

CHARTER FOR THE MORAL COMMITMENT OF THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OF EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The region of Emilia-Romagna, in keeping with the goals of the previous regional law 20/03, promotes the establishment of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Community Service in the spirit of loyal co-operation with the Italian State and the other Italian institutions which operate in this field. The Emilia-Romagna Regional Community Service shall integrate the current Italian directions concerning the Italian National Community Service in order to provide people an opportunity to connect with community life. This service shall be particularly intended for foreign citizens, it shall help their integration in the local community so as the implementation of social cohesion and shall be considered as a symbol of peace and civil living-together of different people and cultures.

The regional structure for Emilia-Romagna Community Service and the bodies which participate in the Emilia-Romagna Community Service's projects:

-are aware they are contributing to apply a law whose finality is to involve young generations of people in the defence of the Country avoiding the use of violence and weapons, by services of social utility, solidarity initiatives, management and transformation of conflicts both at a local and international level. These services shall create and strengthen the bonds which are enshrined in the civil society and consolidate it, reinforce the relationships within the community, help the weaker and more disadvantaged categories of people to participate to social life by activities of solidarity, inclusion and involvement. Furthermore, they shall promote the community cultural and environmental heritage for the sake of the whole community and create networks of citizens by making them take part in the community and institutional lives at a local, national, European and international level;

- are aware that the Regional Community Service ask young people to invest one year of their life in a crucial period of their existence, when they are about to enter the adult world and face the responsibilities connected with this change and therefore guarantee their commitment to explain as clearly as possible the tasks that volunteers shall take upon themselves if they apply to the Regional Community Service and to illustrate to them what they will learn during the year of service with the body, in order to enable them to make a conscious choice.

- state that the Regional Community Service believes in the "learn by doing" method: young volunteers shall be partnered by members who have gained their experience in

the field and who are able to pass it on to young volunteers while working with them, helping them to increase their experience and competences and boosting their skills.

- Acknowledge that volunteers have the right to commit themselves to the finalities of the project and shall not feel compelled to work to the exclusive advantage of the body. Moreover, volunteers shall be fully included in the different phases of activity and carrying out of the project and shall be let free to critically verify and re-plan actions and interventions. Young volunteers shall not to be involved in activities which other members of the body working at the project do not deem appropriate. They shall team up with members who already have experience in the field in order to receive help and learn by working together with them in the "learn by doing" spirit. Right from the start, volunteers shall be able to interact with the body following clearly stated procedures about any matters, such as the modality of their presence within the body. They shall be assured they will benefit of periods of training and shall be able to verify and discuss the project, which shall be outlined clearly and carried out coherently.

- ask young volunteers to take it upon themselves to learn, to work for the finalities of the project, to participate in a reliable way in the body's activities, which are outlined in the Regional Community Service project, to be willing to interact with members of the body, to use their best energies, skills, intelligence, availability and sensitiveness to enhance their own talents, competences and knowledge and to strive to make them grow and improve.

- commit themselves to cooperate with people and bodies accepting and sharing the same directions both at a regional and national level, in order to achieve common goals. Also, they are willing to discuss and share their experiences and achievements in the spirit of somebody serving his\her country and willing to share his\her commitment with younger people.

- believe that Community Service shall work for the "common good" and they deem it an organization able to accompany a person all along his\her life and enabling him\her to be both the main protagonist of his\her experience and the beneficiary of a specific civil training. They hold Community Service to be an organization at the service of the society and as such they believe it shall be numbered with all those organizations acting for the common good. They deem it shall be kept alive and vital in the territory for the sake of the whole local community. In order to achieve such goals, the region of Emilia-Romagna promotes the Coordinamenti Provinciali degli

Enti di Servizio Civile (CO.PR.E.S.C.), (Provincial Committees for Community Service Bodies), organizations made up of representatives coming both from the private and the public sectors. Such organizations provide an original way to increase the knowledge, the adequacy and the worthiness of the Community Service's proposals.

- invite foreign citizens, adults, elder people and underage people to apply as volunteers to the Regional Community Service and to share the common goals of supporting integration at a regional, provincial and district level, among different generations of people, between Italian and foreign young people and between the individuals and their local community. They intend to make Community Service take deep root in the community and to enable it to help Italian and foreign people to develop a common view on the territorial needs and resources. A process of awareness of public spirit shall take place in young people. Foreign volunteers shall be main protagonists in assisting, awakening public opinion, promoting cultural and linguistic mediation for the sake of people coming from their own mother country and of the whole community.

- encourage Community Service to promote the "right to peace" as a result of the "journey towards peace" involving the fields of Justice, solidarity, peaceful cooperation among people and reconciliation, an achievement made possible by the cooperation with the conscientious objectors. The Regional Community Service comes as a result from non-violent choices and uses which shall help to build a peaceful future for the region of Emilia-Romagna and for the whole world. Working with Community Service shall be considered as an experience of citizenship implying responsibilities and public duties. It shall embrace both personal and public levels and concern a complex education and training for its volunteers.

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The superintendent
for Planning & Development
of Community Service

The legal advisor
of the body

The volunteer