

My #Europedirect #youthmobility #experienceabroad

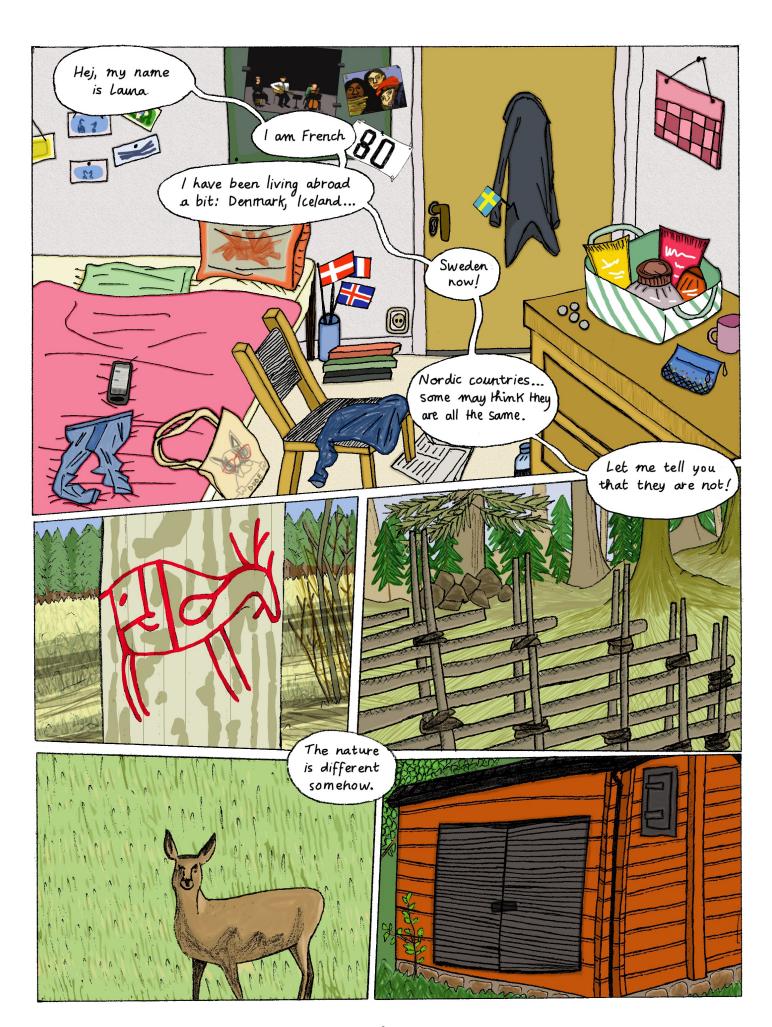






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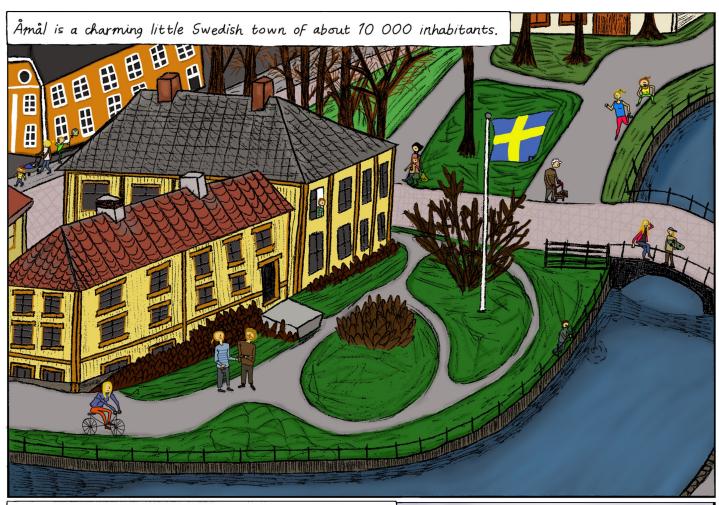
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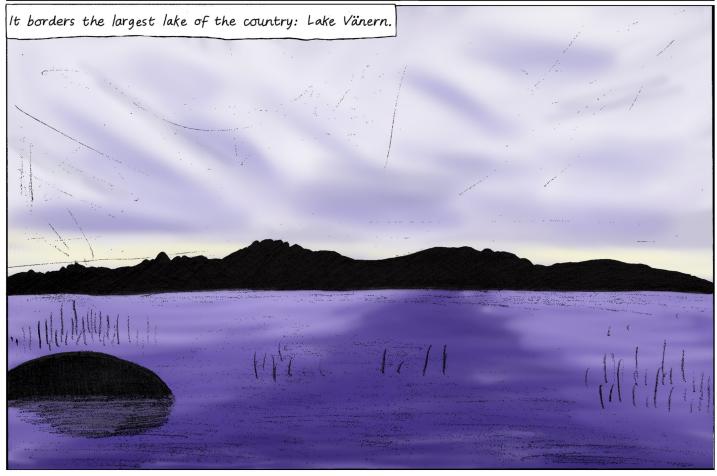




