EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

ESC volunteering with teens & children

Il Ce.Sto – social centres, afterschool, Luzzati Garden & summer camps

WHERE: GENOVA – ITALY



WHO WE ARE · COORDINATING ORGANISATION

P.E.CO.

Associazione di Promozione Sociale P.E.CO. was born in Genova in 2013 to offer opportunities of international mobility and intercultural learning to Genoese and Ligurian youths aged 13–30. We especially target young people with fewer opportunities or who are economically/socially disadvantaged.

We are the coordinating/lead organisation: we manage the bureaucratic side of the project, volunteers' questions and the volunteers' flats. We have around 20 ESC volunteers in several projects around Genova, on non-formal education in youth centres, after-school activities and immigration-related projects.

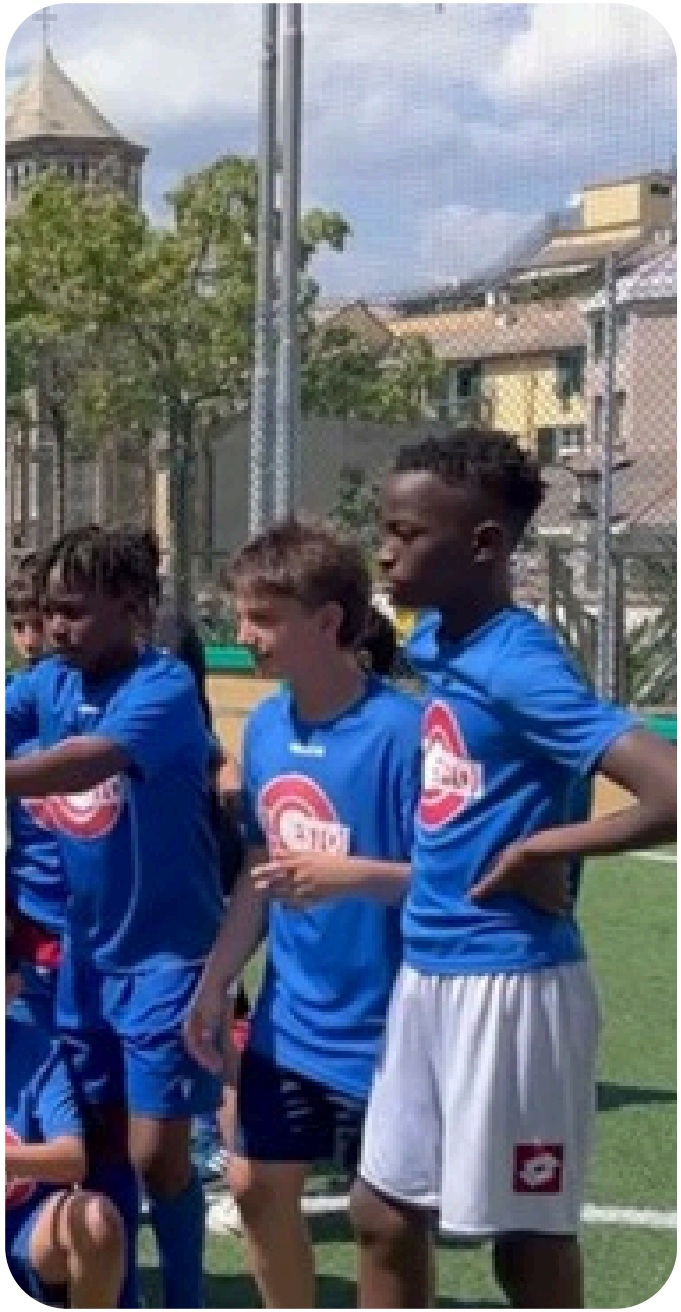
peco.genova.it →



2013
founded in Genova

13–30
age of the youths we support

~20
ESC volunteers in Genova



WHO WE ARE · HOST ORGANISATION

Il Ce.Sto

Since 1987 Associazione Il Ce.Sto has promoted integration and social inclusion among the different ethnic groups living in Genoa's historic centre, with a focus on minors, second-generation migrants and other actors in the neighbourhood (residents, shopkeepers, schools and institutions).

Our mission

A space for educational, recreational and creative growth for children of every background; positive relations, mutual knowledge and solidarity; tools to bring out the potential of individuals and the community.

Our services

- Social Centre for children
- Social Centre for pre-teens & teens
- Literacy course for adults
- Helpdesk for migrants
- Cultural animation & training

ilcesto.org →

THE PROJECT

What you need to know about us

The Social Centre

For children and adolescents: school support and after-school leisure activities.

Summer camps

Run in and around the city for children and teens, with a completely different schedule from the school year.

