



# ASSOCIATION JOINT

Programme Year 2020/21

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## FOREWORD

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### **Dear friends and future volunteers!**

Our name is *ASSOCIATION JOINT*, founded in 2003. We are the (potential) new Italian National Committee of the International Cultural Youth Exchange Federation.

We hope that the information about Italy and *ASSOCIATION JOINT* you will find herewith may help you to prepare yourself for the exchange year in our country.

You will have information about Italian families, the communities' social life as well as a short presentation on how *ASSOCIATION JOINT* is working, who are the people involved and the structure of our national committee.

We trust that you will find this National Profile useful and we suggest you to read it very carefully. Any explanation you may need, do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

This National Profile should also help you to find out what you can expect, achieve and contribute with during your exchange year.

Wishing you a good reading!

Receive a very warm welcome from all of us, volunteers and staff, at

***ASSOCIATION JOINT***

# ITALY

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## SOME FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Italy is a peninsula whose coasts are washed by the Adriatic sea to the East, by the Ionic sea to the South, the Ligurian sea to the North-West and the Tyrrhenian sea to the West. The Italian coastline is 7,420 kilometers long.

*Area:* 301,268 square km (35,2% mountains, 41,6% hills, 23,2% plains).

*Population:* around 56.000.000 inhabitants.

*Capital Town:* Rome (ca. 4.000.000 inhabitants).

*Language:* Italian, which is the direct continuation of Latin and, in its present-day form, is a development of the Tuscany language (13th and 14th centuries).

*Monetary Unit:* **Euro** (more information on the currency on the web site <http://europa.eu.int/euro>).

*Paper currency:* There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and size they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 euros. The notes will be uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they will have no national side. The designs are symbolic for Europe's architectural heritage.

*Coins:* There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, then 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent. Every euro coin will carry a common European face.

*Religion:* Almost totally Roman Catholic but many other religions exist in Italy. The Lateran Pact regulates relations between the Italian State and the Vatican City.

*Political System:* the Italian State is a democratic parliamentary republic with universal suffrage. Parliament consists of two branches: the House of Deputies and the Senate. The State is divided administratively into 20 regions, 103 provinces and 8.086 townships. Fifteen regions have ordinary status and five have a special one that means they enjoy autonomous status. Italy is part of the European Union (UE).

*Most important cities:* Torino, Milano, Como, Brescia, Verona, Trento, Bolzano, Venezia, Trieste, Genova, Parma, Bologna, Firenze, Siena, Pisa, Ancona, Pescara, Perugia, Roma, L'Aquila, Napoli, Salerno, Bari, Brindisi, Taranto, Potenza, Reggio Calabria, Messina, Catania, Palermo, Cagliari, Sassari.



Neighbours: France to the West, Switzerland to the North-West, Austria to the North-East, Slovenia to the East.

Topography and climate: Italy has many topographical regions, but the most important are the Alps to the North, the Po Valley also to the North and the Apennines that divide the peninsula vertically in two parts. The highest mountain is the Monte Bianco (4.810 m.); the main rivers flow mostly in the North and are: Po, Tanaro, Adda, Ticino, Adige, Piave, Arno and, in the center, Tevere. We have also two lakes regions: one to the North composed by glacial lakes like Lago Maggiore, Lago di Garda, Lago di Como, Lago d'Iseo, and the other in the Center composed by volcanic lakes like Lago Trasimeno, Lago di Bracciano, Lago di Bolsena.

As far as climate is concerned, Italy can be divided in the following regions:

*Alps* (Cuneo, Aosta, Sondrio, Trento, Bolzano, Udine): long and cold winters, short summers. Considerable difference in temperature between day and night. Snow in winter, sometimes rainy during the summer. Min. temp. in winter around  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; max. Temp. in summer about  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .;

*Po Valley* (Torino, Milano, Alessandria, Novara, Mantova, Verona, Brescia, Bergamo, Como etc.): cold winters and warm summers; often foggy between November and March and rather humid during the summer. It rains around October and April. Snow in winter. Min. temp. in winter around  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; max. temp. in summer around  $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .;

*Northern Adriatic Coast* (Trieste, Venezia, Ancona, Pescara): the Adriatic sea is not very deep and has little influence on the climate of the region, which is similar to the climate of the Po Valley, even if less foggy and more windy. Min. temp. in winter around  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; max. temp. in summer around  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .;

