



Volunteer
with the European Solidarity Corps
for Activities in Portugal with Ecological Sense

Project financed by the Programa LIFE (LIFE17 ESC/PT/003)



LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES

Project **LIFE Volunteer ESCAPES - Volunteer with European Solidarity Corps for Activities in Portugal with Ecological Sense (LIFE17 ESC/PT/00003)** is one of the four LIFE preparatory projects approved to explore the potential of **using volunteers of the European Solidarity Corps for environmental protection activities**. It is a LIFE Preparatory project, which means that it is intended to generate information and knowledge that can be used, after its conclusion, for wider application, both in the national context and in other member states.

The project gathers a **wide partnership of organizations** which have previous work in deployment and management of volunteers, for different kinds of nature and biodiversity conservation works, as well as organizations that have been promoting complementary works on environmental protection and sustainable development. The project's coordination is ensured by **MONTIS - Associação de Conservação da Natureza**, a nature conservation NGO that specifically focuses on private land conservation and land stewardship, in close cooperation with a set of other partners:

- national and local public administrations (**Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, I.P.** the national agency in charge of environmental policies, and **Município de Torres Vedras**, a coastal municipality in central Portugal);
- nature conservation NGO's of local and national scope that rely on volunteering to undertake conservation works (**SPEA - Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves, Plantar uma Árvore – Associação, MARCA – Associação de Desenvolvimento Local**);
- other non-profit bodies that, on their activities and with their members, are active promoters of sustainable practices in economic activity (**BCSD Portugal - Conselho Empresarial para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável**, the national branch of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and **ROTA VICENTINA - Associação para a Promoção do Turismo de Natureza na Costa Alentejana e Vicentina**, an association dealing with sustainable tourism on the Vicentina Southwest Coast Natural Park);
- one SME working on environmental communication, which support the overall project needs on these issues, **PLAYSOLUTIONS - Audiovisuais**.

Overall, it is expected that **from June 2018 until the end of the project**, the project will allow, among other things, **more than 175 volunteers to carry out volunteer activities useful for nature conservation and biodiversity in the field and/or in offices**, covering mainly Natura 2000 areas and/or species and habitats protected by European policies such as the Birds and Habitats Directives.

To ensure this and other objectives - including the development and implementation of a joint, rotating volunteer program that allows volunteers to contact with more than one organization - **each partner will host volunteers, for various periods and for different types of activities, through the European Solidarity Corps**.

The intervention and reception places are diverse and include volunteer offers in several regions and municipalities, such as the **Azores, Algarve and Madeira, Montemor-o-Novo, Sesimbra, Torres Vedras, Vila Pouca de Aguiar and Vouzela**.

The offers will be communicated and disclosed as soon as they are available, among others, directly by each partner through their networks and also in the Facebook page of the project (<https://www.facebook.com/volunteer.escapes/>). There is also a project specific web page, which is currently under construction For more information do not hesitate to contact Montis or any of the partners.



MONTIS - Nature Conservation Association

MONTIS is an environmental non-governmental and non-profit Organization based in Vouzela, created in 2014, whose **mission is to create value with biodiversity**, through a sustainable management of the natural heritage, which is participatory, transparent and open to all stakeholders.

The association activities are focused on the active management of land that is under Montis management, and currently cover about 150 ha, mostly in the central area of the country (in Vouzela, São Pedro do Sul and Arouca) but also in Alentejo (Montemor-o-Novo).

In order to support its management needs, MONTIS organizes regularly short-term volunteering activities with various publics (associates, the general public, academic associations and companies). This has been the main motivation to boost the partnership established with the **LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES** project and ensure their coordination.

For detailed information on MONTIS volunteering offers, contact Montis team through the email volunteer.escapes@gmail.com.

Volunteer offers

Under this project MONTIS will open offers to volunteers between **the ages of 18 and 30, European Union residents, for periods of 2 to 12 month**. The volunteer work will include office activities (eg in the areas of communication, data management, definition of management solutions). **But also, and mainly, the support to field work** related to the conservation needs of the properties under Montis management (including for example the application of natural engineering solutions, control of invasive species, rehabilitation and restoration of riparian and forest habitats).

What we provide?

With the support of the LIFE VOLUNTEER ESCAPES project, MONTIS will make available to European Solidarity Corps volunteers:

- **orientation by a specific tutor**, designated in the Volunteer Agreement;
- **theoretical and practical training** in the activities to be performed;
- **legally required insurance**;
- accommodation and food solutions, on the **maximum amount of 20 € per day of work** that allow the volunteers to have the basic conditions necessary for the reception;
- reimbursement of travel expenses between the residence and the reception places (one trip and one return per volunteer and volunteer period), up to the limit of the reimbursable unit costs, according to the amounts defined by the European Solidarity Corps:
 - 10 to 99 Km: maximum of 20 €;
 - 100 to 499 Km: maximum of 180 €;
 - 500 to 1.999 Km: maximum of 275 €.

