to Aruba will have 1 day out of the week where they can choose another volunteering activity to participate in! It can be something completely different to what your main responsibility is as a volunteer. We do this so you can easily immerse yourself in the local community and expand your social network in different areas! Check out the [Aruba Volunteers website](#) for an idea of what you can expect.



What Are You Going To Do?

WORK DAYS



- Volunteers may work between 32-38 hours per week. Usually working days will be 9am - 5pm, with a 1 hour break in between (average of 35 hours a week). Once you arrive, you and your supervisor will agree on a specific schedule.
- 1 day a week you will be able to volunteer at another organization for the day through the [Aruba Volunteers website](#).
- If a project requires to work other hours or more hours in a day, the average of 35 hours per week will be respected.
- In general the weekends will be off. If the project incidentally requires otherwise, you will get 2 other consecutive days off.
- You are entitled to 2 vacation days per month. These can be taken in accordance with your supervisor and coordinator. Please discuss this well in advance so we can adjust the schedule.
- About 1 hour per week is reserved for mentoring and youth pass reflection. You can decide with your supervisor when this will be.
- 2 hours per week will be reserved for language lessons, either with a teacher or self study on the [Online Language Support Platform](#).

Aruba has the following National Holidays:

- January: 1 is New Year's Day
- January: 25 is Betico Croes Day
- February: Carnival Monday (varies)
- March: 18 is Aruba's National Flag & Anthem Day
- April: Easter Sunday and Monday (varies)
- April: 27 is King's Day
- May: 1 is Labor Day and Ascension Day (varies)
- December: 25 and 26 are Christmas

National Holidays are counted as extra days off and are not deducted from the vacation days you are entitled to. It might be that you are expected to work on a National Holiday, please check in advance. If you are asked to work on a National Holiday, then you may use the extra free day later in your volunteering period.



Accommodation

Here's some general info about volunteer accommodation:

- Volunteers will be housed in a central location that may vary depending on the project.
- Depending on the situation, bedrooms may be shared between a maximum of two volunteers.
- Spaces like kitchens, bathrooms, and living areas will be shared with all volunteers in the accommodation.
- We'll do our best to provide housing that is within walking or biking distance of the office.
- The accommodation has all the essentials for sleeping, showering, and cooking, including Wi-Fi.
- The accommodation provides clean sheets, towels, and basic cooking supplies.
- It is possible to rent a car or jeep, for example for a day tour. This is NOT included in the budget for the project. If desired, we can provide suggestions for rentals.



Accommodation

Kitchen Tips

The temperatures here are a bit higher than most parts of the world. This means that there should be more in the fridge. Pasta and canned food, for example, you can keep outside the fridge. But things like bread would be more convenient to put in the fridge, unless you're planning to eat it within a day or two.



Cleaning

It's really important to clean well, otherwise you may get a lot of flies. You may also get cockroaches, mice, or ants.

Don't leave dirty plates on the counter for too long. Don't leave perishables too long outside. Clean right away if you spill something that may attract insects.

Budget

& PAYMENT



AWG is the official Aruban currency - Aruban "florin" or "guilder". It's usually shortened to "AWG", "afl.", or simply "fl."

One florin is worth about 0.50 euros. Euros are **not** accepted in Aruba. One florin is worth about 0.56 dollars. US dollars \$ are accepted everywhere in Aruba.

Almost all shops accept your foreign bank card for payment. For places that only accept cash as payment or for when you want to tip at restaurants, you can take some cash from an ATM machine. (just check with your bank first for if it charges a fee for withdrawing money)

Important to note is that Aruba is EXPENSIVE! Since the majority of things are imported, fresh fruits, vegetables, and generally food is expensive. Budgeting is very important when it comes to living in Aruba (especially if you want to go out or join in different activities). It's always recommended saving up some money of your own (if possible) in order to have more options when you want to go out or participate in certain activities. In the end, you are responsible for budgeting your expenses in a smart way!