Those are stereotypes of course! | remember He even showed me a video. I told him that my first day in Sweden. I was heading to l was going to Amal. Gothenburg's city center, and the bus driver... he could just not stop talking to me! About him and his music band playing every weekend in a barl you say Amal? I will be playing at Åmål's Blues festival this summer! See you there! The people that 1 Amal? meet when I travel in Sweden often ask me where I live, and their reaction is always the same... Åmål!? Amall? This is where I am now. Yes I know! The movie, "Fucking Åmål". FUCKING ÅMÅL They are Most of the time, referring to they cannot really a movie situate Amal. from 1998, very popular at this time among the Swedish teenagers.

It's here.



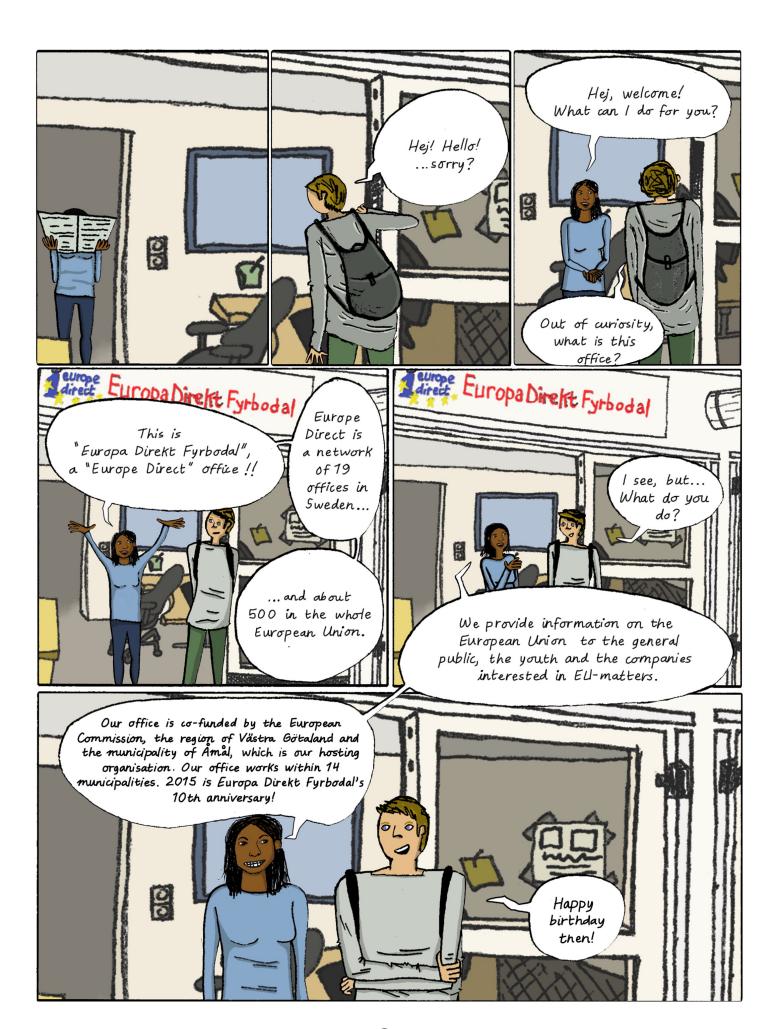












When I am in the office, I answer to e-mails...



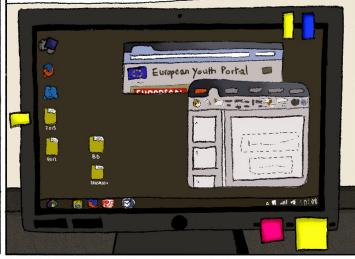
I read the news on Europe and the European Union, and search for information.