*Apennines* (Perugia, Terni, L'Aquila, Campobasso, Benevento, Potenza): these mountains are lower than the Alps and therefore enjoy longer and warmer summers. Snow in winter. Rain, specially on the western side. Min. temp. in winter  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; max. temp. in summer  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .;

*Northern Tyrrhenian Coast* (Genova, La Spezia, Pisa, Firenze, Roma, Napoli): practically no snow in winter -with some rear exceptions-; it rains often between October and March and very rarely during the other months. Long and pleasant falls and springs. Sometimes windy. Min. temp. in winter  $+5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; max. temp. in summer  $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$ .;

*Southern Mediterranean Coasts and Islands* (Bari, Brindisi, Taranto, Reggio Calabria, Sicilia and Sardegna): the difference between summer and winter is less relevant than in other parts of Italy. Short rainy winters, long and warm falls and springs, some hot weeks during summers. The temperature on the mountains of Sicily and Sardinia is similar to the temperature on the Apennines. Min. temp. in winter  $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ .; max. temp. in summer  $+37^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



## SOME HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### *Historical hints*

Italian history is very complex dating back to 2.500 years ago and, so forth, it could be not told in few lines. However, we will try to concentrate on the recent history starting from 1860 when, for the first time, Italy was known as unified state with -more or less- the same boundaries it has nowadays.

YEAR	HISTORICAL INFORMATION
1860	Declaration of unification of Italy under the Savoia's monarchy (northern pattern of administration, capital Turin).
1915-1918	First World War (about 600.000 dead).
1922-1943	Fascism.
1940-1945	Second World War.
1946	Fall of the monarchy and foundation of the Italian Republic.
1947-1967	Economic boom (i.e. disorderly economic growth).
1967-1969	Beginning of crisis: workers strikes, students' demonstrations, general crisis of values commonly accepted.
1969-1974	Attempts made by various groups to create a situation of general chaos, leading to a process of restoration: bombs in a bank in Milano, bombs in trains of leftist workers, bombs in Italicus train, bombs against workers' meeting protesting against neo-fascism.
1975-1977	Birth of some guerrilla groups inside the most radical leftist groups: Brigate Rosse and other minor groups.
1978	Kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro, President of the Christian Democratic Party. All parties in Parliament (excluding the Radicals and the extreme left) voted in favor of temporary emergency measures. Some of them are still valid.
Aug 80	Fascist bomb in Bologna railway station
1980-1983	Normalization of political life, the tension created by political terrorism is fading gradually. Mostly in the South the "organized crime", i.e. Mafia and Camorra, increased the influence on the social and political life of certain areas; inflation, unemployment (12%), political scandals are the issues mostly debated and with no immediate solution. After the national political elections in June, a new government was formed by a coalition of five parties and, for the first time since 1947, the Prime Minister was a socialist, Bettino Craxi.

It would be very useful if you can read more information on the socio-political situation in Italy before you come, in order to be able to follow the political discussions which are very common in everyday life. This information is available by the Italian Cultural Institutes (Istituti di Cultura Italiana) which are usually present in each State.



## WHAT IS ASSOCIATION JOINT

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### Who we are?

Association Joint is a non-profit association based in Milan, Italy, established in 2003, whose mission consists in offering international mobility and non-formal education opportunities to young people.

Its name had been chosen to mean the association itself is a means of connection between people, regardless of their background, faith, age or gender.

We specialize in projects related to non-formal education and intercultural learning and addressed to young people between 13 and 30 years old, trying to encourage the participation of young people with fewer opportunities.

Our main activities are related to Erasmus+ Program, created by the European Commission with the goals to promote the education through subsidized international mobility projects and to improve the skills of young people, organizations and youth workers.

Joint is a founding partner of RIVE (Italian Network of European Volunteering), an association that gathers different Italian organizations with the purpose of promoting international mobility among youth, in particular through the European Voluntary Service scheme.

In the last few years Joint extended the scope of its activities to include language courses, work camps as well as medium and long-term volunteering opportunities outside Europe, offering now a broad range of opportunities abroad to Italian young people.