Food, Transport & Pocket Money Details

Allowance

AWG/AFL 30 PER DAY



Practical Information About Aruba

- For some general information about Aruba, you can find it [here](#). Aruba has a year round temperature of between 28-34 degrees Celsius. Lately, it has been increasing. Please be prepared for the heat and the sun! Remember: UV index in Europe is maximum around 7, Aruba always has 10 or higher.
- A note from Laura, one of our previous volunteers:
I just want to mention the heat in Aruba. The first days the heat was almost unbearable to me (and the other volunteers I was with), but you'll get used to it. It seems impossible at first, but after a few weeks the heat wasn't a problem anymore and I even woke up cold sometimes (without AC) 😊.
- Aruba operates on a 110V supply voltage and 60Hz (Type A and type B plugs). Charging your mobile items such as your phone and laptop will work using an adapter. Things like hairdryers and electric shavers **won't** work here, even with the adapter.
- For emergencies, we provide local SIM cards for volunteers to be able to call. You can use this also for mobile internet, but as Wi-Fi will be provided in your apartment and at the job, data will not be covered by the project budget. Roaming is not recommended. A minute-long call could cost you a lot!



Practical Information About Aruba

Getting Around in Aruba

Aruba is extremely car-centered. Even though it's such a small island, because of the heat among other reasons, almost everyone has a car. Rush hours like in the morning or at noon, traffic jams are extremely common. Locals rarely walk or use public transportation.

Walking

It doesn't look appealing to walk on Aruba, but it's definitely not as bad as it looks. Of course, you need to be really careful while crossing a street, because some people drive like crazy, but a lot of cars stop for you (if they notice you). **That being said, please wait for cars to stop for you before crossing the street!** Yes, even if there are the white crossing lines.

Besides the traffic, there's also the heat and the stray dogs to consider. If you're prepared for a hot walk, it's manageable. Avoid long distances in the sun around noon. Most stray dogs don't really do anything except bark at you. If you just ignore them, they'll go away eventually. Sometimes, people passing by in cars honk, whistle, or cat-call when walking along the roads. It's not nice, but unfortunately it is not frowned upon in the "macho-culture" some locals grow up with.

Biking

There's only one real bike lane on the island, otherwise if you choose to bike, you will have to do so on the street. Most cars show a lot of respect towards bikers and will watch out for you. Of course, you need to be careful around big roundabouts or during rush hour, but Aruba isn't a big island, so you can reach a lot of places by bike. Same warnings go for the heat and stray dogs as mentioned when walking.

Public Transportation

Although not the most used, there are still quite some locals and tourists who use public transportation. The buses aren't always on time, but they'll arrive eventually and are comfortable. They have air conditioning and go to almost every part of the west coast of Aruba. Information about bus schedules and routes [here](#).

GROCERIES

Groceries are a bit of a challenge without a car. There're a lot of different supermarkets and they all have their pros and cons. Here's a little overview of a few favorites and some tips.

SUPER FOOD

Biggest supermarket on the island, the only one with fresh good bread, offers a lot, pretty cheap, far away but has delivery. Has a website.



LING & SONS

European/American supermarket. Has almost everything, but offers less than Superfood. More expensive than Superfood. Has a website.



C MART

American and Colombian brands, really good fresh fruits and vegetables. The café in C-Mart is good and cheap.



HAPPY TO GO

A bit expensive since it's in the center, but good for small snacks and such. Close to CEDE Aruba & EU Projects office



SAVE MORE

Really cheap one, perfect for frozen vegetables and fruit, also good for cheap snacks

GOOD TO KNOW:

At the smaller markets, they use a kind of food preservation spray. The spray tends to stick to the fresh food like bread, fruits, and veggies. It leaves a kind of aftertaste that some people might not like.

ACTIVITIES IN ARUBA

Beaches

Aruba is of course known for its beaches and not without reason.

- Eagle Beach
Considered to be the best beach on the island (and one of the best in the world). A really long and quiet beach with palapa's.
- Boca Catalina & Tres Trapi
Perfect for snorkeling and seeing turtles.
- Mangel Halto
A long (not so sandy) beach close to the mangroves
- Arashi beach
up north. Smaller beach with a nice beach bar. You can walk to Boca Catalina from here
- Baby beach
shallow beach in the south, very busy
- Divi beach
perfect for sunsets, calm beach, bit touristic



Shopping

It's difficult to find good clothes in Aruba. There are some really expensive brands for tourists (Louis Vuitton, Gucci), but besides those, most clothes are made of really bad plastic material. There's a Mango and a Zara in Oranjestad, but both are (again) really expensive.



