

# ESC ACTIVITY IN DOGTOR FOUNDATION!



**Hosting organization:** Dogtor Foundation (E10067140)

**Coordinating organization:** Centre for Youth Cooperation and Mobility (E10049556)

**Place:** Gdynia, Poland

**Dates:** 01.09.2023 - 31.08.2024



# Who Are We ?



Dogtor Foundation is a non-governmental organisation working in Gdynia since 2002. Dogtor Foundation is involved in dog therapy – a form of activity directed at people with physical and mental disabilities and those suffering from other dysfunctions and illnesses. Dog therapy activities are based on interactions supported by contact with a specially selected and trained dog. We mainly work with disabled children (e.g. with autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy etc.).

Besides the dog therapy itself, Dogtor Foundation provides educational activities with dogs, specialist trainings for dogs and for people in regard to dog therapy, as well as a dog obedience school. The Foundation also provides educational activities for children of different age groups, teaching the correct and safe behaviour with dogs and respect for animals. Activities take place in external facilities such as schools, kindergartens, homes for children, hospitals and other special institutions, as well as at the Dogtor Foundation's office in Gdynia.





# Volunteer's Role & Tasks

We are a small organization, so on the daily bases the volunteer takes part in the whole organization's life including:

- interaction with clients (children, grown-ups with disabilities),
- assistance to the therapists during the workshops and the group sessions,
- help with selection, training and examination of dogs for dog therapy,
- taking care of the materials for workshops,
- preparation of the scripts for workshops,
- preparation and dissemination of informational and promotional materials (photos / videos / making graphics),
- participating in promotional activities,
- help in office: administration tasks, cleaning, making order with materials and other small everyday tasks.

The final tasks of the volunteer are assigned together with the project coordinator according to the volunteer's interests, abilities, and also current organization's needs. The first weeks will be devoted for the volunteer to observe and learn the organizations' way of work.



# What will volunteer learn?

Volunteering in the Foundation will be a great chance for personal development, finding new Polish and international friends full of energy.

Volunteer will gain knowledge and experience in the field of dog therapy as well about dogs in general and working with them. It is also a chance to have a contact with children and adults with disabilities.

Volunteer have also a possibility to learn in practice about functioning the non-governmental organization as such and meet passionate people about dogs and dog therapy. It will also be an opportunity to implement own ideas in a field of dog therapy - preparing and/or conducting classes, creating teaching materials.

# Who Can Apply?

- We welcome volunteers with a friendly attitude toward animals, who like working with children and disabled people, full of creativity, honesty and openness. Great communication skills are a must.
- S/he should be open for different and new people from other countries and cultures, from different age groups and like to co-operate and work in groups.
- On the whole, the volunteer should be interested, openminded to contribute with one's own creativity in the group's work and willing to develop his/her personality.

