



VOLUNTEER INFO SHEET

Dear volunteer,

Thanks for your interest in volunteering at Suncokret Center for Community Development in Vrginmost (Gvozd). Here is some information to assist you in your travels.

About Suncokret Center for Community Development

Suncokret - Center for Community Development is a Croatian non-governmental, non-profit organization founded as a response to the psychosocial needs of the community in the post war period. Suncokret-CCD conducts many activities to provide opportunities for children and youth and to improve the quality of life for all, but especially for deprived members of the society. We aim to promote community rebuilding and support development of a sustainable democratic civil society

The mission of Suncokret Centre for Community Development is to encourage community development and increase social inclusion. We provide access to educational opportunities, promote volunteerism and increase access to information. Community development is also encouraged through civic engagement that promotes democracy building and sustainability through learning, education and information sharing through the activities offered. In addition, the activities are intended to facilitate reintegration of people of different ethnic groups, Croat settlers/refugees and Serb returnees, in an economically deprived rural area through educative, skill building, and community building activities. We work to provide educational, recreational activities in an area where these activities otherwise would not be readily available and increase social inclusion of marginalized returnees, refugees and internally displaced.

Vrginmost (Gvozd) is a very small town, in a postwar area that with few opportunities for youth. The town has 1 restaurant, 3 café's, 1 department store and 3 smaller shops, 1 school, football and basketball courts, one playground/park, and a small lake and river and the Suncokret center. It is located in a beautiful forested area and stunning nature.

Contact Info

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Activities

The volunteer experience is intended to serve as a way to motivate and include youth and children as well as the adults of the community centre activities, increase access to education and information and improve the quality of life of the local community. Inviting volunteers to Vrginmost is a way to expose the children and youth to different cultures and

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introduce them to the values of volunteerism and altruism. The volunteer experience is also intends to encourage activism and active participation youth, children and adults in the local community.

Suncokret- CCD is the place where youth and children hangout, spend time and participate in educational and recreational activities. We hope that you will be able to help us run various activities for the children and youth (dance class, art/craft workshops, music, theater, games or other skills you can share with us, etc).

Bring something from your home country (posters, post cards, travel brochures, photos, music CDs, instrument, recipe etc.) so that you can share your culture with children and youth who do not have the opportunity to travel and learn to know other cultures. If you know any good songs, dances, games or other activities we would love for you to share it with the kids. In case you have old computer games or programs that you no longer use please feel free to donate them to Suncokret's computer center (the kids will love it). Also, if you have any old board games, games, deck of cards etc. please feel free to bring those along as well. If you have any ideas for activities you want to do with the kids and youth please bring necessary materials or let us know beforehand so that I can purchase necessary materials in one of the bigger towns around here.

Directions

To get to Vrginmost (Gvozd) from Zagreb you need to take a bus from the main bus station in Zagreb.

How to get to the main bus station in Zagreb:

If you arrive by plane: from the Zagreb airport to the bus station: a Croatian airlines shuttle bus runs every 30 minutes between the Zagreb airport and the bus station and costs about 5 Euros.

<http://www.plesoprijevoz.hr/about.htm>

<http://www.zagreb-airport.hr/en/passengers/to-from-the-airport/by-airport-shuttle/89>

If you arrive by train: If you arrive at the **railway station** you take the number 6 tram to the bus station, which is about a 10 minute ride. You can buy the tram ticket at the kiosk/news paper stand and the ticket costs 70 cents. When you exit the **railway station** do not cross the street, take the tram on the same side as the railway station. There are 4 stops between the train station and the bus station. If you lose track of the tram stops simply exit at the first stop after the tram turns right, the tram stops right in front of the main bus station.

If you arrive by bus: Good news, you are already at the main bus station. When you get to the **main bus station** in Zagreb ask for a ticket to Karlovac. The trip from Zagreb to Karlovac takes about 50 minutes. The bus from Zagreb to Karlovac departs every 30 minutes throughout the day during weekdays. Bus station web <http://www.akz.hr/EN/voznired.aspx>

To get to Vrginmost (Gvozd) from Zagreb you need to take a bus from the main bus station in Zagreb. The bus shuttle arrives downstairs, the ticket offices are upstairs.

