

# SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES: **CÀRITAS GANDIA**

## *European Solidarity Corps project*

**Gandía, Valencia (Spain)**

**1<sup>st</sup> project: April-July 2025 (4 months)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> project: August 2025-July 2026 (12 months)**

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## 1. What is ESC?

ESC (European Solidarity Corps [Volunteering projects], *former European Voluntary Service [EVS]*) is an **international volunteer experience** funded by the European Commission. It allows young people (17 to 30 years old) resident in Europe to have a full-time international and intercultural volunteer experience in an organisation abroad for a period of time between 2 and 12 months. It provides the travel expenses, full board (food and accommodation), invoices (electricity, gas, water), local transport and an amount of pocket money per month (it varies depending on the country).



More info: [https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en)

## 2. Hosting organisation

Cáritas Gandía is a non-profit organisation with extensive experience in the field of social action. It provides its services in the province of Valencia within the Valencian Community. Among its founding objectives are the promotion of the solidarity of the community and the help to the integral development of all the people who are in a situation of vulnerability. To this end, the organisation tries to combine peace, truth and justice in its actions, encouraging responsibility and hard work.

The mission of Cáritas Interparroquial de Gandía, as a community action, is to promote the integral development of people and villages, working with people who are homeless or at high risk of social exclusion.



The entity's project is fully in line with the European Union, which considers social inclusion as a key priority for the member countries by establishing a process to ensure that people at risk of poverty and social exclusion are given greater opportunities and resources to participate fully in economic, social, cultural life and labour market, to enjoy a worthy standard of living and well-being, as well as to ensuring access to fundamental rights for vulnerable groups and individuals.

The organisation is committed to providing an effective response to those who are homeless or at high risk of social exclusion and to achieve the objectives that the European Union has identified as priorities.

The objectives of Cáritas Gandía are:

- > To encourage, guide, promote and coordinate, in the field of action and social promotion for the integral promotion of people, especially the most vulnerable.
- > To be a meeting and collaboration place to jointly promote initiatives of the Parish Caritas of the city of Gandia within the scope of the corresponding Agreement signed between them.
- > Integral human development of the most vulnerable and the promotion of an inclusive society.
- > Denouncing the causes of poverty and exclusion and promoting social values.
- > Integral ecology as a new paradigm of justice, social intervention and care.

More information about the organisation can be found at: <https://caritasgandia.org/>

## **PLEASE READ VERY CAREFULLY:**

**This is a challenging project volunteering with people in situation of exclusion often migrants without permission to work.**

**Background of these people might be delicate with difficult life situations that provokes that their behaviour might tends to be verbally aggressive/complicated.**

**It's very demanding but also extremely enriching and satisfying for volunteers.**

**Please take this into consideration before applying for this project.**

### **3. Coordinating organisation**

**XERACION VALENCIA** [[xeracionvalencia.org](http://xeracionvalencia.org)] is a non-profit youth cultural association created in Gandia (Valencia, Spain) in 2014 by an enthusiastic group of people who decided to leave their regular jobs and try to enjoy their day by day while doing something enriching and meaningful for their local communities. **This ESC project is coordinated by Xeracion Valencia who is in charge for all logistical aspects, food, pocket money, accommodation and any bureaucratic or administrative task.** It's an active member of the Council of Youth of Gandia and some of our objectives are:



- To encourage and facilitate the international mobility of youth and youth workers (especially for groups with fewer opportunities).
- To empower youth in order for them to have their own critical thinking and analysis, an

active citizenship and participatory democracy.

- c) To enhance values of tolerance, human dignity, interculturality, solidarity and cooperation, social justice and integration.

## 4. Summary of the project

During the last years, the demand for the services offered by Càritas Gandía as grown exponentially as a result of the permanent crisis in which we are living. Every time there are more and more people in a situation or at risk of social exclusion, living on the streets or in substandard housing. As a result, all the areas and projects of our organisation are at full capacity.

Therefore the organisation is developing and increasing the quantity and quality of the services we offer to people in all areas, which makes our organisation and the projects we run an essential resource for responding to the increasingly evident need of the people we serve.

