

Call for participants

Peace with nature: Rebuilding Envall



Refugi Casa Bigodé, Envall
3rd - 14th November 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

BASIC INFORMATION

Address of the camp: Carrer únic, s/n, 25513 Envall Lleida

Dates: 3 -14th November 2024

Arrival day: 3rd November

Departure day: 14th November

Contact person for queries: projecte@scicat.org

Emergency telephone number: (+34) 662905515

THE ECO-CAMP “Peace with nature: Rebuilding Envall”



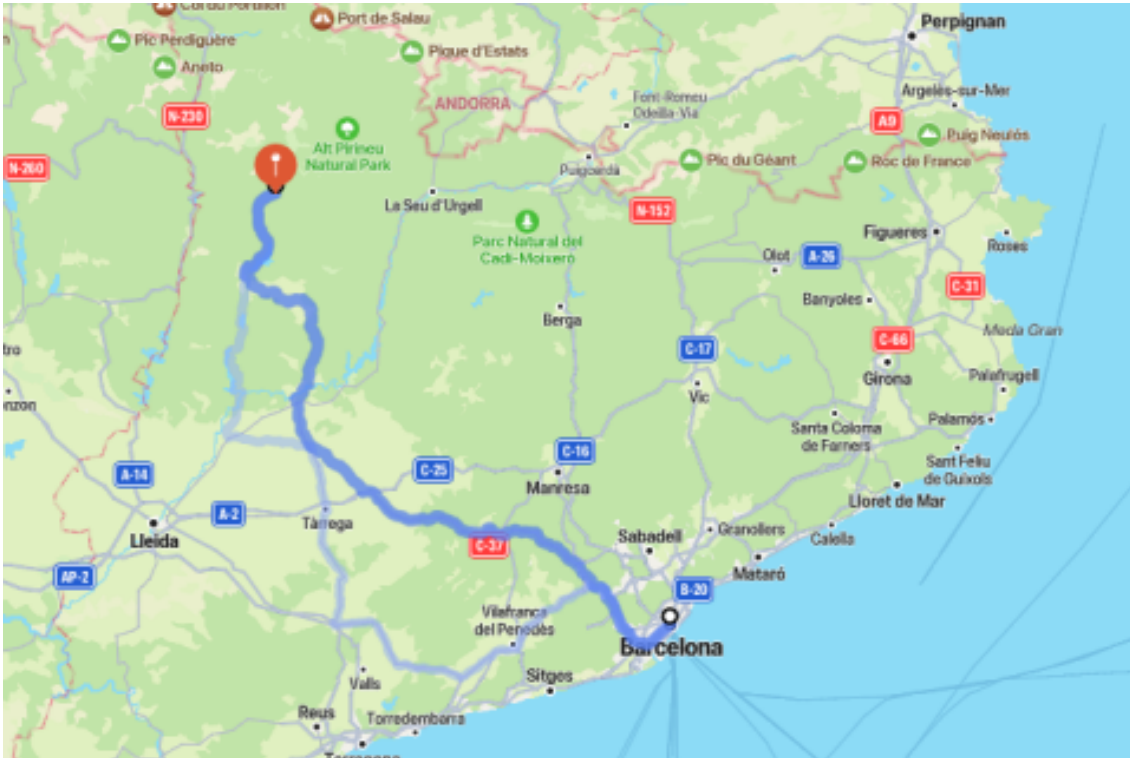
Thank you for being interested in taking part in the “Peace with nature: Rebuilding Envall” eco-camp in Catalonia!

Here’s a bit of context: Envall is a Catalan small village in the Pyrenees, in a **very rural area**, that was abandoned for nearly 30 years as a result of the rural depopulation caused by the exodus towards the cities. 20 years ago a small group of people started to come back to the village. These people started a **cooperative to bring back life in this rural village**.

The Envalls cooperative is now promoting 2 projects aiming to repopulate and generate income for the village. The first project is the **Refuge, a mountain hostel** and the second is a **School of the Mountain**.

The Refuge can host up to 24 people and it is a space that suits all needs and ages.

In line with the principles and values of the cooperative to go back to nature and to live **in respect and harmony with the natural environment** and to be as much as possible self sustainable, the hostel only offers vegetarian food. All vegetables and other ingredients are locally produced, making this project quite unique compared to other tourist accommodations.



HOW TO GET THERE

Please, before applying be aware that Envalls is situated about 220 km from Barcelona in a **very remote area** of the Pyrenees. To reach the place, volunteers will have to travel with public transport **from Barcelona to La Pobla de Segur**. (either by bus or train). Once arrived, a pick-up with cars will be organized, as the camp venue is quite remote. If you don't like the countryside this is not your place.