When you get to the bus station in Zagreb ask for a ticket to Karlovac. The trip from Zagreb to Karlovac takes about 45-50 minutes. The bus from Zagreb to Karlovac departs every 30 minutes throughout the day during weekdays. <http://www.akz.hr/EN/voznired.aspx>

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When you arrive in Karlovac ask for a ticket to Vrginmost/Gvozd. If the ticket office is closed you can buy the ticket on the bus from Karlovac. The bus usually leaves from either platform 11 or 12 (near cafe Albatros). Look for the bus that has a sign in the window for Karlovac- Topusko. The trip from Karlovac to Vrginmost/Gvozd is about 50-55 minutes and you can ask the driver to let you off in Vrginmost/Gvozd or look out for the road signs (Vrginmost).

****Bus Schedule from Karlovac to Vrginmost (Gvozd)**

KARLOVAC-Vrginmost/**GVOZD**-TOPUSKO: 06.15; 10.15; 12.25; 14.30; 19.30

TOPUSKO-Vrginmost/**GVOZD**-- KARLOVAC : 04.20; 06.15; 08.30; 12.30; 14.20

For more information about Zagreb: The website for the Croatian Tourist Information Centre is: www.zagreb-touristinfo.hr

While in Zagreb if you don't want to take public transport the cheapest taxi service is Cammeo taxi. Their phone number is 060 7100, <http://www.taxi-cammeo.net/> . Taxis also have taxi stops in front of the main bus station and train station etc. Cammeo taxi in Zagreb charges a flat rate for trips within the city centre. It will cost more for greater distances or between Zagreb and the airport or between cities.

Money

ESC volunteers will get a food allowance and a pocket money allowance. ESC volunteer must have a valid EU travel and health insurance and EHIC insurance. There is an ATM in Vrginmost but no bank. Since January 1, 2023 we use the Euro in Croatia.

Please inform your bank that you will be traveling so that they do not block your ATM or credit card while you are traveling.

Clothing

For spring bring layers of clothing as the weather changes. Bring rainwear and good shoes. **For summer**, bring light clothing (shorts, t-shirts, sneakers, comfortable sandals and sneakers) and layers because summers are warm here but evenings may be cold. Also bring an umbrella or raincoat just in case. Evenings are cool so bring something warmer such as a pair of jeans and a sweater. Bring sunscreen, mosquito repellent, and sun hat.

For autumn and winter, bring many layers as winters here gets very cold. Bring clothes you can wear in layers. Bring gloves, winter coat and solid winter shoes/boots.

Bring clothes that you are not worried about because we may do community work outdoors but also activities with kids. Bring swimsuit/trunks and sports clothes because you may wish to go to neighboring Topusko thermal baths. **Also, please bring your own medications and first aid kit, and towel. Please also bring a flashlight. Please also bring a flashlight, and reflective safety gear (pendant, arm or wristband, vest, or reflective shoe laces) and your own water bottle.**

Accommodations

We have one small house and a new big house where we accommodate volunteers. We can provide 30+ sleeping spaces which are mixed gender dorm style with bunk beds. In addition, we are environmentally conscious and there will be several solar heated showers, several composting sawdust toilets and a composting bin for composting waste and food

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scraps. The houses are located walking distance from the town centre and are located in a nice forested area. There are vegetable gardens, orchard and flowerbeds around the house.

Communications

Please check with your phone company before you leave that you have international coverage and enough data. We are part of the EU and communications (phone calls, text messages, data use) made from another EU country **will be covered in your national contract so it is important that you check with your phone company.**

Phone cards, sim cards for cellphones, and tram tickets can be bought at any news stand (kiosk). This will enable you to call me from either Zagreb or Karlovac to let me know when you will be arriving so that I can meet you in Vrginmost (Gvozd).

Other Matters

Allergies/medications/diets- Please let me know if you have any special needs. Please also remember to bring medications and international prescriptions that you will need during your stay. Please note that if you have special dietary needs that you may need to consider that Vrginmost is a small town with smaller shops. More specialized shops are located in Zagreb and Karlovac

Day trips: Possibly you could do day trips to different places around Vrginmost a few times e.g Topusko spa/swimming pools, trip to Petrova Gora which is a mountain and monument near Gvozd, Plitvice Lakes, Lonjsko Polje park etc.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me

Hope to see you soon,

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