

# EVS Opportunity: School Complex in Suchowola

**Hosting organization:** The High School in Suchowola

**City:** Suchowola

**Topic:** Education, youth leisure

**Number of hosting volunteers:** 2

## **How is the hosting organization like?**

The High School is a part of school complex in Suchowola. Currently in the school are approx. 200 students. The institution includes the school library, a reading room with the Multimedia Center for Information Technology, with 4 stands of computers. All are located in the integrated network, moreover laboratories are equipped with multimedia projectors, computers with educational software, interactive whiteboards. The school has a website open WiFi network and radio broadcasting, so that young people on breaks can listen to music. The language labs are additionally equipped with audiovisual equipment. Chemical and physical classrooms are a very well-equipped laboratories.

The school has workshops for practical training: locksmith, carpentry, plant and animal production, retail and office space, a gym and a new school playground. The school has a kitchen with a canteen and students from the area can live in the dormitory. The school has a friendly atmosphere and the teaching staff is seeking to prepare the students for their careers and is trying to make them aware of the real social life.

The school has a tradition of organizing various events and actions directed also to the local environment, including "European Day", "Young Talents", "Young -They vote", "Young blood saves lives", "The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Action", "Amnesty International", and other voluntary actions. Celebrations and events are enhanced by performances by the school brass band, which is one of the best in the country, and perform abroad. The school is also proud of the sporting success of students who are among the seven best schools in Podlaskie and rescue team of the training of children and young people in first aid and gaining success in the Championship First Aid Red Cross.



Thanks to recent participation in 3 large projects: "My school, my chance" (Technical School in Suchowola in order to increase their chances on the labor market); "Technical School in Suchowola" (new quality in vocational education); "Equal opportunities - a better start" (a project to raise the key competences of students) the students were able to gain a number of new interpersonal skills and professional qualifications as well as participate in laboratory classes at universities in Bialystok and Warsaw. Students also have the opportunity to sow the seed in the so-called. "Death strip" in Berlin and Suchowoli project "Bread of Peace". The organization also took part in the exchange of students among Germany and Russia, twice with Israel and with Georgia.

### **Where is the project located**

Suchowola (≈2.000 inhabitants) is a small town in the north-eastern Poland, and also in the geographical center of Europe. The advantage of the village is its multiculturalism. Here converge the paths of three cultures: Polish, Jewish and Tatar. In order to emphasize how important for us is the heritage of these three cultures, the school took part in 2009 in a project supported financially by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and administered by the Polish Children and Youth Foundation called "We and multicultural Suchowola." Suchowola is a small community, rich in traditions and specific customs.

In their free time, volunteers can participate in one of the diverse events the cultural center and other institution offer: a variety of concerts and other musical events, playing billiard or bowling, attend events about traditions etc.

### **About the tasks:**

Because the classes in schools and in the Municipal Cultural Centre do not satisfy all needs of young people, the presence of the volunteers and the value that he/ she can bring is a crucial asset. Not only students are looking forward to cooperation with a volunteer, but also teachers are: this collaboration brings new ideas, opportunities to education and cultural awareness.

The following are proposals for activities; however, the concrete activity plan will be created with the help of the volunteer:

- Organizing different kinds of sports activities for youth after school
- Cooperation with school coaches in the organization of sports competitions
- Language workshops in schools with young people (in the survey 54% of respondents named it as a form of classes, which was attended by most)
- Support for language lessons, mutual understanding of the cultures of their countries



- Organization of extra-curricular interest groups, including Language, photographic, cinematographic dance, painting, art, computer (most common forms of activities mentioned by respondents)
- Initiating school events - cooperation with the Students' Self-Government
- Support youth in organized school events: Day of Languages, European Day Marathon of writing letters Amnesty International
- Cooperation with the Municipal Cultural Center - integration meetings for the local community; music workshops, dance; youth activities, meetings with senior club, involvement in projects and events
- Cooperation with Primary School - language and cultural animations for children
- Cooperation with teachers-new teaching ideas, building cultural awareness

**Volunteer's profile:** The organization would like to host a volunteer willing to live and act in a small community. Open to multiculturalism in town and willing to work with both, children, youth and seniors. A person with creative ideas to stimulate young people to work for their own benefit. A person with specific interests and passions.



The volunteer would be accommodated in a boarding school in his/ her own room. Dormitory is located in the school building, it offers 20 beds in very good standard with access to toilets and bathrooms equipped with showers. It is also possible to use the kitchen.

