

ESC volunteering

ESC in a residential community for young women and girls



Where: **Genova, Italy**

P.E.CO. × Cooperativa Sociale Buon Pastore



Who we are



P.E.CO.

Associazione di Promozione Sociale P.E.CO. was born in Genova in 2013 in order to offer opportunities of international mobility and intercultural learning to Genoese and Ligurian youths aged between 13 and 30.

In particular, P.E.CO. targets young people with fewer opportunities or economically/socially disadvantaged, aiming to offer opportunities to those who usually have less access.

2013

born in Genova

13-30

years old: our youths

~20

ESC volunteers in
Genova



We are the coordinating / lead organisation

- We manage bureaucratic questions of the project, volunteers' questions, and the flat of volunteers.
- Around 20 ESC volunteers in several projects around Genova: non-formal education in youth centres, after-school activities and immigration-related projects.

peco.genova.it ↗

Who we are

The Congregation of Buon Pastore



Present in Genova since 1842



A long story of commitment

Has a very long story of commitment to the assistance of young girls and women. Its activity has always addressed the female world through the reception, education, and vocational training of the weakest, younger groups.



The '70s

Buon Pastore started a collaboration with the Territorial Social Services of Genoa and, consistent with the social and political changes of the time, undertook a significant reformation in the educational system, becoming more personalized, less restrictive, and open to the outside and voluntary groups.



2019

The Buon Pastore Cooperativa Sociale – Impresa Sociale was created. Now it runs three residential services hosting and taking care of young girls and mothers, and helping them in their independence and self-fulfillment.

Our centers

CEAS

A residential community for girls aged 6–18, with 9 beds. Educators are present 24 hours a day, every day. Goal: protection and support of the girls.

No volunteers here

Youth Accommodation

A house for girls aged 18–21 in administrative custody to Social Services: 6 beds, 2 educators. Goal: personal, work and housing autonomy, with the girls' active participation.

Volunteers here



Macramé

A community for single-parent families (mothers with minors): 6 family units. Goal: evaluate parenting skills, give support and help mothers become autonomous.

Volunteers here

Autonomy projects

Tailor-made paths to housing and relational autonomy for girls, minors or just 18. Now active: “Dopo di Noi”, a young woman in a small independent studio, with educational support.

No volunteers here

What you need to know about us



Inside and outside

Most of our activities take place inside the institution spaces. However, the volunteers have the opportunity to get in contact with the context outside the structure thanks to the different activities that the girls host in the community.



A strong network

The Cooperative is well integrated into a network of associations and bodies working in the social sector and it is also part of the Consulta Diocesana, an association that collects different bodies (cooperatives, associations, organizations, etc.) working to foster the conditions of minors, young adults and families in difficulty.



Quality of our work

These collaborations guarantee a strong presence and activism in the territory, and allow a constant upgrade of the quality of our work and services.



Discover the city

Genova (Genoa) the most important port of the Mediterranean and one of the most important ports in Europe, it is the sixth most populated city in Italy and is part of the industrial triangle that connects Turin and Milan. Its privileged location, as the “door to the Mediterranean”, has made Genoa one of the most prosperous financial and commercial centers and one of the most influential of the West. The city of Genoa has in recent decades been going through a time of economic and social hardship caused by the de-industrialization and impoverishment of the economy in general. For this reason, the Ligurian capital has undertaken in the last 20 years a significant process of urban renewal.

Liguria has always been the destination of arriving migrants, and today more than ever, it includes different cultures often in conflict with each other and local authorities. It is indeed a tough neighborhood, where marginalization and petty crime hinder the process of integration.



Important to know

The structure of the city is very peculiar: there will be stairs and ups and downs.



[See it on Google Maps](#)

What is important to keep in mind



Building relationships

- The target group may have vulnerabilities and difficult backgrounds.
- Build relationships gradually and without pressure.
- Respect privacy, personal boundaries, and individual needs.
- Focus first on building trust and creating a safe environment.



Methodology

- Based on Pedagogy of Love and Progetto Uomo.
- The person is at the centre of the educational process.
- Individual potential, dignity, and personal growth are valued.
- Work is seen as a tool for responsibility, growth, and empowerment.



Role of volunteers

- Especially at the beginning, volunteers may have limited space for giving ideas
- The priority is to build trust and understand the group's needs.
- Be patient, flexible, and attentive.
- Contribute to a safe, respectful, and supportive environment.

What you will do

Volunteer's activities



Daily life

Support in daily activities inside the community.



With the staff

Support the staff in the preparation of activities and in taking care about the space and the people.



With the girls

After some time, a relation with the girls hosted will be created. It is important to respect the people's privacy and always act after consultation with educators.



Promotion

Support the association to promote their activities on the web and through the organization of social events for the population.



Who we are looking for

Ideal volunteer



Autonomous, mature and responsible



Motivated to join our activities



Excellent communication and interpersonal skills



Open to share and meet other people



Respect of the rules, problem solving, discretion



Basic knowledge of Italian



The project is not for you if...



you don't have patience



you don't like big cities



you are not willing to improve your Italian



you don't like community life: you will share the house with different people

The volunteer should be aware of their extremely important role in the centre and available to cooperate to the educative and training process of Buon Pastore.

It's a delicate role, in contact with young girls that often come from complex family situations. So we look for:

Tolerance

Patience

Firmness

Creativity

Good to know



6 € a day

Pocket money

Plus a food allowance.



Refunded

Travel expenses

Reimbursed on the basis defined by the European Commission.



Max 38 h

Your weekly time

A maximum of 38 hours per week, with flexibility and shifts including italian lessons and trainings



2 + 2

Days off & vacation

2 consecutive days off and 2 days of vacation per month, with 15 days' notice.

Where you will live

3

volunteers' flats in Genova

4 · 4 · 11-12

volunteers per flat

2 of 3

flats reached only by stairs



Volunteers are placed according to availability.



Double/triple rooms, shared bathroom, kitchen and common areas.



Living together is a key part of the experience: respect, sharing and care for common spaces are essential.



Accommodation covered by P.E.CO.



Join us!

How to apply

ESC volunteering in a residential community for young women and girls

If you are interested in joining us, please send your CV and motivation letter in English to:



apply.esc@peco.genova.it

Here the websites:

peco.genova.it

cooperativabuonpastoregenova.it