We expect volunteers to support our organisation with all the services we offer, both as basic needs and specific activities regarding attention to families and migrants, social services, literacy and digital training, vocational workshops, activities to promote equity, school support for children with disabilities, socio-occupational integration projects, sports, etc.

## 5. Location

The project is developed in CARITAS GANDIA on the region of “La Safor”. Mainly at our headquarters but also in the other buildings for social services.

The capital of the region is Gandia, with a population over 80,000 people in the



Mediterranean east coast of Spain between the cities of Valencia and Alicante.

La Safor is an attractive region, divided between the coast and mountainous interior. The natural habitat of the high mountains of Mustalla, Safor, Agulles and Grossa is rich with vegetation, while the coastal border is made up of plains of wide groves, long beaches and also a dense urban area.



## 6. Activities

There will be a very wide range of possible activities available for the volunteers with a maximum of 35 hours per week. Please take into consideration that **all volunteers will have to volunteer some weekends** (having other week days free). Some of the tasks are:

- > Reception, attention and information about our work and possible help, with subsequent referral to the appropriate resource.
- > Comprehensive and specific attention to cases referred by social agencies.
- > Specialised attention (inclusive employment, migration, communication, etc.).
- > Specific activities (workshops/training courses, school reinforcement for minors, adult literacy, awareness, cultural and leisure activities, sports, etc.).
- > Attention to basic needs: accommodation, food, clothing, personal hygiene and assistance.
- > Comprehensive care, personalised according to the characteristics of each resident.
- > Management and monitoring of the person's health. From 2020, the centre has a nursing service responsible for managing and monitoring the medical processes of each resident.
- > Support and assistance with the necessary administrative and documentary formalities.
- > Cognitive, psychological, empowerment and self-esteem workshops, or any other area suggested by the residents.
- > Weekly participative meetings to discuss problems arising from daily life in the centre.
- > Workshops on the preparation of healthy menus.
- > Vocational workshops (handicrafts, organic farming, gardening, raising farm animals, etc.).

In addition, the Day Centre "Casa - Hogar María Teresa Marques" offers meals, showers, laundry, hairdressing, laundry, left-luggage office, socio-educational accompaniment, psychological care and a service of weather emergencies, distribution of healthy snacks, dining room, library. As well as activities and workshops: Spanish language, relaxation, social skills, art, sports, equality and motivation for change, cinema and participants' assembly.

The shelters offer a comprehensive support service, which includes specific services for families/guests according to their needs and the objectives agreed in each personalised intervention process. In this way, by monitoring the intervention plans drawn up we can offer:

- > Meeting basic needs (food, hygiene, health, education, etc.).
- > Emotional support.
- > Personal accompaniment (for all kinds of paperwork and formalities).
- > Acquisition and reinforcement of basic social work, personal resource management, health.
- > Promotional and recreational activities to promote social integration.

## 7. Practical details (participants, food, accommodation...)

This project has been designed for **3 volunteers (any nationality) with residence in any EU programme or third country (also not associated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> project)**.

The accommodation will be in private rooms in a shared apartment situated in Gandia (together with other ESC volunteers from other project) and all the expenses in the house will be paid by the organisation (electricity, internet, water, gas). Each volunteer will receive a SIM card for their telephone and a bicycle to move around locally.

In addition, they will have the option of getting a fertile small holding for themselves to grow their own vegetables, fruits and herbs. We will give them all the support needed to start, but they will have to compromise to take care of it.

Once a month (starting by arrival date) each volunteer will receive their pocket money and food money for a total of 330€ (6€/day as pocket money and 5€/day for food).

## 8. Application/contact information

We are looking for **highly motivated volunteers (any nationality) from any of the [EU programme countries and Third countries associated to the Programme](#) (also not associated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> project) with a very positive attitude and initiative**, adaptable to change, with **problem-solving capacity** and able to work both independently and as a team member. The ideal candidates should have some experience, studies or a major interest in:

- Social Education and integration, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology or similar.
- Audio-visuals, Web management, Social media or any related topics.
- Working/volunteering with people in exclusion, risk of exclusion or less opportunities.

**Based on previous experiences at least an intermediate level of Spanish language (B1/B2) is required for this project.** If you want to join us, please [APPLY HERE!](#)

**Applications will be accepted until volunteers are found!**

Muchas gracias!

