

General information about the host institution

Fundacja Ewangelickie Centrum Diakonii i Edukacji im. ks. Marcina Lutra (translated: The Martin Luther Memorial Evangelical Center for Diaconia and Education Foundation) is an institution established by the Wroclaw Diocese of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poland in 1999. FECDiE provides a non-public center of special school education with the following units:

Integrative Junior High School (Middle School students, age 13-15).

1st degree Trade School (fine bookbinding, tailoring, room service assistance, age 16-17).

Public Special High School of Economics (economics profile, age 16-19).

Public Special High School (general profile, age 16-18). Higher needs students.

Special Vocational Competence School. A "life skills" preparation school for special needs students.

All schools curricula are based on the National Educational Programs as set forth by the Minister of Education in Poland. The offer of schooling, education, courses and training is characterised by quality goals which are formulated in didactic terms.

There are about 200 students of both sexes, mixed backgrounds, denominations and abilities. Approximately half of them boarders coming not only from Lower Silesia, which is our county, but also from all over Poland. The pedagogical team includes 75 teachers. Most of the students have physical disabilities. There are some with high functioning autism and some with more pronounced learning disabilities. Almost half of our students come from families with socio-economic difficulties and they are subject to potential social exclusion.

Apart from special education units FECDiE provides a **kindergarten**, a private **Polish-German Primary School** for children ages 6-12, a **nursing home for elderly people** and a **children's home**.

In order to achieve our educational aims and provide the needs of our students FECDiE has been gradually transforming into well equipped, ultra modern, thriving center, fully comparable to its corresponding ones in Europe.

Besides regular activities the schools offer the possibility to develop talents and expand interests with extra-curricular activities which have become an integral part of our educational program. Numerous extra curricula taking place include project corners, interest circles, art workshops, music and drama, communication and career planning courses, seminars, field trips, excursions and special events. Students have opportunities to develop their knowledge of modern foreign languages, develop their social, working and artistic skills, utilize on-line and digital technologies and convey greater life perspectives.

We have an outstanding contribution, locally and regionally, in the area of sport. Main activities being table tennis, javelin, basketball and weightlifting. Weightlifting is particularly successful with local and international achievements.

European Projects

Schools operating under FECDiE have experience in European projects:

- **Erasmus + Youth with Action** (Host Organisation for EVS volunteers)

- **Comenius Multilateral School Partnerships** “Towards work from special education in Europe” (2012-2014)
- **Mobility projects for school education staff:**
 - **Erasmus+** “Closer to Europe-closer to each other, closer to the world” (2017-2018)
 - **POWER** “Educating school staff as a base for educational and professional success of youth of Special Vocational Upper Secondary School of Economics” (2017-2019)
 - **POWER** “The teachers on the move as a foundation of innovative and open school” (2017-2019)
- **PNWM**-Polish-German Youth Meetings “Together in diversity” (2014-2017)
- **PNWM**-Competition for the Polish-German Youth Award 2017-2019 "Together in Europe, one goal"
- **PNWM**- International Youth Exchange project with Evangelische Schule Pankow from Berlin

Education & teaching staff

All the teachers in ECDiE schools have highly professional qualifications. We introduce active learning methods and approaches. ICT and modern technology, music, art, sport and languages are an integral part of education . We provide psychological and pedagogical consultancy to help our students in effective learning, decision making, coping with stress and assertiveness.

A significant part of the teaching staff had been actively involved in developing management and leadership skills as they were responsible for planning and implementing a Comenius project meeting at our institution, leading on a topic and contributing to project evaluation. Over a period of two years they had been involved in setting achievable project targets with the students, collaborating with educators and volunteers abroad and sharing a good practice of working with young people with LDDs.

Teachers involved in the project are committed to develop relationship between staff and students which are sustained beyond the life of the project and continue to share a good practice between young people and teaching staff.

We have over ten years of experience in cooperation with volunteers from different countries and we are open to continue the projects. Our experience shows that we are an important part of volunteers' life. They can acquire some new skills as well as make reflection about their own life and decide what to do in the future, what they want to study and who they want to be at all. Those past and present experiences make us proud and encourage to continue the work within EVS.

Our expectations

We are looking for a person who is available, flexible, has time and wants to work with small children at Polish-German Primary School as well as young disabled people with special needs. The help is needed at school during lessons or other school events, in a boarding school during afternoon homework time, during field trips to assist students and in the school office to help with the office work.

We expect:

- people who like working with children, teenagers and youth at school
- people who want to learn new cultures
- people who want to share their experience and talents

- people who are flexible
- people who offer practical engagement
- people with initiative
- people who are creative
- people willing to be helpful.

Accommodation:

Volunteers live on their own in separate apartments situated close to their workplace (5 min. walk).

Shopping:

There are several local shops, supermarkets and a big shopping center nearby.

Transportation:

The public transportation in Wroclaw is well developed and enables to travel till late at night. In order to travel volunteers can easily issue, get and use an Urban Card.

Medical care:

There are several health centers close to the school and home.

Bank:

Volunteers are helped to open their own bank account in the nearest bank location.

Language course:

Volunteers take up a language course at University of Wroclaw or another Language School and learn Polish on regular basis once a week.

In order to support the volunteers during their volunteering experience communication and attainability seem to be very important. To assure that we provide:

- contact database (key telephone numbers and email addresses)
- printed EVS work schedule (accessible for volunteers, school staff and students)
- school events calendar with EVS activities marked
- EVS activity register
- monthly EVS reports
- evaluation meetings
- ongoing meetings
- seminars
- Youthpass

In order to guarantee a safe living and working environment for the volunteers we assign them mentors from whom they get all personal and emotional support as well as from the Center's worker who is responsible for volunteers in the project. The mentors are open, emphatic and responsible people who also know Center's life. As the voluntary work is developing in our town and we have more and more EVS volunteers here we find it easier to introduce our guests into the local community and make them feel comfortable among us. We understand it is very important to surround the volunteers with adequate support.

How to apply

The FECDiE is a host organisation and is supported by its coordinating organisation which is **Diakonia Kościoła Ewangelicko - Augsburgskiego w RP** (The Diacony of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Poland). A volunteer who is interested in applying for our project should contact Diakonia. Then Diakonia's worker interviews the potential volunteer and sends the information about all the applicants willing to do their voluntary work in our placement and the Center worker decides who to host.

For more information find :

www.diakonia.org.pl

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