

CORPO EUROPEU DE SOLIDARIEDADE

Funded by the European Union

January – May 2027
Aveiro, Portugal

ABOUT DCTR

DCTR is a cultural association with the aim of promoting social inclusion and improving the quality of life through artistic activities, emotional development activities and the promotion of environmental sustainability.

With the informal and non-formal, voluntary and participatory dynamics, the intention of DCTR is to develop the human potential of the individual and of the community as a whole, highlighting the contribution of each one to the construction of cohesion and social balance. At DCTR it is believed that great positive transformations arise when people intersect and connect, bringing profound and lasting change to the community.

Visit our website and social media to get to know us better :
https://dctr.pt/associacao/
https://www.facebook.com/dctr.associacao.cultural
https://www.instagram.com/dctrassociacao/

ESC

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is an EU initiative that enables young people aged 18 to 30 to take part in volunteering activities that benefit local communities. DCTR welcomes international volunteers in Aveiro, Portugal.

Typically, it involves young people from different countries coming to participate in activities that promote solidarity, tolerance, and cross-cultural understanding. These projects aim to encourage youth engagement, personal development, and active citizenship.

For this cycle, DCTR offers five individual volunteering places. Duration options are approximately 140 days (ideally January–May), 90 days (February/March–May) and 70 days (March–May). Exact dates are flexible and will be agreed with selected candidates, with all activities ending by 31 May 2027.

The experience combines social inclusion, education, cultural participation and non-formal learning. Each volunteer will have a meaningful activity plan, tailored to their interests, learning needs and the needs of DCTR and its local community partners.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

Are you looking for a meaningful experience where you can learn, collaborate and contribute to local communities? DCTR is selecting five international volunteers, aged 18–30, for activities in Aveiro in 2027. Motivation, empathy, responsibility and an interest in inclusion matter more than previous professional experience.

Our projects involve people from different age groups and backgrounds, including young people and people with disabilities. Volunteers take part in supervised solidarity activities; they do not replace paid staff. Activities and schedules will be adjusted to the selected volunteers and the partner organisations.

Depending on your interests, you may contribute to educational and intercultural activities with

Escola Profissional de Aveiro (EPA), or to inclusive community initiatives with Pais em Rede, both confirmed local partners. Volunteers may support workshops, cultural experiences and accessible participation, always with guidance from local professionals.

DCTR also develops artistic, cultural, sustainability and communication initiatives. Other possible activities include helping prepare creative sessions, community events, intercultural exchanges and audiovisual stories. A potential collaboration with continUA, University of Aveiro, is still under assessment and is not a confirmed placement.

You can express your preferences during selection. Your final activities and volunteering timetable will be jointly agreed after selection, considering your learning goals, availability and the needs of DCTR and its partners. We value openness, respect for diversity and a willingness to learn.

LOGISTICS

DCTR will arrange accommodation in Aveiro and cover accommodation-related costs, including utilities. The specific address and shared spaces will be confirmed with each selected volunteer before arrival.

Volunteers will receive a food allowance and pocket money under the applicable ESC rules. International travel support depends on the eligible distance band; itineraries must be approved by DCTR before booking. Local transport for volunteering activities will be arranged when needed.

The weekly volunteering schedule will be agreed with the coordinator and local partners, respecting ESC working time and rest requirements. Before arrival, online preparation meetings will be organised. During the placement, volunteers will receive regular guidance, mentoring and support for intercultural and language learning.

Training may include orientation to DCTR and partner activities, safeguarding and inclusion, online language support, and relevant introductory workshops. Volunteers will be supported in reflecting on their learning outcomes and preparing their Youthpass. Application: through the official ESC opportunity on the European Youth Portal; shortlisted candidates will be invited to complete a second-stage questionnaire.

Aveiro is often referred to as the "Venice of Portugal" (if you´re Italian please ignore this part :D). It´s a captivating coastal city renowned for its picturesque canals, reminiscent of Venice, and its vibrant cultural scene.

Aveiro features several museums and galleries, including the Museum of Aveiro, housed in a former convent, offering insights into its rich cultural history and contemporary art. For beach enthusiasts, Aveiro boasts beautiful coastal stretches, with Praia da Barra being a popular choice, complete with a visit-worthy lighthouse offering panoramic views.

With its combination of history, culture, natural beauty, and gastronomic delights, Aveiro beckons travellers to explore its unique and captivating offerings in Portugal.



We're neighbours of Spain and we have the most western point in Europe! We have an incredible diversity of landscapes and places: we have two islands, sea/beaches, mountains, snow, and also really warm summers.

The portuguese are warm people, very talkative and they surely know how to have fun! You will love Portugal for sure! Looking forward to meet you!