Where we work

Genoa's historic centre: a maze of narrow alleys you can only reach on foot. A tough, multicultural neighbourhood where Il Ce.Sto spreads tolerance, respect and mutual understanding.

Many children come from complex backgrounds: patience and firm, caring limits are essential.



LUZZATI GARDEN

Since 2012 Il Ce.Sto has managed Luzzati Garden, a run-down area that was renovated and transformed. Here we promote cultural and leisure activities, giving the neighbourhood an alternative meeting place.

THE PROJECT

Who you'll work with & what to expect





Who you'll work with

Children and teenagers aged 6–18. Many come from complex family backgrounds; several have hyperactivity, difficulties with emotional regulation, or learn at a slower pace than their peers.

What to expect

- You'll often find out about activities at the last minute, alongside the kids. Your role is supportive, not decision-making.
- Italian is essential: learn it as fast as you can, even from zero. Educators may not speak English.
- Patience is the most important quality you can bring.
- You'll join events now and then, different from daily life.
- **The summer has a completely different schedule.**

THE PROJECT

Your activities during the day



With teens & children

- Creating social animation activities and games in the social centre and summer camps
- Organising workshops, events and sports activities with the youngsters and local volunteers
- Afterschool tutoring

Supporting activities

- Supporting the team of educators in daily activities
- Daily cleaning and tidying of the centre (shared by all volunteers)
- Helping organise cultural and intercultural events in Luzzati Garden

IS IT FOR YOU?

The ideal volunteer…

- is 20–30 years old
- willing to stay the whole duration of the project
- is flexible, adaptable to new situations, open-minded and cheerful
- is ready for a delicate role with young people from complex situations, who may test limits
- is ready to work in a multicultural environment
- willing to learn italian or basic knowledge of Italian
- willing to play and have fun with children

This project is NOT for you if…

- you don’t like big cities
- you don’t like working with children
- you don’t like living with other people
- you get bored or frustrated easily
- you aren’t willing to improve your Italian
- you aren’t tolerant and patient



GENOVA

Discover the city

One of Italy's most underrated cities: raw, authentic and full of surprises. Tucked between the mountains and the Ligurian Sea, it has the largest medieval old town in Europe, a UNESCO-listed historic centre and a vibrant, working-class soul.

The caruggi

Narrow medieval streets, palaces, hidden courtyards and ancient churches at every corner.

The sea is everywhere

Beaches are easy to reach; Camogli, Portofino and Cinque Terre are a train ride away.

The home of pesto

Plus focaccia, farinata, trofie and fresh fish. Eating well and cheaply is easy.

A vertical city

Hills, stairs, funiculars and public lifts everywhere: be ready for ups and downs!
Open in Google Maps →

A multicultural city

Genova has a rich multicultural community, and areas affected by marginalisation and petty crime. These are also the areas where volunteers work, and where the city has changed the most.



GENOVA

Genova: history & today



A bit of history

Middle Ages For centuries Genova was an independent maritime republic, “La Superba”, rival of Venice, with trading posts all over the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

1407 The Banco di San Giorgio is founded: one of the oldest banks in the world.

1451 Christopher Columbus is born in Genova.

1500s–1600s Genoese bankers finance the Spanish crown and the city builds the Strade Nuove and the Palazzi dei Rolli (UNESCO World Heritage since 2006).

1797 The Republic ends with Napoleon’s arrival.

Genova today

Genova (Genoa) is the most important port of the Mediterranean. 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.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The word “jeans” comes from Genoa: “bleu de Gênes”, the blue cloth of Genoese sailors.

The Lanterna, the city’s symbol, is a lighthouse from 1543, still working.

The Aquarium in Porto Antico, renewed by Renzo Piano, is one of Europe’s largest.

Genoa CFC, founded in 1893, is Italy’s oldest football club.

PRACTICAL INFO

Regarding the project





Time

Monday to Friday, max 35 hours per week. 2 consecutive days off (usually Sat & Sun). 2 days of vacation per month, with 15 days' notice.

Money

Pocket money of 6€ per day + food allowance.

Travel

Travel expenses are reimbursed on the basis defined by the European Commission.

House

P.E.CO. has 3 volunteers' flats in Genova: two for 4 volunteers and one for 11–12. Volunteers are placed according to availability; 2 of the 3 flats can only be reached by stairs. 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?

Do you want to join us in Genova? It's easy!

1. Write your CV in English
2. Write a motivation letter in English
3. Send both to the email below

apply.esc@peco.genova.it

Subject: ESC volunteering with teens & children – IL CE.STO

INFO peco.genova.it · ilcesto.org · ig: ilcestogenova · youthforeurope.eu



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