We often have meetings to talk about ongoing projects or activities. So I take notes, you know...



Sometimes / prepare small presentations for future events on different topics connected to the European Union.



We order and receive brochures from the EU-bookshop. We also send them to the libraries and schools in the region.



Then we store them in a room, down in the basement.



From time to time we take part in events to communicate about the EU or to celebrate European days (Europe day on May 9th, the European language day, etc.). So we need to come up with new ideas to

In addition, we pack all the useful material. The brochures turn out to be very handy.









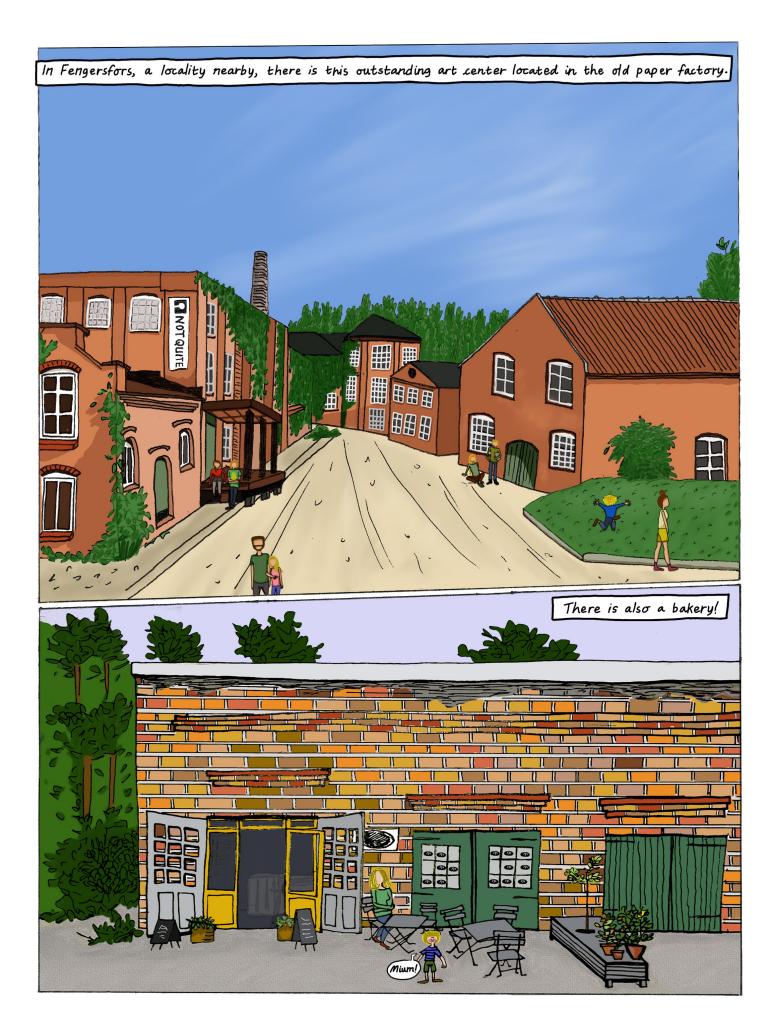
























We meet them individually.

But sometimes all of us volunteers and our social mentors gather and have "Fika".

the whole duration of our voluntary service.



"On arrival" and "Mid-term" trainings: Those are trainings that allow us to meet other EV5 volunteers in Sweden. We get to know more about our rights as EVS and we learn about the culture of the new country we are living in. In the second training we meet our fellow EVS friends again and reflect on the progress of our projects. Our trainings are in Stockholm and last for a few days. share accommodation. We travel together. The trainings are divided between group reflection and intercultural games And we explore the city!

I have some friends who did EVS too. I asked them to tell you a bit about their own experience:

Hej, I'm Hanna from Sweden. I did my EVS on a farm in a mountain village in Austria. The people working at the farm had mental disabilities and my job was to be a mentor for them in their work. Most of them only spoke German so I learned the language fast. My daily tasks were to take care of the animals and stables. It was hard work, but also very rewarding to help people develop. I spent my freetime hiking, skiing, hanging out with new friends and travelling around Austria and neighbouring countries. The best thing about my EV5 was meeting so many nice people from all over Europe and to really get to know the culture of my host country. The whole experience also helped me decide on what I wanted to do next in life. EVS is so much fun, I would like to do it again!

