



To begin with, thank you for your interest and taking into consideration to come to Croatia, do your service here and give your contribution to this project and development of a small rural community.

This Infopack serves as a means to provide you with valuable insights and information prior deciding to come to Latinovac as well as introducing you to our way of life.

Project **“Sustainable Organization for Sustainable Community”**

Stage 5: 10th March – 10th July 2020 (4 months)

Venue: **Latinovac**, Municipality of Čaglin, Croatia

## 1. Information about the Organization

Our organization is called Eko Centar Latinovac. It was founded in Latinovac, Croatia, in 1995 and received its legal status three years later in 1998. Through its existence, Eko Centar Latinovac had many goals, from peacebuilding and personal growth, to environmental activism and awareness raising.

In the last five years, our activities are mostly based on permaculture, development of local community, work with youth and volunteerism.



All activities are based upon an educational and practical part, responding to the principle of lifelong learning.

The goal our organization pursues is to contribute to the community development, connect and network with local people, create possibilities for better life and future, providing higher quality of living for all generations.

## 2. Information about Latinovac

Latinovac is a small village with 60 inhabitants, located in Slavonija region which is the eastern, continental part of Croatia.

This area is characterized by outstanding **beautiful nature reserve and protected areas**. The area has enormous potential for development of rural tourism, biking, hiking and education in sustainable and traditional practices.

There are no street lights in the village; only shops we have are mobile shops few times per day, the closest regular shops, post office, pub and ambulance are in Čaglin, approximately 3km, within walking distance.

Closest cities are **Požega, Slavonski Brod and Našice**, with a distance of approximately 30km. Other bigger cities are Osijek (80km) and Zagreb, the capital of Croatia (probably your landing destination - 200km)

The major challenges that our village is facing are:

- Population decline (from 312 inhabitants in 1961. to 60 in 2015.)
- Lack of employment opportunities for young people

Eko Centar Latinovac and volunteers are important part of the village, as any villager will confirm. Members of Eko Centar, as well as volunteers participate in everyday life of the village and community. The involvement varies with every project, season of the year, amount of free time we can spare and motivation of each group and individuals, but there is always a strong bond of friendship at the end of the projects; with emotions running high and promises of seeing each other again.



### 3. Arrival to Latinovac

#### Route: Zagreb -> Slavonski Brod -> Latinovac

Most common case is that volunteers arrive by plane to Zagreb's airport. Once you arrive and pick up your luggage, take the bus connection to "Zagreb Central bus station". Airport and Central Bus station are close by, the ride shouldn't take more than 30 minutes.

**Please make sure to have some local currency ready since you need to pay the fare and luggage. In case you need any information, there are tourist info booths on the airport, central bus station and main train station.**

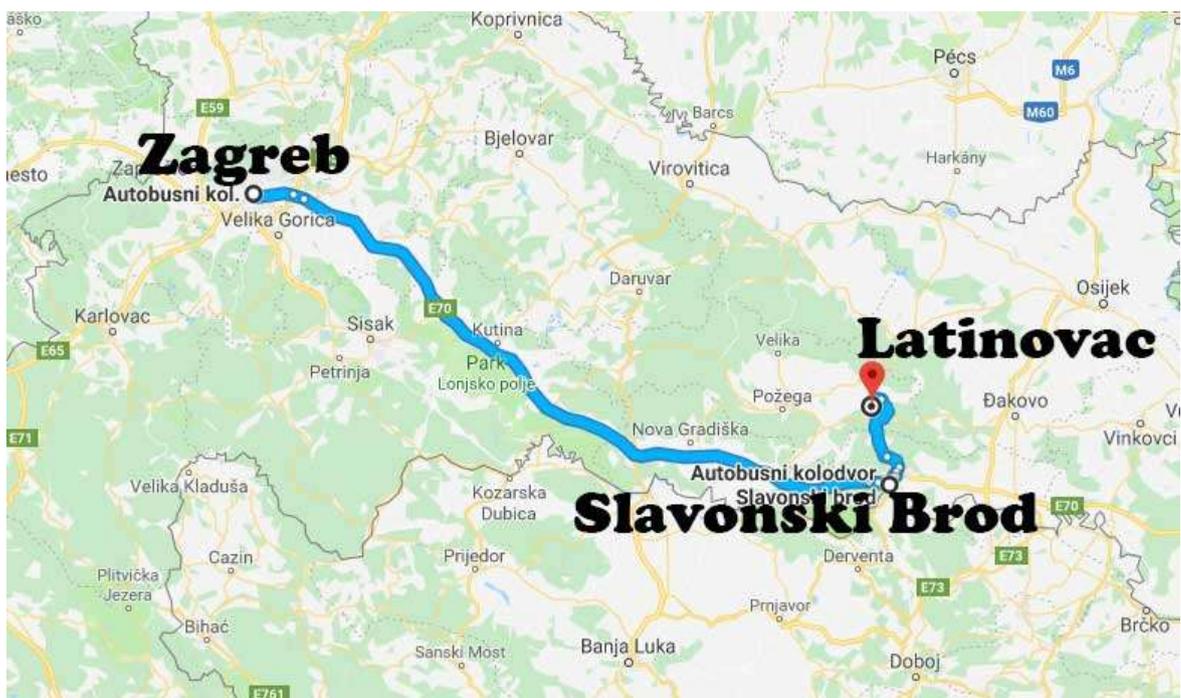
We strongly recommend that you take the bus to Slavonski Brod.

[Under the following link you can check the bus availability and the bus timing.](#)

The connections by bus are better and more regular than the one by train. Train and bus station are 20 minutes' walk away from each other (or 5 minutes by tram nr.2 or 6)

When you arrive to Slavonski Brod, the organization will arrange someone from the team to come and pick you up by car and drive you to Latinovac.

