

# Casa da Horta - associação cultural European Solidarity Corps

## INFO PACK



Casa da Horta is a non-profit cultural and environmental association, located in Porto's old town.

We emerged out of a need to create alternative cultural programs and lifestyles in the city of Porto, contributing to the development of critical thinking and at the same time putting into practice alternatives to unethical consumerism.

Since 2008, we have been doing our best to be a space for exchanging and sharing ideas, experiences, knowledge and activities, open for everybody. It's our goal to engage intellectual self-defence and creative resistance, easing the access to critical thinking, hard-to-find information for everybody. Our work is based on a non-hierarchical, horizontal structure.



### Our main objectives include:

- broadening the perspective on human and animal rights
- promoting ethical consumerism, collectivism, solidarity actions
- bringing awareness to different ecological and social issues
- supporting local (first) and international (second) artists, craftspeople, small producers and projects
- promoting cultural exchange, re/upcycling and money-free exchange etc.

### Our work is mostly focused on four areas:

#### 1) ecology / sustainability

- environmental education for youth and adults (less waste, promotion of cycling, popularising meat-free diet)
- environmental awareness-raising actions (reading club, meetings/ discussions, various visits and hiking trips, reforestation actions, beach cleanings)
- We daily serve vegan, financially accessible dishes; based (as much as possible) on products from local ecological farmers.
- We are part of two urban gardening communities.
- We run a free shop and organise punctual swap markets (stimulating direct, free exchange).

#### 2) community work / solidarity

- activities for children, youth and the elderly, related to the areas of culture, art and ecology
- Sports for all - sport activities organised for the local community, including capoeira, tai chi and chess
- activities, actions related to raising awareness about and fighting against touristification of Porto, and its consequences
- organising and participating in international youth projects
- Suspended soup - everybody in need, is invited for a warm soup at our place

### 3) action / critical thinking

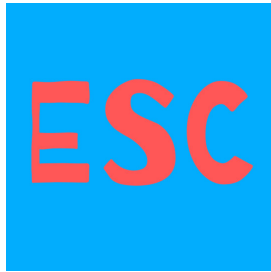
- organising and participating in awareness-raising and protest actions, seminars, popular assemblies and manifestations
- debates, film screenings and study groups - activities aimed at facilitating the access to information and learning about issues challenging the local, national and global reality
- Benefit dinners - whole income of the punctually organised benefit dinners supports a local cause, project or initiative in need of funds e.g. animal shelter, a newly started association
- Porto.com - an ongoing series of videos presenting local traditional businesses heavily influenced by gentrification.
- Slow Motion Tours - eco social visits to different areas of Porto, with the aim of providing a different way of getting to know the city and involving into local realities

### 4) culture / art

- concerts, jam sessions, art exhibitions, film screening, debates, workshops
- language exchanges - meetings where volunteer 'teachers' meet the ones interested in learning and practicing languages in an informal and (hopefully!) fun way
- weekly publications promoting poetry and poets from around the world

*To find out more about us and our (ongoing and past) projects, you can check [our website](#), [FB page](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).*





Casa da Horta's team consists of 5 permanent members, a group of international volunteers and interns (usually 2-5 persons), and a group of local volunteers, contributors.

If you'd like to join our crazy team, here are some practicalities that you should know about:

### Funding

European Solidarity Corps finances a grant that should cover your life expenses. A monthly salary at CDH is 500 euro (which should cover one's accommodation, public transport, pocket money, extra food (although food and drinks are always available at CDH)).

**Accommodation** - Volunteers usually live in flats shared with Portuguese people or young foreigners. You can choose the place you will live at (its location, price of rent, number of flatmates etc). We will help you to find your accommodation (give you the options to choose from), unless you prefer to search on your own.

**Travel** - your travel costs to and from Portugal are fully covered. You can buy your tickets (after CDH's confirmation) and get reimbursed as soon as you come to Porto, or we can buy your tickets directly.

**Health insurance** - ESC volunteers are covered with a private insurance plan that works in addition to [European Health Insurance Card](#) (which you can apply for free of charge in your EU country of residence), or as the only insurance. More info [here](#).

**Language course** - ESC provides an [online language course](#) to support your language learning during the project. You can also attend a presential course of Portuguese at one of Casa da Horta's partners (2-3 times a week).

### Work organisation + holidays

We normally (due to the pandemics our schedules keep changing) work Tuesday-Saturday, 6h per day. We get 2 holiday days per month.

Each person's schedule changes weekly and consists of working on 1) collective projects 2) one's personal projects and 3) restaurant shifts (not more than 2 times a week).

Each person's work largely depends on their interests, skills and preferences. As the scope of the association's work is quite vast, everybody is encouraged to get involved in activities that interest them the most. We also encourage each new team member to develop a personal project (individually or in a team).

Volunteers' tasks at Casa da Horta can be related to any of the projects mentioned at pages 1 and 2, for example:

- taking care of our community urban gardens
- planning events (concerts, exhibitions, cinema, debates, beach cleanings)
- communication with the associates, taking care of our website and social media
- participating in and organising activities, including Language Exchange groups, workshops, Slow Motion Tours, concerts, activities organised together with Social Center

### Questions? Doubts?

Tell us about it at: [sve.casadahorta@pegada.net](mailto:sve.casadahorta@pegada.net)