



Green Educational Center
ELA

Dear Volunteers,

Welcome to the ELA Association for Shared Learning! We are delighted to have you join us for this unique volunteering opportunity in Sturgel. Your role will be crucial in developing the Green Educational Center and contributing to our community-focused projects. This information pack is designed to help you prepare for your stay and make the most out of your time with us. We are looking forward to working with you!

ELA Association for Shared Learning is a Bulgarian non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the quality of education. Our mission is to create supportive and engaging educational environments through various projects with children, youth, schools, teachers, and parents. We aim to foster shared learning and community development. For more information, please visit our [About Us page](#) and our [News section](#).

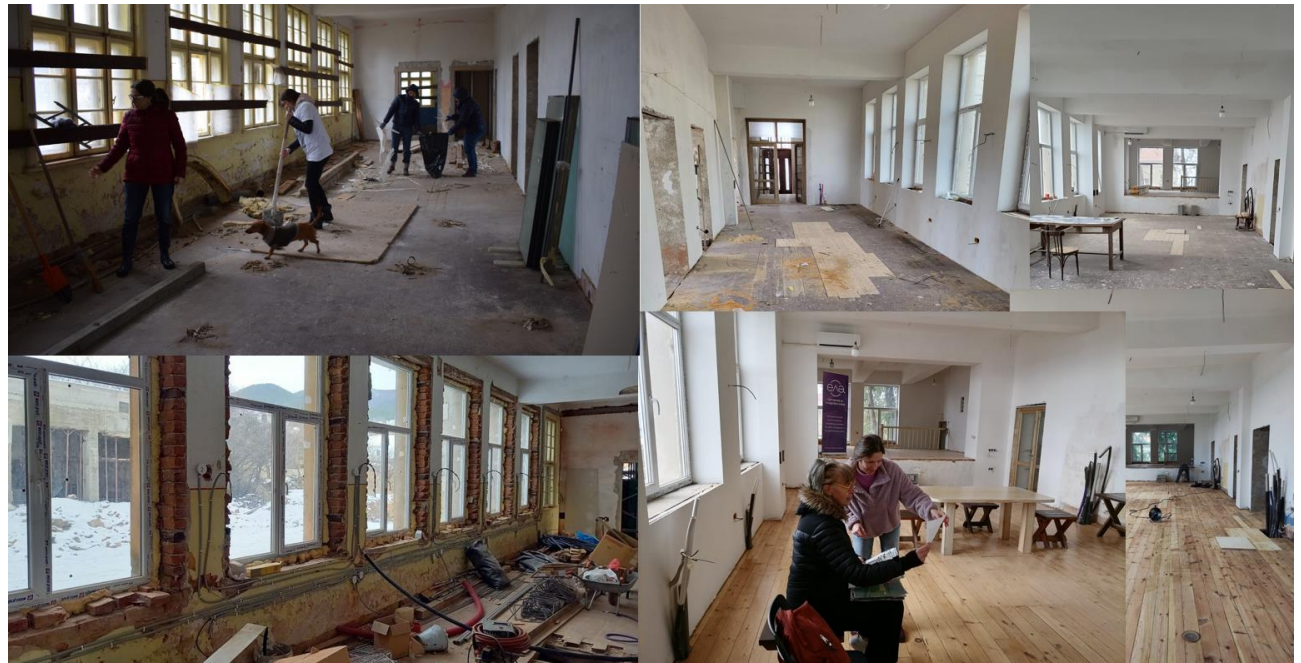


The Green Educational Center in Sturzel

The Green Educational Center in Sturzel is a pioneering project by ELA that focuses on environmental education and sustainability.

Although currently under construction, the center will serve as a hub for promoting eco-friendly practices and community engagement once completed.

Volunteers will be directly involved in the building and development process, contributing to the center's establishment and future operations. The project will include educational programs on sustainability, workshops for local communities, and green space development. For further details, visit the [Green Educational Center page](#)



Details of the Volunteering Mission

- Duration: 2 months
- Main Tasks:

Assisting with construction and development of the Green Educational Center.

Gardening and implementing sustainable practices.

Engaging with the local community to promote environmental awareness.

- Volunteer Expectations:

Enthusiasm for hands-on work and a willingness to learn.

Ability to adapt to a rural environment and work in a team.

Previous experience in construction, gardening, or community projects is beneficial but not required.

- Learning Opportunities:

Gain practical experience in sustainable construction techniques and permaculture.

Develop skills in community engagement and environmental education.

