



Berlin, July 15, 2021

Press Release: The INVOLVE Workcamps begin!

On July 27, 2021, an international group of young adults from France, Italy, Hungary, and Poland, as well as Berliners with and without refugee experience will come together at the Upsala Leisure Centre to live, work, and exchange ideas for two weeks!

This international gathering marks the start of the INVOLVE work camps in the summer of 2021. The purpose of the EU project is to carry out activities in the field of inclusion of migrants in Italy, France and Germany. Two Workcamps will take place in each country. ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit as the German partner organization cooperates with two neighbourhood centres in the Berlin district of Pankow to conduct the Workcamps: from July 27 to August 7 at the Upsala Leisure Centre and from August 8 to 21 at the KulturMarktHalle.

The participants enter into exchange with each other and come together through collaborative civic engagement. Because only through direct contact our societies become more cohesive and inclusive - in Germany, in the EU, and around the world. In very concrete terms, the group paints the facade of the leisure centre together and works in the garden, takes part in a theatre workshop and visits historically and culturally interesting places and events in Berlin. Sustainability and ecology are particularly important aspects of the work camp. For example, the participants will receive important information about permaculture and urban gardening as part of a lecture by the local organisation "Peace of Land" and lend a hand.

"INVOLVE is a project that aims to create encounters between people who otherwise do not have so many points of contact, i.e. between the so-called majority society and people with refugee experience who have not lived in Berlin for so long. In a big city like Berlin, it is often not so easy to approach each other. Everyone is involved in his or her own everyday life. INVOLVE helps people from different 'bubbles' meet and make a difference for the environment and for their community." This is how the Berlin coordinator in the INVOLVE project, Tabea Büge from ICJA Volunteer Exchange Worldwide, describes the project.

In the INVOLVE project (INtegration of migrants as VOLunteers for the safeguard of Vulnerable Environments), volunteer service organizations in France, Italy and Germany have the opportunity to carry out activities in the field of migrant inclusion from January 2019 to December 2021. The project is supported by the EU Asylum and Migration Fund (AMIF) and coordinated by the Italian partner organization "Legambiente".

Information: To ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V.: www.icja.de

To the blog of the project INVOLVE: <http://www.involve.blog/de/>

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