



## Fundação António Silva Leal – Centro Comunitário Horta da Areia

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**EVS themes:** Roma communities & Youth Leisure

**Activity dates:** Start - 01/10/2016 | End - 30/09/2011

**EVS Link:** [https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/935985108\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/935985108_en)

### Organisation's Profile

The Fundação António Silva Leal, FASL (António Silva Leal Foundation), is a Non-profit Private Institution of Social Solidarity. Headquartered in Lisbon, the foundation works at the national level, particularly in Albufeira, Cascais, Faro (where the actual EVS project will take place), Guia, Sintra, Leiria and Lisbon and acts at social level in the areas of protection to children, youth, adults and seniors at risk of social disintegration and exclusion and also disabled people and families in vulnerable situations, always with the primary concern into account. We are providing care and solidarity support to the most disadvantaged. FASL integrates over 200 professionals in various technical and logistics areas making possible to provide an effective service to about 1000 users.

The Community Centre "Horta da Areia", located in the city of Faro is, by definition, a comprehensive framework for global social vocation, where we develop diverse and complementary services and projects to promote social integration of individuals and families, mainly in the Horta da Areia district who accounts for about 50% of Roma inhabitants. The fight for promoting the civil and human rights of the Roma local community was a natural goal assumed since the beginning of the project, almost 15 years ago, because of their serious situation of social discrimination, exclusion and poverty.

The main purpose of the Community Centre is essentially the creation of conditions that enable individuals to fully exercise their right of citizenship by supporting families in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, through the capture and maximization of resources, resulting in increased capacity of integration and social participation. Currently, we can underline two of the services of the Community Centre: The integrated social support office, which is an office where the individuals and families can find social support and the seat of the community projects, and the ATL (After-School Recreation Centre) where children aged between 5 and 13 years old, can participate in different social and educational activities.



As part of its intervention with the population of the district of Horta da Areia, the Community Centre develops various services and projects, networking at local, national and international level in the areas of social action, health, vocational training, education, culture, environment, volunteering, among others.

### **Volunteers' role, tasks and learning-service outcomes**

The volunteers will be working 35 hours per week, including their language course, Monday to Friday and their holidays will be organised according to their needs but also the planning and needs of the activities. We are planning to have an agreement with all the parties involved in the application of the project regarding the logistical and not only, parts.

The volunteer will be informed about the main characteristics of the local community, the Roma local culture, and, of course the history, goals and strategies of the Community Centre. Also, the volunteers will be briefed in more details about Roma and their situation in Portugal. For the volunteers, it will be an opportunity to experience the work of social inclusion and fight against poverty in one of the oldest social districts of the south capital of Portugal. The volunteers will be integrated in the activities developed at the ATL (After-School Recreation Centre) of the Community Centre, which is intended to provide a space of social and educational activities in different fields such as handicrafts, entertainment sports, recreational activities, performing arts (theatre and dance classes), cooking classes, holiday camps, initiation to English, ICT (Initiation to Internet) and study visits, for Portuguese Roma and Non-Roma children aged between 5 and 13 years. The activities program is made to ensure, in first place, the creation of equal opportunities, comparing with other children of the city, providing actions to promote the development of skills and motivations for the future. Currently, about 40 children and young people divided into two shifts (morning and afternoon period) are attending the ATL.

The volunteer will have the opportunity to offer its services including its own skills and knowledge within our already described activities and be part of a professional team that gives importance in team work and quality social work. We are also planning to discuss with the volunteers before their arrival but also through the first months of their project on how we could support them to develop their own project within EVS where they could apply their innovation, hobbies, passion and knowledge, always in accordance with the aims and target groups we are working with. In this way, we can also develop their Youthpass more directed towards their own learning targets. The Youthpass we need to say that will be supported by the mentor of the volunteers.

Role of the volunteer: Direct support to the team of socio-cultural Community Centre in the planning and conduct of activities of the ATL, namely, handicrafts, entertainment

sports, recreational activities, performing arts (theatre and dance classes), cooking classes, holiday camps, Initiation to English, ICT (Initiation to Internet) and Study Visits, among others. In a second step, the volunteer will be invited to undertake a project/activity, based on his/her own motivations/skills and the motivations/skills of the target group. In those cases, the Community Centre will provide transportation for groups (if needed), different kind of materials depending on the activities), an office (shared with other team members) with free access to telephone (for the organization of the activities), internet and fax.

The participation of the volunteers in all those activities will show them, the reasoning of the promotion of some activities and the way that they are done. The volunteers will learn about social intervention in a context of poverty and discrimination, they will learn about the Roma local culture and have the possibility to contribute to the change. In personal terms, the volunteer may reflect about his/her own life and priorities. If the volunteers are Roma, they could, eventually, turn themselves as an inspiration for local Roma children (and even adults) to take on their culture and fight for their rights as citizens, simultaneously.

#### Example of the organization of the week for the volunteer

Generally, we need to mention that in the first couple of weeks, we will take step by step the integration and empowerment of the volunteer, getting to know the new reality, the local community, the organisation and to plan together the coming months in terms of their own objectives and aims.

Also, there will be different months with different upcoming activities but generally the volunteers will have a weekly schedule that can be drafted as follows:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>09.00 12.30</b>	Breakfast (EVS Support) Meeting to plan and evaluate activities Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Handcrafts Atelier (EVS Support)	Breakfast (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Introduction of Internet (EVS Support)	Breakfast (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Theatre Class (EVS Support)	Breakfast (EVS Support) Cooking Class (EVS Support) EVS – ACTIVITY (EVS Promoter)	Breakfast (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Sport Activities (EVS Support)
<b>14.00 17.30</b>	Handcrafts Atelier (EVS Support) Dance Class (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Snack (EVS Support)	Introduction of Internet (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Snack (EVS Support)	Theatre Class (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Snack (EVS Support)	Cooking Class (EVS Support) EVS – ACTIVITY (EVS Promoter) Snack (EVS Support)	Sport Activities (EVS Support) Pedagogic Garden (EVS Support) Snack (EVS Support)



## Profile of Volunteers

In order to develop a good volunteer project, the profile of the volunteer will have to fulfil certain basic criteria.

We are welcoming Roma volunteers, in a sense that he/she could inspire our local young Roma (and their parents), showing that it is possible to take on the Roma culture and, simultaneously, be socially integrated.

So, we will give preference to a serious and motivated volunteer, with interest in working with youth and children (Roma and Non-Roma), responsible, mature and independent, patient and tolerant, with taste for team work, creative, interested in dance, drama, photography, sports, martial arts or other, and with a good sense of humour!