### Joint in numbers

10 employees

40 incoming volunteers every year

150 outgoing volunteers every year

291 members

5.428 applications received to volunteer abroad in 2016

27.863 newsletter subscribers^



## HOW TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERING IN ITALY

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The month preceding your departure from your country and from your family should be dedicated to prepare yourself for your experience. Here we include some of the topics on which we believe you should reflect during that period.

### Language

It is extremely important to learn some few fundamentals of the Italian language before departing from your home country.

This will able you to learn the language much faster, and to communicate with Italians in general without miming too much, which is all right at the real beginning but it is frustrating and useless when it comes to expressing feelings.

We recommend that you go out and look up in the library of your school or in a bookshop if you can borrow or buy some books to study your new language. From the very beginning you should spend at least two hours a day studying Italian. If you have done this, you will be able to improve greatly your expressing power and you should be able to make yourself understood as soon as you get into your hosting placement.

At the beginning, and for a number of weeks, you will naturally and obviously miss most of the conversation around you: this happens to every volunteer and therefore you should not feel depressed because of this failure to communicate. Remember that it is not important what you do not understand, but what you do understand: every day you will learn something new. Learning our language should not be considered as a dreadful task, but as a pleasant game, where you try to use all the expressions you have heard till they belong to you. There is nothing you can lose, you can only gain. If you make a mistake, everybody will laugh and you will have another funny story for your conversation later in the year.

And talk as much as possible. Talking must become something natural and pleasant, as it is for the Italians!



## **Do You Really Know Your Country?**

Many questions will be asked about the social and political structure of your country. Another thing you should do before your departure is to know something more about your country. The world has become so small that many questions will be asked to you about the social and political structure of your country.

There will be several occasions during your stay in Italy in which you will try to discuss with people, and in order to be able to express your opinions clearly you have to base your reasoning on facts much more than you are used to. It would be very unfortunate if you found out too late that most of your beliefs are not based on facts but on the contrary, that they are the outcome of the prevailing opinions of the persons with whom you have been in contact (your family, your teachers, your friends...). It would be so difficult, when you are in Italy to make people understand you if you talk in clichés, since they can be understood only in the very place where they were created.

So before you leave, you should submit your beliefs to an accurate control. You see, the more you understand the reasons why you have come to certain conclusions, the easier it will be for you to make people understand them! So before you begin to fill up your mind with new information, try to create a more solid basis for your convictions. In doing this you might ask for the help of a qualified person in your town who should be able to suggest some books to read and who would also be willing to discuss with you some of the matter about which you might have some questions.

## **Your Attitude**

Even more important than being well informed about the situation existing in your country is the attitude in relating with the people you will encounter. It is necessary that you begin to reflect on this matter from this moment, since sometimes your natural reaction may not be very appropriate.

Above everything else you must forget that you are a citizen of your country, as much as believing that certain attitudes or thoughts are required simply because you belong to a certain country. On any occasion during your stay in which you are it may be that people will turn to you as a foreigner, but you should try to make them feel all the time, always with the most polite manners, that you are, before anything else, a person and that the fact that you were born in another country is of secondary importance. If you find out that people are more happy when you turn to them as a person, you will also find out that they are angry with you if you go around spreading the 'glory' of your nation, it does not matter what their political ideas are.

In this case, they will not understand or learn anything about you and your country, and they might get even an opinion which is exactly the opposite of what you were trying to convince them.

## WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING FROM YOU

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Every year more than 30 million tourists visit Italy. The majority of them comes back home satisfied, after having enjoyed our sun and our art treasures. But their contact with our culture and with our way of living is very superficial.

You will be more fortunate than all of them. You will be given the opportunity to get an intimate understanding of the life in our country, of the historical and cultural heritage of the Italian people.

Try not to forget that such understanding will not come to you naturally. Of course, by being exposed to new things you will be naturally inclined to ask questions and to search for the motivations behind a different way of living. This is not, however, an easy task. It will require of you some sacrifice. Knowledge is never acquired by examining only the surface of things; on the contrary it is a matter of constant care and orientation directed to grasping the inner significance of our actions and of the actions of the others.

Remember, therefore, that it is essential that you get rid of preconceived opinions and that you come with an open mind. Or rather: since you cannot know what is a "preconceived opinion" till you have experienced a different way of thinking, you should at least understand that your environment has thought you certain social and mental habits that, though fully reasonable and acceptable for you, are not a pattern equally followed by all countries and people of the world.

