



“Refugees and European NGOs volunteering, learning and changing the world together”

## INFO SHEET

### *The Tandem Team:*

*Dahham Alsoud, Mohammed Basher, Gabriella Civico, Maarten Coertjens, Mohsen Mahjoob, Tamsin Pearce, Mark Perera, David Sorrentino*

[tandemvolunteering@gmail.com](mailto:tandemvolunteering@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Tandemvolunteering>

<http://www.tandemvolunteering.org>

➤ **Information presented in this info sheet:**

- What is Tandem?
- How can this initiative help you as a refugee / an asylum seeker?
- Is this legal? Will you need to do lots of administrative paperwork?
- What is expected of you? What tasks can you do?
- What is possible to expect from the hosting organization?
- How can you get involved?
- Who are we? Why are we doing this?

**What is Tandem?**

- Tandem is an initiative set up to assist and support refugees and asylum seekers residing in Belgium.
- The goal is to give them the opportunity to contribute to the community, and to support the restoration of their autonomy by providing short-term volunteering opportunities at European-level NGOs.
- Also we aim to enrich the European-level NGOs with the expertise of these refugees.

**How can this initiative help you as a refugee / an asylum seeker?**

- Many refugees find it so difficult to create a network of relationships and friendships within the local communities.
- Having this kind of network is essential for them to get support, advice and to access employment opportunities.
- By volunteering with European-level NGOs, refugees and asylum seekers will be able to meet and engage with new people- many of whom are themselves migrants to Belgium- and benefit from their experiences, and establish and widen their social network.

**Is this legal? Will you need to do lots of administrative paperwork?**

- Yes!  
-Refugees, individuals in receipt of subsidiary protection, and asylum-seekers are legally allowed to volunteer.
- For those who're are living in a reception center and receiving material subsistence, they just need to inform Fedasil (the Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers) in advance of their volunteering placement .
- Volunteers are allowed to receive a small allowance for their costs (transportation....etc.).  
- The volunteer and the hosting organization will sign an agreement outlining clearly the tasks/rights, volunteering hours, and the allowance provided for reimbursement of costs.
- We can take care of all necessary paperwork to Fedasil and CPAS with the help of *Het Punt*.

(*Het Punt* is the Flemish Agency for Volunteering in Brussels)

### What is expected of you? What tasks can you do?

- You're expected to add your experience to the organizations at various levels, including:
- Media Support: interviews - support websites - prepare for speeches and seminars.
- To provide linguistic support in relation to your mother tongue.
- To provide logistical support for conferences and workshops.
- To add ideas and new working methods stemming from your culture, your point of view and your previous experience.

### What is possible to expect from the hosting organization?

- To receive you as a volunteer for two weeks.
- To nominate a contact point for you, who will provide you with supervision and support throughout your volunteering period.
- To provide you with insurance coverage during the volunteering period.
- To provide you with a small fixed allowance for costs of 25 EUR per day.
- To provide you with a certificate noting the number of hours/days that you volunteered and any training received.
- To give you a new experience, some quality time, learn and enjoy together.

### How can you get involved?

- You can express your interest in our volunteering program by filling our online registration form at the following link  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/195NVBZQehwIkui1wdp8tNvKxo1zeDxdBWtvD0ay9NBs/viewform?c=0&w=1>
- Once you fill in this form, we will add your information to our database, and compare your skills and interests with the available volunteering opportunities.

\*\*We'll contact you once we find the most suitable placement for you.

### Who are we? Why are we doing this?

- We are refugees and staff of European NGOs.
- We've recognized a gap between the refugees' expertise, their desire to volunteer or work, and the lack of opportunities to enable them to build a social network, access work, and most importantly, to proof their presence in the daily social life of Belgium.
- By setting up Tandem, we are hoping to match willing NGOs with these individuals to increase their ability of participating actively in their new society.
- We are full of hope that you'll be in touch with us ^\_^

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