Hej, I am Julia and I am from Germany. My EVS in Romania taught me that sometimes the greatest learning processes take place when stepping out of one's comfort zone. I was in a language center. I was teaching German and English to different kind of groups. I was also promoting volunteerism at different events and at university for example. At the organisation, I took over tasks I didn't feel comfortable with at the beginning because they were new for me. In the end, this experience taught me how to organize myself better. I think that EVS is perfect to try new things and learn more about yourself and your skills.







Hello! I am Jorge, from Spain.

My EVS in Estonia was pretty cool!

The project was in a Youth Center in the capital,

Tallinn. I enjoyed a lot teaching Spanish to grown ups,

and spanish culture, gastronomy to the kids.

It is unbelievable I could work at Jazzkaar (International Jazz Festival) as a journalist covering the event, making reviews of the concerts and interviewing the artists.

I also worked in the food bank, helping the poor people. I have really good memories of my daily life with other volunteers, meeting people from all over the world.

In one word, the experience was STUNNING!



I am Alina from Lithuania! My EVS in Iceland was a significant life experience that keeps nourishing in and around me to this day. I was the leader of international workcamps. It was quite a challenge as I was the one who always had to find compromises between my NGO; the participants and the hosts of the workcamps, in everyday tasks and leisure activities.

Through this I learned a lot about myself. I recognised my strengths and weaknesses and overcame inner fears. Being in the magic Icelandic surroundings, I found a deeper connection with the nature. I have started to care more about the environment and my choices in being a sensible citizen of the Planet. But what is the most important is that I expanded my international family and now I have friends literally in every continent in the world!

Hej, my name is Johann and I am from Germany!

I did an EV5 in Amiens, in a region called "Picardie"

In case you don't Know it, it's in the north of France,
with really bad weather but really nice people!

I worked in an office that is organising international workcamps
for volunteers, I met people from different countries and
thereby I learned a lot about other cultures and myself as well.
I started to learn and speak French, made several translations
for the office, tought German to some seniors, visited trainings and
seminars and in the end I was also assisting in a workcamp.
I made a lot of friends in France and even though there were
also some difficult times within that period, I can only recommend
everyone to participate in an EVS! It's an important experience
that helps you to develop and grow up fast and a great
opportunity to see the world!

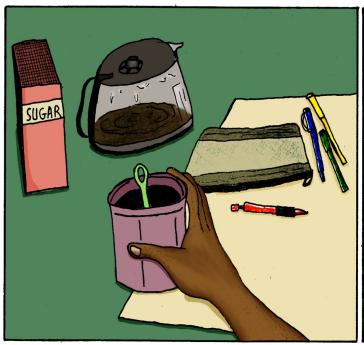
Hi, I am Francesco from Italy and my experience was intense and important. I was together with Johann, in an organization that offers international workcamps, whose aim is to restore historical and artistic French sites. The first months, I was in the office and helped the team. I was in charge of the "Language café": a weekly gathering that gave an opportunity to anyone willing to learn a foreign language, to meet and exchange opinions. It was a great way to improve my language skills. In the "On Arrival Training" and the "Mid-term Training", I met new people, from many different countries. We compared our situations and expressed our opinions regarding the EVS experience. One of the most gratifying moments was my participation in a training course to become a workcamp leader. I was then the leader of a group of young boys and girls coming from different continents! Some good and strong friendships came out from my EVS. I enjoyed being confronted with cultural values that did not match mine, as well as the everyday life with the office team in a beautiful city, like Amiens.

I chose this EV5 at Europa Direkt Fyrbodal for the possibilities it gives me to express my creativity and communicate about the EU at the same time!

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As volunteers, we are encouraged to use our ideas and experiences to develop our own little project. Guess what is mine... this comic of course! I have to go and finish it, but... if you have it in your hands right now, then I'm happy!

I also invite you to check the European Youth Portal website to learn more about the European Voluntary Service, at europa eu/youth.







"The European Voluntary Service (EVS) gives young people the opportunity to express their personal commitment through full-time voluntary work in a foreign country within or outside EU.

The EVS aims to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, while contributing to strengthening social cohesion and promoting active citizenship."

The European Commission





Med stöd från EU