You will have an easier experience, if you realize that your habits are a product of your environment and can be worthless in another country. With this attitude, you will be able to accept what is new, without judging. And along the same line of thought, you will be able to understand opinions different from yours, and even feel sympathetic with people who express them, without losing your identity.

This also implies that even when you face a different way of doing things, you should be ready to try it, rather than to impose your way on others. And if you do not understand why people do things differently from you, never be afraid to ask and find out. You must adopt this attitude not only when you arrive, but through your entire experience. If knowing something, having an opinion on something, means to penetrate to the core of the thing, and this is a long and difficult task; you should not draw any conclusions before a very long time after your arrival.

But there is something else connected with your capacity of learning: your capacity of giving. What other people give to you (friendliness, respect, understanding and care) often is a direct outcome of what you are giving to them. If you fail in this, if you cannot really open yourself in your relationship with other people, then all of your other aims will be more difficult to obtain.

Of course at the beginning, and also later on during your stay, there will be occasions in which between you and your friends and between you and the other members of the host placement some misunderstandings will arise....

You should by no means consider this a failure on your part.

Since it happens many times that even people who have been living together for a very long time do not "understand" each other, it is quite probable that there may be some lack of understanding between you and your new environment, when you are just learning to know each other. But what is important when this happens is that you discuss your misunderstandings openly and frankly (but always with respect for the opinion of the other person) particularly when failure to do this might worsen your relationship with the involved people.

Another thing to keep in mind is that not everybody is going to be sensitive to your needs. The people you meet are not strangers in their country, they all have their friends, and they may not even be particularly interested in getting to know you. So, do not expect that just because you are friendly everybody else will want to be friendly with you. Many times the response of people is slow or does not come immediately. In such a case the worse mistake you could make is to consider it your own fault and not merely as an unhappy episode.

In the following pages, we will attempt to point out some of the specific problems you might meet during your stay and some of the answers we suggest for them. There are, of course, several other ways of matching with these problems if they arise, so you should try to work out, with our help or with the help of your local chapter, the ones more suitable for your personality. We want to be certain just of one thing: do not overestimate nor underestimate them.

Since the community members have been living together for a while, it may be a bit difficult to enter an already existing group. In such a case it is up to you to break first asking questions not only about things and habits, but also about more important matters, or suggesting activities to do together in the free time. Whatever the situation in the community may be, it is your job to establish a close relationship with the other persons living in, sharing the daily life and all problems connected to it: you should never exclude yourself from the rest of the community.

Living together in a big group is often not easy and changes and improvements are not so sudden. You will find out that it requires a great deal of maturity, insight and sensibility to be a good companion and a true friend to a complete stranger. Be patient, if someone seems to fail sometimes, and above all, help them to fulfill this task by trying yourself to act in a true friendly and sincerely manner. Since 1996 the European Commission has been running a project, called "European Voluntary Service". This project allows only European youngsters, aged between 18 and 25, to do voluntary work in another member country for a period of 6 or 12 months, giving them financial support for the whole period. The European volunteers will know their placement in advance.

## **The volunteering program**

The decision to experience a year of voluntary work in a foreign country requires an open-mindedness that allows you to adapt also to work situations that could not be foreseen before your arrival in Italy. Experience taught us that a positive outcome of the voluntary period abroad does not depend necessarily on the type of social work that the volunteer is doing, but

on his/her commitment. We are convinced that commitment, flexibility and motivation to help people less fortunate than we are, create the basis to get as much as possible out the 365 days you will live in a different context than what you are used to.

The description that follows will try to show you what does it means to have the opportunity to do social and voluntary work in Italy.

*Volunteers are placed in the Alternative Living Situations (Communities) that are projects where you live in and work within Association gives you the chance to experience the Italian society, getting a deep insight into it through social and voluntary work.*

Therefore it is important that you take the project work very seriously and that you approach this new experience in a very adaptable and flexible way. You will not become acquainted to the project's life if you are not really willing to integrate into it. To get a good knowledge of our society it is necessary to work regularly and continuously in the project, therefore do not expect to change placement every two months. Projects expect volunteers to act very frankly, with sense of responsibility and to be tolerant and flexible;

The work you will do within the projects is on a voluntary base. Do not expect to receive money for the work you do. Usually the project itself will give you the pocket-money to cover your own expenses; it can happen that the project does not have the economical possibility to pay you this small contribution. In this case Joint Association will provide you with the pocket-money.

