

ACACIA

Code	SVI-ACA
Name	Acacia
Location	Elne / Argeles-Sur-Mer
Dates	Permanent
Type	EDU – SOCI – MANU – ART
Age	18+
Volunteers	10



The project / The Partner

ACACIA is a voluntary association under the French law of 1901 and was founded in January 2017 in the commune of Elne. It is currently carrying out several solidarity actions for un public coming from priority neighbourhoods:

- **Two Solidarity Grocery shops in Elne and Argeles-sur-Mer** that help more than 1,400 families with food but also with a socio-professional support. The majority of the families come from a poor background in a priority neighbourhood.
- **Spaces to liven the social life up** with a number of workshops aimed to break isolation and to encourage social relations through activities such as, cooking, theatre, computer science, fitness, citizenship, etc.
- **A platform for integration and training** with already 24 people back to employment in only a year and a half. This initiative has been conducted within the framework of the “Programme for Integration through Volunteering activities”.

- **La Plateforme Solidarité Internationale (PSI)** is a Centre for resources, information and trainings for volunteering, mobility and international solidarity. ACACIA wanted to develop this activity to make the different measures present in JAMO’s programme (Jeunes à Moindres Opportunités) or “Youth with Less Opportunity” more accessible.

In 2018, ACACIA met SVI’s team to put forward a cooperation that would allow them to spread their activities in the South of France. Since then, ACACIA regularly hosts volunteers sent by the SVI on its various projects. It also makes its premises available for the preparation to departure week-ends and information sessions.

We would very much like to strengthen this partnership in 2020 and permanently host the SVI within our offices. Moreover, PSI is member of the multi-actors’ network Occitanie Coopération and gives a huge importance to networking and partnership. The various collaborations with institutions, associations and local actors contribute to the public’s awareness that we host to the diverse range of actions of the Social and Solidarity Economy, Volunteering and International Solidarity.

PSI currently works on the opening of a House for Volunteers that would be co-managed with the SVI. It would include a Lab’ and an accommodation space to host the volunteers.

The Lab’

The Lab is a space dedicated to the diffusion and the valorisation of SSE’s* values but also those of the International Solidarity, Volunteering and Mobility. It offers:

- Tools to discover the actors in the areas of SSE, volunteering and international solidarity.
- Workshops and trainings.
- Periods to support project leaders.
- Café-projects, exhibitions and debates.
- Public demonstrations.