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MESA - Maison de l'Europe Strasbourg Alsace

**Call for application - European Voluntary Service within
the “Maison de l'Europe Strasbourg-Alsace”
from September 2015 – June 2016**

The association

The Maison de l'Europe Strasbourg Alsace (also MESA), created in 2011, is a French association with European dimension.

Its main aspiration is to inform the citizens of Strasbourg and its surroundings about the politics, decisions and actions of the different European organisations (European Union but also the Council of Europe) by promoting European values like democracy, peace and the dialogue between citizens as well as political institutions.

Since its creation, the MESA is a member of the French Federation of Maisons de l'Europe (FFME), chaired by Catherine Lalumière. In this objective, we organise conferences, round tables and debates where we assemble different political, cultural and civil actors in order to establish a link between Europe and Alsatian citizens. We equally organise visits to European institutions.

The MESA was opened in 2011 and is open to:

Anybody, at any age, of any nationality and from any continent, any organisation and structure sharing the fundamental values of the European construction.

The MESA aims at becoming a privileged centre of initiative, educational and training centre and is intended for anybody and every structure interested in European citizenship and especially the actors of European construction. The MESA does not pursue any profit-making, religious or political objective.

Our ambitions

The Maison de l'Europe aspires to become a European public place, a space for debate allowing everybody to make a contribution to European construction.

The Maison de l'Europe aims at:

- informing about the European institutions especially those located in Strasbourg: the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Parliament , but also ARTE, Eurocorps, ...
- serving as a contact point between the European public, the European members of Parliament and representatives
- creating a closer contact between citizens and the European institutions in order to give citizens an understanding of the European institutions
- promoting the values of Europe (democracy, human rights etc.) and of Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament
- developing the European impact of Strasbourg and Alsace particularly in a cross-border context
- creating synergy with the civil society and public or private organisations sharing our values
- initiating a discussions with the inhabitants and visitors of Strasbourg about the challenges of European construction

Our projects

- Organisation of information events and trainings for different audiences
- Support of the multiple European initiatives especially those set in a cross-border context in order to reinforce their effectiveness and the cooperation between institutional and associative partners
- Activities adapted to different audiences (pupils, students, professionals etc.)
- Development of cultural and social events linked to the cross-border situation of Alsace and Strasbourg

Team

Our team is composed of 12 voluntary administrators of various European nationalities and European student trainees. The organisation has 135 members.

Description of volunteer's tasks

- Supporting the team with the organisation and preparation of different events: establishing contact with speakers, organisation of the premises for the event and necessary material
- improvement of the presentation of the MESA's website, the Facebook Page and LinkedIn page and their regular updating
- Public relations and networking
- Assisting at local events: taking photos, ensure the appropriate conditions, operate as assistant
- Involvement in the events and activities of our partner associations
- different activities in various other fields of the activities of the MESA depending on needs for the upcoming events

In general the volunteer will be involved in a multifaceted spectrum of tasks. Besides the contacts established with various institutions the volunteer is responsible for organisational tasks such as the organisation of the framework for

political debates or conferences which includes the organisation of the premises, the establishment of contact with high level speakers, preparation of flyers etc and the follow-up procedures (reporting, photo processing etc.). The various events of the MESA aim to create a proximity between the institutions located in Strasbourg and the local population as well as to inform the audience and to initialize a controversial debate. By setting up regular round tables about European questions the citizens can seize the possibility to communicate and meet with political actors at eye level. The participation and involvement of the volunteer in these diversified events will permit him/her to gain an impression of daily politics and European politics in Strasbourg. As many activities of the volunteer are carried out in French, the he / she will have the chance to boost his/her language knowledge. The association will support the volunteer in developing his / her personal project and in his / her personal development and fulfilment.

Project environment

-Information about Strasbourg

Strasbourg, located close to the border with Germany, is the capital and principal city of the Alsace region in eastern France. It has approximately 270 000 inhabitants and is the seat of several European institutions such as the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights as well as the European Parliament

- Culture

Strasbourg is the seat of internationally renowned institutions of music and drama such as the Théâtre national de Strasbourg, the Opéra national du Rhin and the interactive TV structure "ARTE". Strasbourg is a young, dynamic and thrilling city and surprises its visitors with a wide range of cultural offers: numerous theatres, opera, concerts and festivals. "La Grande Ile" belongs to the UNESCO world cultural heritage sites. The border situation facilitates access to cultural events in Germany.

- University

University of Strasbourg, Sciences Po Strasbourg, EM Strasbourg, INSA de Strasbourg and International Space University etc. render the city an attractive place for young people. With its 43 000 students (20 % foreign students) and 2 600 professors, Strasbourg is classified as the second university of France.

Every day life

- Housing

Will probably be provided by one of our member families

- Within the Maison de l'Europe

The volunteer will be integrated in our team and will have as contact persons the President, the Secretary General and different administrators.

- Language support

Possibility at Strasbourg University

Volunteer profile and selection procedure

- dynamic

- open-minded
- flexible
- strongly interested in European topics
- sense of initiative

An interview will be made preferably by videoconference or at least by phone.