- Do **not** expect to receive a **work permit**.

We invite you to write us as much as possible about your previous experiences, your expectations from the project, your personality and your wishes. It will be better also if you write us well in advance about the activities you are interested in, describing us the former experiences about voluntary work you have had.

This information will be for us very helpful in order to select for you the most suitable project.

## DESCRIPTION OF VOLUNTARY WORK IN ITALY

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### *Basic information*

The information you will find in this short description are concerning the voluntary work activities and projects that *Association Joint* offers you

In many communities and projects there is a strong Catholic influence, this does not mean you have to take part in the religious activities, but you have to respect the opinion and the idea of others.

At last it is very important to remember that this year is **not** a year of vacation, but a year of voluntary service, that often requires a hard physical labor and a great deal of patience. We also would like to underline that you will be a support to the already pre-existing staff.

Most of the placements are in the field of social work, that can be roughly divided in the following areas:

### *Work with children and youth:*

All of these projects offer you the opportunity to learn about educational and pedagogical methods and how to handle with children. You are requested to live together with the children and to help in the house hold chores. It will be very good if you can paint or draw, if you can sing, play any instrument and if you can do any handicraft's work.

### *Ecological and environmental activities and projects*

In this field we host projects of two main different types: Ecologic farms placement and awareness raising placements.

In the first, activities are related to take care of animals in educational farms or organic farms, work on gardening (very often organic gardening), green building techniques or renovation, as well as helping with children environment education activities.

In the latter, their aims are mainly to inform and to make aware people about the ecological issues like pollution, nuclear plants' danger, waste recycling, etc. The volunteer will help with the usual office work such as to publish brochures, information materials, to prepare public actions, to give information about the organization, to help with the mailing, photocopying, etc.

## How to handle possible problems

Should misunderstandings or tensions arise, try to clear them at once by talking openly about them, be ready to make fun of your own mistakes, to say that you are sorry, and to forgive a thoughtless action of others easily.

If serious problems arise you should not keep them for yourself, hoping that they will automatically disappear. The Association Joint volunteers in your local chapter and the national Association Joint office are there to help you out of situations that may seem very dark to you, only because you see them from a very special angle and you are unable to evaluate all the sides of the questions. You should never be embarrassed to talk or to write about things that disappoint you; you should never think that you must bear any situation, out of the gratitude that you owe to your Italian family and/or community.

Please be very frank when you speak with Association Joint volunteers: their experience may help you in solving the problems you might face. If we find out that there is something basically wrong in your relationship with either your family or your community, we will move you into another placement: this is a very normal policy that Joint Association has followed for years. If it is your case, you should not feel that you have failed your experience; many other volunteers have gone through these changes before you and have happily finished their voluntary period abroad.

Below you find a schematic description of Association Joint's voluntary work. Please do not consider the names of communities indicated, they are just an example.



## POCKET MONEY

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### ICYE volunteers

The pocket money will be paid, in many cases, by your host family or by the host community every month. It will be around the same amount, which the other children in the family or the other members in the community receive. In case either the family or the community can afford to pay it, you will receive the pocket money directly from Joint Association.

In this case you will receive an allowance of 65 Euro per month. The money will be transferred directly to you every three months by a wire transfer or paid in hand in cash.

The first pocket money will be sent as soon as you arrive at your hosting project.

### EVS volunteers

EVS volunteers will receive pocket money according to the indication table given by the Commission. In Italy the foreseen monthly amount is 165 Euro. The amount will be paid monthly.

We know that the amount of money isn't so much, but should be enough to allow you to pay for some basic things. So, as Italy is considered an expensive country, we suggest you to bring with you some extra money to cover personal expenses as for example clothing or travelling.