ACTIVITIES IN ARUBA

Some things to do in Oranjestad



- Ride on the tram
- Museum of archeology
- Cinema
- Cas di Cultura events & activities
- Surfside beach
- Renaissance Marketplace
- Café Chaos

Nature

Quite dry and desert-like. A lot of dust and wind. It doesn't rain here much, so you will see a lot of cacti and aloe vera plants. There are insects like mosquitos and flies. Some interesting places to visit:

- Casibari rock formations
- Hooiberg
- Bushiribana ruins
- Natural pool



Worthy mentions

- Hiking in Parke Nacional Arikok
- Dancing at Moomba Beach Bar
- Aruba aloe factory museum and store
- California Lighthouse
- Alto Vista Chapel
- San Nicolaas Murals
- The Donkey Sanctuary

RESTAURANTS

There are a lot of really nice restaurants on Aruba and in Oranjestad. It's advised to discover the best places yourself, but we'll mention some cheap options :)

Los Cafeteros	Colombian restaurant with great food and prices
Indo	Xenia's favorite Indonesian/Surinamese place!
Urataka Center	Cheap but good pizza
Papia Mia	Friday Dollar to Florin for locals, try your luck with some Papiamento!

LAURA'S FAVORITES

DUSHI DELICIOUS ARUBA

"ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES IN ORANJESTAD WAS THE LUNCHROOM DUSHI DELICIOUS ARUBA. IT'S A BIT MORE ON THE PRICIER SIDE, BUT THE FOOD IS AMAZING. THEY'VE THE BEST CROISSANTS AND SMOOTHIE BOWLS. THE STAFF IS YOUNGER THAN NORMALLY IN ORANJESTAD AND THE VIBE IS VERY WELCOMING"

ZEEROVERS

ZEEROVERS IS A LOCAL BAR AND RESTAURANT SITUATED ON THE WATERFRONT IN THE FISHERMEN'S TOWN OF SAVANETA. IT'S FOCUSED ON SEA FOOD AND REALLY FAMOUS FOR IT.





Best places TO GO OUT



The best places are in the hotel area, but there are a few good ones in Oranjestad too.

Check out “best happy hours” on Google, you’ll find a few more options, and the best times to go. Aside from these, there are of course many local bars. They are known for their juke boxes where you pay with coins (florin) to put songs. You can ask Xenia for suggestions, but make sure you’re ready for that experience lol

Kalibra

Hotel area. Plays different types of music, from house to reggaeton and Latin music.

Moomba

An amazing beach bar in the hotel area. They have a lot of themed parties and every Sunday is Moomba day!

Café Chaos

A café in Oranjestad where there’s often live music. Mostly locals in their 30s go here.

Gusto

A club in the hotel area close by Fat Tuesday. Really European club with pop music. Pretty expensive.

Zaperoco

A Latin/Aruban bar with lots of dancing. There's Latin music and there're only local people, no tourists at all.

Miami The Club

A club in Oranjestad, sometimes a bit empty or touristic, but on party/event days it's better. Expect to pay for entry.

The Venue

Party place in Oranjestad not open on weekly or daily basis, but when they have parties it's huge and a lot of times even sold out.

The Olde Molen

Night club in the hotel area known as the after-party place. It gets busy after 1am/2am, earlier it's mostly empty.

Hadicurari

At this beach a lot of surfers and other watersporters party.



DANCING

- Volunteer or join (social) lessons at the popcorn club. They dance different styles and the group is mostly young people.
- Pay for dance classes at Aruba Salsa. They offer a lot of different styles and the lessons are very professional.

SPORTS

- Join the beach tennis club
- Go to the water sports center

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Another way to meet people is to contact other volunteering organizations. You can check the Aruba Volunteers platform as mentioned before. There's also a volunteering organization on the island called Everything Is Possible. Reaching out to them and meeting up with the volunteers can help a lot to make friends.

INTEGRATING IN THE COMMUNITY

MAKING FRIENDS

It is not always easy to find connections and make new friends on Aruba. The community is really inwardly focused and tourists stay only for a few days. CEDE Aruba is not a youth organization, so we'll provide you with a few contacts of other local organizations and/or local people. It is ultimately up to YOU to make these connections.

The best way to meet people is to join clubs/activities. Some volunteers got out of their comfort zone and started conversations with random people, and that way made new friends.

ART ACTIVITIES

- Join workshops at Atelier 89
- Go to events at Cas di Cultura or join lessons from one of their partners

ANIMALS

- The donkey sanctuary (you need transportation for this as it's a bit far)
- Local animal shelters (Luna Foundation, Nine Lives, etc.)



TE ORO!
 SEE YOU SOON
 IN
ARUBA

