



## **Workcamps in Polen**

**Partner: FIYE**

“Stowarzyszenie Promocji Wolontariatu” (FIYE) ist ein langjähriger Partner, der schon zu Zeiten des “Eisernen Vorhangs” in der Internationalen Jugendarbeit – soweit damals möglich – aktiv war.

Alter: 18-26 J.

FIYE is a vibrant Polish non-governmental and non-profit organisation. Ever since it was established in 1989, FIYE has been active in the field of voluntary service and particularly committed to international youth exchange programmes. Throughout the years, FIYE has developed and successfully carried out a considerable number of volunteer projects with special regard to short-term summer projects (workcamps) and long-term programmes lasting 6-12 months. FIYE considers voluntary service programmes as a unique and excellent form of maintaining international contacts, fostering youth exchange, enabling participants to fight cross-cultural barriers, and developing bonds of long-lasting friendships. Furthermore, FIYE aims at popularising the currently vital concepts of mutual help, solidarity, peace and civic awareness. Volunteers participating in FIYE's projects always emphasise the fact that due to their "Polish experience," they have grown more responsible, open-minded and above all, have managed to stand up to a challenge, test themselves in demanding conditions and initiate a cross-cultural dialogue, which they consider rewarding and valuable in today's world.

Each year over 200 foreign volunteers participate in FIYE's summer workcamps. Additionally, FIYE hosts around 12 young people for long-term programmes. Due to our successful co-operation with other organisations active in the field of volunteering, FIYE also has the pleasure of annually sending about 200 Polish youth abroad to take part in similar projects. Summer workcamps are usually organised in towns and villages and hosted by small communities and their local authorities. FIYE runs social projects for physically and mentally disabled people and also for those coming from abandoned, poor and disadvantaged environments. Additionally, volunteers may take part in renovation/construction projects or such that require simple manual work. The work which the volunteers undertake is particularly useful and valuable to the local people, because it would not be possible otherwise. Moreover, the volunteers have the opportunity to experience contact with the genuine local people, which guarantees a true insight into the community, its daily life and its customs.

### **SOME GENERAL INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

All volunteers who wish to take part in projects organised by FIYE are required to fulfil the following criteria:

- Be between 18 and 26 years of age (volunteers above 26 are also welcome to apply - individual cases will be considered)
- Speak some English, be able to understand simple instructions, follow safety regulations, and take part in workcamp life related discussions. Volunteers applying to work and teach English in the course of a workcamp must speak English fluently and possess some basic pedagogical skills in order to run workshops, teaching English to foreigners, etc. They should be open, interactive and tolerant.
- For certain social projects, volunteers are expected to be highly motivated and dedicated to working with disadvantaged and disabled individuals. They should be ready to provide all kinds of assistance to the local staff, be responsible both for themselves and others, and be flexible and open-minded. If

explicitly stated, FIYE might require some recommendations or documents certifying language skills or previous experience and involvement in similar social projects.

#### SOME INFORMATION CONCERNING WORK:

Volunteers will be expected to work approximately 30 hours a week. The work plan is largely up to the co-ordinator(s), but suggestions from participants are more than welcome. Weekends are usually free, however, some social projects may require weekend work as well. In such cases, volunteers will need to be flexible and adjust to the institution's regulations. Leisure time is largely up to the group and co-ordinators.

#### WHAT IS PROVIDED ON THE WORKCAMP:

- FOOD – usually, the volunteers are served three meals a day in a local canteen. Alternatively, if explicitly indicated in the brochure, the volunteers prepare their meals themselves.
- ACCOMMODATION – is provided at local schools, youth centres or sometimes in tents, all having access to all basic facilities (toilets, showers). Sometimes the volunteers are requested to bring sleeping bags, as indicated in the brochure.
- One workcamp LEADER and possibly a WORK CO-ORDINATOR - The leader acts as a group co-ordinator and is responsible for assuring that the whole workcamp runs smoothly and that all potential problems and misunderstandings are quickly resolved. He/she is also a volunteer and doesn't get paid for being the leader. She/He makes sure that the volunteers feel well and that the food and accommodation are satisfactory. He/she monitors and supervises all works. Moreover, he/she tries to live up to the group's needs and is responsible for coordinating free time activities (e.g. organising trips and excursions). Above all, his/her role is to integrate the participants and to maintain a friendly atmosphere throughout the workcamp. Should there be a work co-ordinator, he/she is responsible for making sure that all volunteers are aware of their duties. He/she distributes and supervises daily tasks, makes sure that all volunteers have the proper equipment and is in close contact with the local host. All co-ordinators work alongside with participants.