For those who prefer not to come by plane, you can also travel by bus or train. In those cases, also come to Zagreb Central bus station and choose a direct connection to Slavonski Brod. Travel expenses are covered by a specific amount per country, according to the distance calculator of the Erasmus+ program. Please note that we will organize an introduction meeting for you once you have arrived.



#### 4. Currency

The national currency in Croatia is “Kuna” despite being the youngest member in the European Union. The international currency code is HRK while the shoring kn is usually referred in Croatia. Approximately 1€=7.6 Kn, depending on the exchanging rates.

Please check the latest updates. You can always exchange currency in your home before coming to Croatia, exchange money in the Exchange Offices in the airport or to withdraw money from the ATM.

#### 5. Accommodation

To begin with, please be aware that you may have different expectations and standards in your home country. If you agree to come and do your volunteering service here, you should be open minded towards your hosting country and culture. Things are not better, worse, right or wrong, things are just done differently.

Volunteers are going to live in the village Latinovac, being hosted in the facilities of the Eko Centar Latinovac.

**Simple accommodation** means that you will be provided with bed, pillow, sheets, duvets and blankets, furniture, heating, warm water, toilet, shower and a washing machine. Upon your arrival we can further arrange your sleeping place and provide you with the points mentioned above.

If you wish, you can bring your sleeping bag or your favorite pillow.



## 6. Food and cuisine

Expense for food is covered by grant to Eko Centar Latinovac. During working days, shopping and preparation of three daily meals is handled by Eko Centar Latinovac as well. Volunteers are expected to help in the preparation of the food, and we are happy to exchange recipes and ideas with you.

During free days, the meals will not be provided by the Eko Centar, instead, we will provide you with 6€ per day, as granted by the program.

**The meals prepared by the Eko Centar kitchen staff is vegetarian.**

If you are skeptic towards vegetarian diet, give us a chance to prove that vegetarian cuisine is good, if not better, as regular one. Volunteers and visitors have had only words of praise for our current chef!



## 7. Working time

Volunteers are supposed to work **5 days per week and 6 hours per day** according to the Solidarity Forces Charter, having 2 free consecutive days.

From Tuesday to Saturday we meet at 9am and we start working, being lunch break at 13am and working 2 hours more in the afternoon. Mostly physical activities are scheduled in the morning and theoretical and creative activities will take place in the afternoon.

It can happen that on some days we will work a little bit more while on others less – depending on the weather and the job. Please be as flexible as we are.



## 8. Pocket money

Every volunteer will receive as pocket money 4€ per day. Pocket money will be handed out to the volunteers at the beginning of the month.

## 9. Volunteer's profile

Volunteers should be interested in environment, sustainable development, permaculture, cultural differences, living in rural area.

As well, they should be creative, communicative, open minded about differences, **willing to live in rural area** and to share knowledge and information about their culture and their country. Team players, with community spirit, **active participants**, adaptable and willing to work on promotion of mobility and the project in **social media**.

To have a successful volunteering experience it is important that volunteers have **self-initiative** in order to develop their personal projects and have a real impact.

## 10. Useful data about the project

Sustainable Organization for Sustainable Community will host a total of 4 volunteers from early March (10.3.) to early July (10.7.) The final project stage will last for 4 months.

### Specific objectives:

- Planning, preparation and organization of the **international projects** of the Eko Centar Latinovac
- **Promotion of mobility** of young people and European Solidarity Corps
- Planning, preparation and organization of **partner meetings, seminars, training courses**
- **Permaculture education** in theory and practical work
- **Planning, preparation and organization of activities** of the Eko Centar Latinovac
- **Social media content creation and maintenance** (Facebook, Instagram and Web page)
- **Healthy food** workshops
- project newspaper "**Škkljikaš**"
- **Intercultural exchange**
- **Volunteer's personal projects**



As this is the final stage of the project, it is worth noting that the project was approved in 2017. and that we have had 7 volunteers in total ( from Italy, Spain, France, England and Belgium) since the project started: 2 volunteers in 2018. and 5 in 2019.

With the help of the previous long term volunteers in this project alone, we have managed to have:

- 4 short term ESC approved projects, hosting 54 short term volunteers
- 4 local sustainable festivals
- 1 ERASMUS+ approved training course, hosting 24 participants
- 1 Youth Exchange, hosting 30 participants
- 1 partner meeting hosting 30 participants from our international partner network
- Numerous study visits from all over Croatia including both high school staff, youth, other NGOs etc.
- Mobility promotions in local schools, high schools, libraries and other institutions
- increased sending capacity and visibility in the community
- several new gardens, orchards and increased our capacity for practical education

There are too many results to list here, I hope this can help you to understand the scope of the activities you will be doing with us.

### **11. What can/should you bring?**

The weather can change from hot to sunny to cold and rainy, so bring with you some warmer and summer clothes

- Bring work (wear and tear) clothes and shoes that are comfortable for working outside (or even on the rain)
- House slippers and warm socks
- European Health Card (blue European card insurance) even though you will have CIGNA (provided by Sending Organization)
- Music instruments if you play, or some music that you would like to listen
- Laptop is not necessary but it some points it can be useful, since some of the work will require it
- Flashlight: for walking outside in the evening, as there are no street lights, just the moon and the stars!
- Props for intercultural exchange and presentations
- Vegetarian recipes and traditional/typical spices
- Energy, smiles and good will to enjoy this opportunity!!

**Apply by sending your CV and Motivation Letter (english, please) to:**  
[EkocentarLatinovac@gmail.com](mailto:EkocentarLatinovac@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to meet and have you as part of Eko Centar Latinovac crew!

