

Dear volunteers,

Urban culture and Education (UKE) is a NGO established in 2003 that works on research, education and production in innovative art forms.

We're located in the municipality of Lovinac in Croatian Mountain Area, near is the sea (70 km from Zadar), lakes, caves, forests with beautiful landscape and lots of wildlife. Population is scarce and it is a rural area, the nearest large town is 35 km from Lovinac and is called Gospić.

UKE focuses on the development of transdisciplinary practices in arts and creates its goal with the following activities:

- development of new media arts through transdisciplinary strategies;
- development of autonomous research in culture and education;
- organization of festivals, exhibitions, camps, projections, lectures, workshops, presentations, public events;
- development of international cultural collaboration;
- in-formal education through seminars, lectures, presentations, workshops, artists-in-residence programmes;
- development of experimental and innovative practices in new media arts;
- development of flexible, mobile, self-sustainable and autonomous systems;
- support to all generation regardless education, sex, nationality, ethnicity in creative expression;
- expansion of free and open culture, cultural products, artworks, cultural exchange and decentralization of culture;
- collaboration with similar organization on a national and international level;
- publishing of printed and digital media.

Volunteers interested to apply and who wish to participate can get involved in long-term project which can last up to 12 months. UKE can currently host up to 2 long-term volunteers simultaneously. All volunteers are involved in as many activities of the organization as possible. Each one of them has the opportunity to learn about the NGO sector, its possibilities or limitations and administrative tasks. Each volunteer will be involved into regular activities such as:

- help in the office,
- funding,
- cultural and project management,
- organization of public events, exhibitions, workshops, festivals and camps,
- audio/video documentation of project activities,
- communication with European platforms,
- networking on an international level and
- documentation
- gardening, handcrafts, sport activities...

The volunteers offer support to UKE five days per week. Usually from Monday to Friday, 6 hours per day, mostly between 9 am and 3 pm. Events like MMK and Youth Club Lovinac may demand also weekend activity.

The sustainable and social projects we're working on are:

1.) Artist-in-Residence Laboratory (AiR Lab)

UKE offers residencies and support in Lovinac for artists and scientists throughout the whole year. AiR Lab collaborates with several European organizations in artists exchange, transdisciplinary art practices and environmental art. At the residency artist, scientists and hackers work collaboratively in the rural environment of Lovinac municipality. AiR Lab is supporting their work through the collaboration with companies, local community and local authorities as well as with galleries and social designers throughout Croatia. Methods and topics focus on environmental or eco-art, the relations between art and science, renewable energy, community support, experiments and collaboration. Part of the AiR Lab is also the Eco-Art Colony that happens annually in collaboration with the Municipality Lovinac and UKE. The event Eco-Art Colony takes place each year in July. Numerous artist and students of arts come to Lovinac and make individual or group artworks with the focus on environment and sustainability. The volunteers offer support to the residents and assist them in organisation of public presentations.

2.) Youth Club Lovinac

Youth Club Lovinac is a project that focuses on informal education, planing of free-time activities, cultural programmes and promotion of voluntariness and creativity in order to develop social inclusion of youth and their social responsibility. The main objective of the project is to provide conditions for quality leisure time, raising the overall level of knowledge through informal education, to encourage cultural creativity, encourage

initiatives and actions that contribute to the full social inclusion of young people in order to reduce the migration of young people in the region and develop their expertise. The volunteers strengthen and develop the local community of Lovinac with their work and activities, offer help and support to those in need, organize public events for all generations and spread the spirit of voluntarism among local youth.

3.) MMK

MMK is an international cultural event taking place at the eco-camp in Lovinac each year during July and August. MMK invites artist, activists, hackers, environmentalists, common-ists and survivalists to gather around the theme "Future Environments". MMK combines research, experiment and workshops with creative thinking and environmental consciousness using transdisciplinary strategies and collaborative efforts. The volunteers help organize and carry out MMK in collaboration with UKE's staff and local community.

4.) Permacultural garden

UKE promotes a healthy life style and self-sufficiency throughout its activities. Part of UKE's activities is therefore dedicated to the production of organic food and learning about environmental issues. In 2016 we will start to build a permaculture garden with the volunteers and locals. We will grow different varieties of vegetables and fruits, so the menu will be nutritious and diverse. Work in the garden can also be therapeutic and relaxing. That's why we all take part in the activity and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Learning about the vegetarian cuisine is an important part of these activities and aims to enrich the daily menu with healthy and nutritional food. Volunteers will also help to prepare meals.

5.) Support to local community

After the war in 1991 there are just over 1000 inhabitants left in less than 10 villages in Municipality Lovinac, with max. 300 inhabitants per village. Volunteers offer support to elderly and those in need in the local community. They spend time with them, help out with simple household tasks, as well as learn and listen about the history, culture and local customs. The interaction between the local community and the volunteers, young and old contributes to diversity and cultural broad-mindedness in both cases. The volunteers also spend time with local children and teach them about their culture and language. In the Youth Club Lovinac the volunteers offer support in event organization for local children and youth and prepare their own workshops or presentations.

All about us and our activities you can see archived on our website www.uke.hr.