#### WHAT THE VOLUNTEER NEEDS TO PROVIDE:

- The volunteer covers all costs related to travel and insurance (health, personal belongings and luggage)
- A sleeping bag/mattress if explicitly stated
- Pocket money: the volunteers receive no money in return for their work and need to cover expenses related to the leisure time activities (bus fares, pubs, museums, discos, restaurants and transportation).
- Proper work clothes: this is particularly important for construction, renovation and manual projects.
- In certain cases of educational camps, where the volunteers teach English to kids, they are expected to prepare respective teaching materials before coming to the workcamp.
- Any extra materials and supplies that a volunteer may need for interactive games and role playing. Something typical from his/her home country (a costume, album, tape or postcard) to present to others are more than welcome.

## Workcamps 2010

**FIYE 12      WIELISZEW 2   Wieliszew      07.08-23.08      envi/fest/kids 15      18-26**

WORK: The first workcamp (FIYE 7) will help in setting up a poetic music festival, which takes place on 24 of July. After the festival the volunteer will help in cleaning up after the festival. The second group (FIYE 12) will help in setting up the folk music festival which takes place 21-22 August, and will also clean after the event. Both groups will also organize various activities for kids on the beach of the Zegrzynski Lake and will be responsible for cleaning of the bank of river Narew, tourist paths and the Wieliszewskie Legi Nature Reserve.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Volunteers will stay in the school building and sleep in classrooms. Mattresses will be provided but volunteers have to bring sleeping bags. The participants will be preparing all their meals from food provided by the organizer.

**LOCATION:** Wieliszew is situated 30 km north of Warsaw, by the Zegrzynskie Lake and the Narew River. With its forest and lake it is a perfect place for holiday activities such as canoeing, jogging, cycling or paragliding. The official site of the town in English, German and Italian: [www.wieliszew.pl](http://www.wieliszew.pl)

**TERMINAL:** The nearest international railway station and airport are located in Warsaw.

**LANGUAGE:** English

**FIYE 11      GLAZ 2      Glaz      07.08-19.08 teach 6      18-26**

For the last few years the Holiday Centre for Children has been organizing summer camps for school children aged 7-16, with an element of informal language training.

**WORK:** The volunteers will be conducting language workshops and animating free time activities for the children. In the morning the volunteers will run language classes and in the afternoon they will play sports, games, go on excursions, etc. The camp will host around 60 pupils from primary and junior high schools. Several groups will be formed with around 5-10 pupils each, having similar language skills in every group (a few English groups, and one German group).

The foreign volunteers are expected to: conduct language lessons in an informal way and prepare **TEACHING MATERIALS** before coming to the workcamp, take part in games, recreational activities and excursions, assist in running the educational programmes and prepare an international day (bringing postcards, photos, music, recipes, etc from your country would be very helpful).

**ACCOMMODATION:** Volunteers will stay in a children's holiday house. Beds and sheets will be provided. All meals will be served in a canteen.

**LANGUAGE:** English

**LOCATION:** Glaz is a very small village located in the south-western part of Poland between Lodz and Wroclaw. It is surrounded by a beautiful forest.

**TERMINAL:** The nearest international railway station and airport are located in Wroclaw or Lodz. The nearest local train station is in Wieruszow. From Wieruszow a local bus will take you to Glaz where the camp is located.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Preparing materials before the workcamp is required and some experience in working with young people would be an advantage. Since the children come from small towns/villages, and most of them have never had contact with a foreign language, volunteers are asked to be flexible, have good communication skills and the patience to listen, interpret and respond. Please send a short **MOTIVATION LETTER**.

**NOTE:** Smoking cigarettes on the premises, and around children, is not allowed.

**FIYE 10      STALOWA WOLA      Stalowa Wola      02.08-16.08      KIDS 10      18-26**

**WORK:** The volunteers will be working with children and youth from the orphanage to make their holidays more attractive. They will be teaching English in an informal way, organizing various games and sport competitions as well as intercultural activities such as cooking, dancing or singing lessons. Beside work in the orphanage, the volunteers will take part in excursions, rafting and bike trips together with orphanage residents. The volunteers will also visit similar institution located in Stalowa Wola.

**ACCOMMODATION:** The volunteers will be staying on the premises of the orphanage in rooms equipped with standard facilities – beds and sheets will be provided. Meals will be served in the canteen.

