

## INFORMATION REGARDING VOLUNTARY WORK AT THE ASILO VALDESE IN LUSERNA S. G. FOR AGED PEOPLE TURIN –ITALY



The Asilo Valdese, a non-profit organisation belonging to the Waldensian evangelical church, was established more than 100 years ago to assist aged persons.

It has 90 places for non-self-sufficient persons and 20 places for persons which are self-sufficient. There is also a day room available for encounters of local residents of Luserna San Giovanni as well as neighbouring villages.



Asilo Valdese is staffed with doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, animators, and personal assistants, as well as kitchen, cleaning, maintenance and administrative personnel. Many local, as well as some foreign volunteers assist the asilo for simple everyday services.



Volunteers are offered a comfortable accommodation located in the asilo. The flat has two bedrooms (one single and one double), a bathroom, a dining room with a tv and stereo. There is also a kitchen where it is possible to prepare breakfast and small snacks. Lunch and dinner are available at the asilo.

A washing machine is also available for laundering personal clothes, the bed sheets are washed by the Asilo institute during their stay. A bicycle is available for the volunteers to use during their stay.

The Asilo guarantees room and board (7 days per week) as well as laundry services and cleaning products for the flat as well as personal.



Asilo Valdese is situated in the centre of the village of Luserna San Giovanni, with 8,000 inhabitants. Luserna San Giovanni, is situated in northern Italy about 50 km away from Turin (and 17 km from Pinerolo) in the region of Piedmont. It is located in the Pellice valley, which neighbours the french border. The entire valley consists of 9 communities including 25,000 inhabitants.

Pellice valley, together with other two valleys (Val Germanasca and Val Chisone) are known as the "waldensian" valleys and since the middle ages they have been the centre of the waldensian

movement which gave birth to the protestant religion in the Italian peninsula.



This important fact has contributed to increase tourism in the area as well as developing a social/cultural condition for facilitating volunteer work in the Waldensian organisation. Volunteer service is for five days per week (normally from Monday till Friday). During the normal working hours the volunteers provide supporting service for "animation", "physiotherapy", "daily centre" or according to a program of activity to be decided with the responsible service staff. The volunteer will help in different kinds of workshops, such as gardening, painting, cooking, reading books.

*At the moment (since 2020 due to Covid) the daily centre has been temporarily suspended, hoping that in the future this service can be activated again.*

The volunteer will be asked also to implement the relationship with the local communities, by helping in the organisation of public events, and to update pages of the placement in the social networks.

The volunteer will be actively involved in the weekly planning of the job, and according to his/her own personal interest and skills he/she will have the opportunities to propose her/his own activities. The volunteer will be part of a group of volunteers from the Italian national civil Service, usually two of them, and from other international programs, one volunteer from Germany and one from Hungary.



The volunteers will be offered from the coordinating organisation of the project, Diaconia Valdese, a training cycle including the on-arrival training, a mid-term seminar and an evaluation seminar. During this seminar he/she will have the possibility to meet all the volunteers hosted by Diaconia Valdese. In fact Diaconia Valdese has several projects of international volunteering, a lot of them in the villages Luserna San Giovanni and in the neighbouring village Torre Pellice. All the volunteers together (around 15 between German, French, Hungarian, Indian, ...) will attend an Italian course offered by Diaconia Valdese.

Furthermore, as foreseen from the EVS project, the volunteer will attend the seminar organised from the Italian National Agency.

Diaconia Valdese and its office for international volunteering has its main office in Torre Pellice, the neighbouring village of Luserna S. Giovanni. The volunteer will have the chance to have direct contact with the central office, although it is always recommended to first have contact and relationship with the responsible in the placement, the tutor and the mentor.

The volunteer is a young person between 18 and 30 years old.

- **DURATION:** The project mobility has a duration of 11 month and the start is expected in autumn 2022.
- **TRAVEL:** The travel budget is calculated according to different distance bands that can change from country to country.
- **VISA:** For participants who need a visa, there is a budget of 180 € for each volunteer. The participants have to keep all the invoices and tickets to give proof of the expenses. The volunteers will be reimbursed for these expenses at their arrival in Italy.
- **POCKET MONEY:** The volunteers will receive 150,00/155,00 euro of pocket money, at the beginning of every month (5 euro per day).
- **FOOD, ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORTS:** The volunteers will stay in a house with other 2/3 volunteers, from other countries. They will have a shared bedroom (with maximum one other volunteer) and they will share the common spaces (kitchen, living room, bathroom). The house is equipped with all necessary furniture (also towels and sheets for beds). The volunteers will receive a monthly sum every month for the food expenses. From the apartment it is possible to reach the placement by feet.
- **LANGUAGE COURSE:** The volunteers will have access to the Online Linguistic Support that will help them in learning the Italian language. Furthermore they will attend weekly Italian lessons organised by the Diaconia Valdese.
- **INSURANCE:** The volunteers will be insured with Cigna insurance by their sending organisation.

## **COORDINATING ORGANISATION**

CSD - Diaconia Valdese: is a non-profit organisation born thanks to the Waldensian church, a protestant minority in Italy. The organization itself is laical, everyone can benefit from its services regardless to which is the religious, political, cultural, sexual belonging.

The organisation coordinates many services at a national level addressed to people in situations of need, such as disabled, elderly people, minors and youngsters, adults with fewer opportunities, refugees and asylum seekers.

### **UFFICIO VOLONTARIATO E MOBILITÀ GIOVANILI**

**Address:** Via Fuhrmann 32, Luserna San Giovanni, Turin, Italy.

**Contact Person:** Federica Messina

**Phone:** 0039 3487978745

**e-mail:** [volontariato@diaconiavaldese.org](mailto:volontariato@diaconiavaldese.org)

**Web site:** [www.diaconiavaldese.org](http://www.diaconiavaldese.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/VolontariatoDiaconiaValdese>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/volocsd/>

**TikTok:** <https://www.tiktok.com/@getvol>