THE GROUP

The group of participants who will take part in this eco-camp will consist of **20 people**, 16 participants between 18 and 30 years old and 4 group leaders coming from 4 different partners: **Catalonia, Jordan, Palestine and Italy**. Although there are small country groups, the emphasis is on intercultural learning and getting to know each other. Through these intercultural meetings, the eco-camps want to promote peace building and create safer spaces for all participants to explore other realities and become more aware of one's own identities.

VOLUNTEER TASKS

Apart from the usual tasks typical of a work camp or any project (cleaning, cooking, checking that there is good group dynamics), participants will have the opportunity to explore different aspects of eco-sustainable volunteering in line with the philosophy of the community that will host them. Please be aware that you'll be staying in a very rural area surrounded by mountains and forest and that the tasks you'll be doing during the workcamp are related to mountain life and work, so it's imperative that you **enjoy being surrounded by nature** and are

ready to **undertake tasks related to work carried out in the mountains**. So be prepared for work and for tasks that maybe you are not used to but we are happy to teach you.

Together with the local community the following tasks were selected to be carried out by the eco-camp groups:

- **Restoring a dry stone wall**. Dry stone construction is a very old and traditional building technique in the Pyrenees. Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn this technique and to understand how constructing with local materials and old techniques can be a sustainable alternative to modern high energy consuming and polluting building techniques. This is hard work since stones will have to be carried, cleaned and put together.
- **Maintaining the permaculture garden**. The garden wants to provide the local community with vegetables and fruits. The cooperative started a permaculture garden as a way to grow vegetables in respect with nature. To find out more about permaculture you can visit the [Permaculture principles](#) website. The founding principle of permaculture is earth care, people care and fair share. Volunteers will learn about permaculture design and how it benefits people and nature.
- **Help with the first houses**. If everything goes well, we will start the rebuilding of the houses for our cooperative partners. so the volunteers will help with the initial help of that part.
- **Constructions with wood**. Small furniture or structures will be produced with wood.





Each day the participants will be divided in different groups in order to carry out the different tasks. Volunteers will have the possibility to learn different skills, work together in a team and take responsibility for different tasks.

THE STUDY PART

Apart from different team building activities to get to know the other participants and the different cultures, there may also be workshops or activities. These activities are not mandatory and we will see how we organize it, depending on the group and their energy and proposals. But the cooperative can provide some workshops related on:

- *Ceramics, pottery and clay workshop.* The mountain area of Envall has a long tradition of pottery and the volunteers will have the possibility to learn about the “clay culture” and the pottery techniques.
- *The principles and philosophy of permaculture and the importance of a healthy soil.*
- *Climate change and ecological issues in the Mediterranean region.*
- *How to make goat cheese*

THE FREE TIME

The camp will last 10 days and the volunteers will work every morning from 9:00 to 13:30 with a mid-morning break. The afternoons when no special session /workshop is offered, the volunteers can relax, go to the nearby river or play games. In the eco-camps the idea is that volunteers experience communal living and decision-making.

Those afternoon activities will be **organized and self-managed by the group of volunteers**.

There will be **one free day** during the weekend when the volunteers will have the opportunity to explore the area a little bit and have more time to connect with each other.

ACCOMODATION AND FOOD



As mentioned before, the volunteers will together set up a schedule to make sure all daily tasks are taken care of such as cleaning the accommodation, cooking and keeping the kitchen tidy.

Since there is no shop in the village, the hostel responsible will do some shopping in the nearby town once a week. According to the menu agreed (based on available vegetables in the community and local products available on the market) the volunteers will make cooking teams and take care of the food. **All the food will be vegetarian.** The group will be staying in the hostel/refugee in **shared rooms**.

WHAT TO BRING?

- Sleeping bag
- Towels
- Comfortable clothes to work (remember you'll be staying in a rural area!)
- Mountain shoes (and river shoes, if you want)
- Sunscreen
- Hat

- Work gloves (if you want)
- Some typical sweets from your country to share with the group

Remember to bring some warm clothes for the evenings as well. When the sun goes down it can get colder!

INSURANCE

All volunteers taking part in the eco-camps will be insured by the SCI insurance. This insurance is an additional medical insurance, covering costs which are not covered by your own public health insurance. It is not a travel insurance and doesn't cover lost luggage or other travel related costs. Your sending organisation will provide you with more info about the insurance and advise you on this.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

The project is supported by the Erasmus+ programme:

- Food and accommodation during the eco-camp will be provided by the Erasmus+ grant.
- Travel costs will be reimbursed **up to the travel limit** set by the EU and if all necessary travel tickets (boarding passes, invoices) are handed in within the agreed time frame.

Travel expenses		
Organisation	Country	Total Budget
Servei Civil Internacional de Catalunya	Spain	285 € (Green travel - bus or train)
Servizio Civile Internazionale	Italy	417 € (Green travel - bus or train)
Shmoh Center	Palestine	580 €
Space for Sustainable Development	Jordania	580 €

- Other necessary expenses such as visa fees, will be paid by SCI Catalonia since they are included in the project expenses.