**LOCATION:** Stalowa Wola is one of the youngest cities in Poland with 65 thousand inhabitants. Although the city itself has a modern and almost industrial character, it is located in a very interesting area of Sandomierz Basin. Important historical sites such as Sandomierz, Lancut or Rzeszow are within easy reach from the city.

**TERMINAL:** The nearest international airport is in Rzeszow. Stalowa Wola has also good bus and train connections with Warsaw and Cracow.

**LANGUAGE:** English

**FIYE 13      Krosnice      08.08-17.08      reno/manu      6      18-26**

The workcamp will be hosted by The Centre of Education, Tourism and Sport in Krosnice.

**WORK:** The volunteers will help local community of Krosnice to renovate a room in a local club where pottery workshops will take place. Volunteer's task will be to clean up the place, paint it, build some shelves etc.

**ACCOMMODATION:** The living conditions will be quite simple. The volunteers will sleep in the school building in Krosnice. They must bring their sleeping bags but beds or mattresses will be provided. The volunteers will prepare their meals themselves.

LOCATION: Krosnice is a village in the south-west part of Poland, situated around 60 km from Wrocław. Read more at: <http://www.krosnice.pl/cms/>

TERMINAL: The nearest international railway station and airport are located in Wrocław. The local train station is located in Krosnice.

LANGUAGE: English, German

**FIYE 14 OTOP Gugny 08.08-21.08 envi 10 18-26**

WORK: The work will be getting rid of plants, bushes and small trees, which are not good for bird protection. This work will demand a lot of effort since the cut branches will be used to build a road in the reservoir. Some of these branches will be quite big and heavy. There might be also some other maintenance tasks, depending on the agreement with the local coordinator. The workcamp will be situated far away from a big city, and it's a great place for nature lovers.

ACCOMMODATION: In a guesthouse with a bathroom and a shower. Beds will be provided but volunteers must bring a sleeping bag.

FOOD: Volunteers will prepare all the meals themselves with the products bought by the organizers. There will be a fridge and cooking facilities in the accommodation.

LOCATION: Gugny is a village in the north-east of Poland, 60 km from Białystok. <http://www.biebrza.org.pl/>

TERMINAL: The nearest international airport is in Warsaw. The nearest train station is located in Białystok. Białystok is 2,5h by train from Warsaw.

LANGUAGE: English

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Motivation letter.

The work will be physically hard and sometimes demanding, and the group will work in wet area. Volunteers must bring waterproof shoes, and shoes on thick soles which will protect them from stepping on hard reed. It's quite warm in August so there will be many mosquitoes, and in the forests there are ticks. Therefore volunteers should bring long sleeved shirts and long trousers and mosquito repellent. This camp is not suitable for people with severe allergies.

**FIYE 15 KRYNICA MORSKA Piaski 08.08-21.08 teach 8 18-26**

WORK: This year's project combines a social program with English lessons for children and youth. The camp's participants will be aged 8 to 18 years. The purpose of the project is to enable children to improve their knowledge of the English language and enjoy summer leisure activities. For some of them, it will be their first interaction with a foreign language. The children will be divided into 8 groups, depending on their age, language level, and there will also be a group for beginners. Each group will have its own tutor-volunteer – a facilitator from whom we expect a good knowledge of English. In the course of recent years, we have already worked out the English classes' syllabus, and we are planning to follow it again this year. There will be an hour-and-a-half regular class for each group on a daily basis conducted by the volunteer alone. On top of the 'formal' teaching activities, the volunteers will be expected to animate other type of activities (such as games) to support informal language training.

ACCOMMODATION: Volunteers will be accommodated in a holiday resort together with the staff and the children. Beds and sheets will be provided. Meals will be served in a canteen. On the ground of the centre there is a sport field. For free time activities there is a living room, TV room and other facilities.

LOCATION: Krynica Morska. You can find nice pictures of Krynica Morska here: [http://www.mierzeja.pl/\\_galerie/galeriamiasta.php?miasto=krynica&nr=2](http://www.mierzeja.pl/_galerie/galeriamiasta.php?miasto=krynica&nr=2) (page only in Polish)

TERMINAL: The nearest international airport and train station are located in Gdansk.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Above all, the organizers expect the volunteers to be fluent in English, motivated to work with children and have some pedagogical skills. Additionally, they should have good communication skills to facilitate the contact with the children. The volunteers are expected to bring their own study materials for classes as well as materials for short presentations regarding their country of origin. Please send a short MOTIVATION LETTER.

NOTE: Since the volunteers will be living on site with the staff and the children, they are expected to obey certain central principles of the camp (no cigarettes or alcohol).

LANGUAGE: English