For more information on volunteering opportunities, visit the

[ESC Opportunity page](#).



Logistics and Organization

Accommodation: Volunteers will be housed in the local school building. Facilities include: beds, bathroom with hot water, toilet, fully equipped kitchen.

Food and Supplies:

Local Shopping: You can buy groceries from the village store. Additionally, transportation to LIDL in Sofia will be provided once a week.

Provided Essentials: Towels, bed linens, cleaning products, shampoo, toothpaste, and soap.

What to Bring: Personal hygiene items, any medications you may need, warm clothing for cooler nights, and hiking shoes for potential excursions.

Transportation:

Airport Transfer: Transport from Sofia Airport to Sturgel will be arranged.

Local Transport: Daily shuttle services to Sofia, with a train station located 3 kilometers from the village.

Contacts:

On-Site Supervisor: Viktoria Doshulova - +359 897 674 797

Mentor: Ivan Doshulov - +359 888 674 664



Social and Cultural Environment

About Sturgel: Sturgel is a charming village with a rich cultural heritage. For more information, visit the [Wikipedia page for Sturgel](#).

Local Attractions:

Gorna Malina Tourism: Explore local attractions on the [Gorna Malina Tourism website](#).

Art Centre Vihrony: Engage in cultural activities at the [Art Centre Vihrony](#).

Partner Organizations:

CIS School: Volunteers can participate in educational and cultural activities offered by [CIS School](#).

Local Food and Cultural Activities:

Koprivshitsa: Visit Koprivshitsa to experience traditional Bulgarian cuisine and historical sites. For more details, see the [Wikipedia page for Koprivshitsa](#).

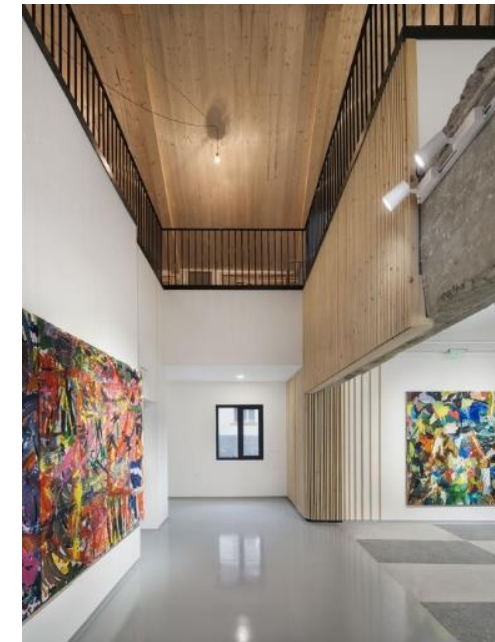
Cooking Classes: Volunteers will have the opportunity to learn how to cook traditional Bulgarian dishes from the supervisor.

Cultural Activities: Join the local choir group at the community center in Sturgel to learn traditional Bulgarian songs and dances.

Language Practice: Local children will be enthusiastic to practice their language skills with volunteers, providing a chance for cultural exchange and learning.



Cosmos
International
School



Art Center
Vihroni

Safety and Health

- **If Sick:** Contact the mentor for assistance, inform the supervisor immediately, and notify the coordinator.
- **Health Insurance:** For information on using your HENNER health insurance, please consult the coordinator.
- **Feeling Lonely or Depressed:** Speak with the mentor for support.
- **Bank Account, Bus Ticket, Reimbursements:** Consult with the mentor and coordinator for assistance with banking needs, transportation, and expense reimbursements.
- **Travel Plans:** Inform the supervisor and coordinator of any planned travel, including holidays and trips home or abroad.

Task Satisfaction: Address any concerns regarding your tasks with the supervisor. If issues persist, escalate them to the coordinator.



Additional Information

- **Provided Essentials:** Towels, bed linens, cleaning products, shampoo, toothpaste, and soap will be provided.
- **What to Bring:** Personal hygiene products, any medications, warm clothing for cool evenings, and appropriate footwear for hikes.
- **Local Food:** Experience traditional Bulgarian food. Take a train to Koprivshitsa for a culinary exploration of local dishes.
- **Cooking Classes:** Learn to cook traditional Bulgarian meals with guidance from the supervisor.
- **Cultural Activities:** Participate in the local choir group to learn Bulgarian songs and traditions.
- **Language Practice:** Engage with local children eager to practice their English with volunteers.



Sturzel Village Festival

Contact Information

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**Best regards,
The ELA Association Team**