

SVD Overseas Training Program Province of Italy.

The Overseas Training Program in the Province of Italy responds to the need for a better understanding of the mission ad gentes where the Missionaries of the Divine Word collaborate in building the kingdom of God with the essential characteristics of our Congregation developed over the various General Chapters.

1. Goals.

The main objectives of the Italian Province in the Intercultural Training project are to:

- Collaborate with other SVD provinces that have formation houses to work together in the formation of future missionaries.
- Contribute to the need to create awareness among students that the European area is now part of the mission territories.
- Highlight the sense of missionary identity at the international level in the houses of formation and promote the exchange of cultural experiences.
- To make known the diversity of cultures and countries that exist in our Italian province and the styles of mission by which we operate.

2. Duration and program of the project.

- The intercultural training program in the Italian province (Italy-Albania) consists of two years: the first year is dedicated to learning the language (Italian, German, Romanian or Albanian) where the student wishes to carry out his intercultural training. The second year consists of pastoral work. The Italian province offers the OTP experience: the German area: Bolzano; Italian area: Rome, Riva del Garda, Vicenza; Albanian area: Valona.
- Framework of Pastoral Year: In Italy, but also in Albania, the pastoral year normally begins with the month of September when the summer holidays end and school activity begins. Schools close in the middle of June and end of June for those who graduate. During the summer, the intensity of pastoral work is reduced, but summer activities for children and teenagers are increased (camping ... etc.).
- The OTP student has the opportunity to have a parish pastoral experience in our parishes or parishes led by diocesan priests. There is the opportunity to experience social commitment with Caritas and with summer commitments with children and teenagers.
- For learning the German language we prefer to rely on our homes in Germany and Austria. The German learning course will therefore take place in one of these countries.
- To learn the Italian language, students take a course at a specialized institute in Padua. For learning the Albanian language, personalized courses are followed on site.
- The first phase of the program will be specifically dedicated to learning the language and culture of the country or territory in which the student will be working. Normally these studies take from six months to a year, depending on the pastoral service the student wishes to carry out in the future. This learning will greatly depend on the student's ability to understand the language and their interest in knowing the socio-cultural aspect of the place in which they minister.

- The second phase consists of a direct experience with the context chosen by the student and by the head of the students of the intercultural project. This experience will be enriched by the religious experience of the community in which the student resides. OTP program manager: the council decided that to carry out the OTP program there would be a manager appointed by the Provincial and a supervisor in the place where the student will carry out their pastoral experience.

- During this period, the student will be accompanied by the project manager to evaluate their abilities on a personal, pastoral and community level to have an adequate vision of our SVD identity. The manager of the OTP program would be a manager appointed by the Provincial and a supervisor in the place where the student will carry out his pastoral experience.

-At the end of each year, the student will carry out an evaluation on the phases in which they have participated and which will be delivered to the project manager to evaluate the project together. This evaluation will be sent in summary to the student's province of origin at the end of the program.

3. People involved in the project:

3.1. Person Responsible for OTP students.

Responsibility:

- Establish communication with the student and the student's Provincial during the project period.
- Accompany and communicate with the student in the different phases of the project.
- Discern areas of responsibility with the student during the period of his intercultural experience.
- Arrange frequent meetings, either face to face or using another means of communication, to help the student reflect on their experience, achievements and challenges, during the duration of the project.

3.2. Candidate

The student who would like to carry out his intercultural experience in the Italian Province.

Requirements:

- Have successfully completed at least one year of theology.
- Be in good physical and emotional health.
- Be willing to learn a new language and appreciate other cultures.
- Enjoy spiritual maturity and stability in their religious vocation.

4. Financing of the project.

4.1. Travel: continental or intercontinental travel and all student expenses (visa and other immigration payments) are borne by the Province that sends the student to the Italian province. Trips made within the Italian province (Albania, Romania, Italy) are paid for by the Italian Province.

4.2. Studies: All courses and other costs relating to the study of the language will be borne by the Italian Province.

4.3. Board and lodging: All expenses for board and lodging of the student will be borne by the Italian Province.

4.4. Pocket money: The student will receive a monthly pocket money equal to that of the other confreges who live in the community in which they will live during their intercultural experience.

4.5 Medical expenses: Medical expenses will be assumed by the Italian province during its stay in the intercultural project.

4.6. Financing process. All extra financial costs will be assessed by the project manager and the student and approved by the Provincial Superior of the Italian Province.