To give you an idea of what things cost in Italy, here are some prices:

- stamp for letter:            within Italy and EU countries            Euro 0.62 / 0.82  
   within the rest of Europe            Euro 0.82 / 1.20  
   other continents            Euro 1.20
- bus ticket (urban)            Euro 1,00
- cup of coffee or cappuccino            Euro 0.70/1.20
- newspaper            Euro 0.90
- movies            Euro 6.50/7.50
- 20 cigarettes Marlboro            Euro. 5.50
- 1 pizza and 1 beer            Euro 14.00
- Clubs            Euro 15.50/21.00

All volunteers using public transport to reach their work placements will be reimbursed for these expenses, from their family/community or by Association Joint.

### Transportation reimbursement

In the latter case only after the receipts have been submitted to Association Joint, reimbursement will be sent via wire transfer.

All volunteers who need to use buses or other kind of transportation for other reasons will have to take care of these expenses by themselves.

## ACTIVITIES DURING THE STAY

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Association Joint expects volunteers to arrive in Italy around the 1st of September and 1st March for respectively 6/12 and 6 months projects. The exact date will be communicated to you following. Like every committee in ICYE, Joint Association offers different activities and conferences throughout the year. Some of them are compulsory: Introduction camp, mid-stay and end of stay conferences, others are optional.

### On Arrival Training

As soon as you arrive in Italy, you will be taken with the other volunteers to the place designated for your Introduction Camp, which will last around 5/7 days. The purpose of this Camp is manifold, but mostly it aims at making you aware of the experience you will live and at giving you the tools to make it successful.

The Introduction Camp may vary from year to year, but certain traits remain the same. The most important one is give you a first approach to the Italian language. Classes will be given to you every day by Professional teachers of the Language school that will host the event.

It is essential that when you reach your placement, you know some basic Italian. Many former volunteers have openly admitted that their adjustment depended greatly on how well they could communicate with their new environment. We will try to give you information on the opportunity to follow Italian language courses in the area where you will live. All the related expenses will be up to you.

The Introduction Camp apart from the language training is above all:

- *An introduction to the Italian way of life.*

Nobody wants to steal away from you the pleasure of discovering things by yourself, but there are facts that it is important to know when you enter this country, to avoid useless embarrassment and bad feelings.

- *An introduction to the Italian affairs and culture.*

Again, we don't want to brain-wash you, but you will find out that there are some people and events that no one will ever explain to you in Italy, because they are so well known by all Italians, that people just take it for granted that everyone else knows about them too. So it is better to have some notions about them.

- *A group experience.*

Your stay abroad will be enriched by your getting to know other people from different part of the world, who are in your same learning situation. This will be perhaps the



first time that you are confronted with so many nationalities and you should try to take advantage of this opportunity.

- *A chance to meet with Joint Association volunteers and people who will help and follow you during your stay in Italy.*

Usually the Orientation and Language Camp is held in Milano, where Joint Association holds its headquarter or in a dedicated place in the countryside. In any case volunteers and staff at Joint Association will be there to help and it will be a good opportunity to meet and get to know all of them at once.

### **Mid Stay Conference (for EVS volunteers this is arranged by the Italian National Agency for “Youth”)**

The Mid Stay Conference lasts some days and this will be the first meeting where you can evaluate the first months of your stay in Italy together with other volunteers and Joint Association volunteers.

It is important that you participate to this meeting because during it you can share experiences, impressions with the other volunteers and speak with them about the difficulties you have had and how you overcame them. Through this exchange of impressions you will get more input and strength to use during the second part of your year in Italy.

Beside the evaluation of the first part of the voluntary period abroad, you will have a cultural program dealing with a theme of common interest related to the Italian political, social or cultural life. The mid-stay conference is an intercultural exchange time both for all volunteers and for the Italian youngsters living in the area.

Please, if you are in any trouble do not wait until the Mid Stay Camp to talk about it! Feel free to call Association Joint at any time either to have a chat or to try to sort your problems out.

### **End of Stay Conference**

This is a meeting where all volunteers meet together. It lasts three/four days and is usually held right before the departure for your home country. **This Conference is a moment where you evaluate and reflect about your experience year in Italy and start to think about your second voluntary period abroad at home.**

Additional meetings take place at local or regional level. This means that Joint Association responsible will be visiting you on your project.

The purpose of these meetings is to have a closer contact with the volunteers and have a chat with him/her after a few months after her/his arrival to Italy.



See you soon in Italy

A presto, in Italia!!