

# Kohila Municipality: Open Youth Center

## ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION

Kohila Municipality is leading the local life and is responsible of local development in the parish.

Objective of Kohila Parish Government is to raise the awareness of the citizens and thereby to support the development of our parish as a whole. It's easier to start with innovations among children and youth, who are freer from prejudices than adults.

Kohila Parish Government has several sub-institutions that are aimed to arrange activities for children and youngsters, including Open Youth Centre (KANK), Kohila Training Centre, kindergartens, gymnasium, sport complex etc.

## Project context

**KOHILA PARISH** is one of the gates of Raplamaa - Kohila is known as a beautiful natural environment by Keila River, from here runs the border between Raplamaa and Harjumaa and further the border between the countryside and the city, because parish is under the influence of Tallinn. For years the closeness of capital has kept our senses fresh. Part of unique forest of Raplamaa is located on our limestone land; we have diversity of different species that culminates on an orchid reserve in Lümändu village. There are all together five rivers in the parish and three of them start from there.

**Location:** In the northern corner of Raplamaa. On both sides of Tallinn-Rapla-Türi highway.  
**Population:** 6900  
**Territory:** 230,2 km<sup>2</sup>

Today the face of Kohila is illustrated by coppices, riverbeds, parks and lots of other beautiful. We have a gymnasium, new sport complex, training centre, two libraries, culture house, sacral buildings, manor houses etc. There are almost 150 reserves and cultural objects on the territory of Kohila parish. We are a parish with strong identity and cultural heritage. People of Kohila parish live in 23 different domains: one market town, two little market towns and 20 villages. The premises of the settlement are larger road network and nature. In the Kohila market town lives 57% of the population of the parish.

**Our parish** is valued living area as well as a good place to study, work and have a vocation. Kohila has a positive reputation, widely known and valued parish. Constant development activities have created a multicoloured and multifunctional environment for the parish. Kohila is a successful parish, where it's good to live. In Kohila parish the ground idea is **collaboration** on every level and between different levels. Parish Government works together with NGOs and entrepreneurs. The officials and citizens of Kohila are aware of the responsibility of their actions, being the creators and fulfillers of development strategies.

Kohila Parish Government is interested in raising the awareness of the citizens and thereby supporting the development of our parish as a whole. It's easier to start with innovations among children and youth, who are freer from prejudices than adults.

Kohila Parish Government has several sub-institutions that are aimed to arrange activities for children and youngsters, including Open Youth Centre (KANK), Kohila Training Centre, kindergartens, gymnasium, sport complex, Hageri Culture house, where is division of Youth (Youthcentre), etc.

We offer very good living conditions. It's possible to accommodate all volunteers in the same house, so that they wouldn't feel alone. We are motivated to be mentors for the volunteers.

We help them get used to our way of life and offer them to be part of our everyday life, our culture, sports life etc. We offer them support and help in every possible way. Volunteers can use all the services of the sub institutions of Kohila Parish Government, so it's possible to sport in Kohila Sport Complex and on the stadium, join one of the choirs, bands of dance group. Take part of the creative classes in Training Centre. Study languages in Kohila, Tallinn or in the centre of Rapla County.

## **Proposed Activities**

Kohila Parish Government is interested in raising the awareness of the citizens and thereby supporting the development of our parish as a whole. It's easier to start with innovations among children and youth, who are freer from prejudices than adults.

One of the possibilities to enrich your everyday life is to get to know different culture – get an idea of their habits and point of views on life. Feel their language and minds, explore their traditions and taboos. Become more tolerant and value different ideas and feelings. It's all possible if we get to know people from different cultures. Ignorance grows false ideas and prejudices. Knowledge makes richer!

So we wish to invite young people from different cultures as volunteers. Work involves mostly children and youngsters, but it doesn't mean that adults are excluded from the process.

The main activities for the volunteer are foreseen in Kohila Open Youth Centre and in Hageri Culturehouse.:

**KANK – Kohila Open Youth Centre** <http://www.zone.ee/kank/> –

In the mornings –volunteer can take part in baby school activities with babies and their mothers. Plan and organize the work of baby school.

In the afternoon is in KANK for children and youngsters. Two different age groups visit the centre – twice a week older school children and three times a week younger school children. Volunteers can instruct a study circle like movie making circle, computer design circle, guitar teaching, guiding youth band or dance groups etc.

Take youngsters to a training in sport complex, do hiking, prepare a Youth Exchange project – be creative and enterprising and children and youngsters will join you! Right now we miss evening activities with youth between 16-20. We need someone who could start a Finnish widely known youth project "Walkers kahvila". In summer period volunteers can participate in organising and preparing youth work camps and children projects that are initiated by youth NGOs that are active in the area.

### **Hageri Culturehouse**

In the mornings –volunteer can take part at preparation work at culture house, such is preparing materials for hobby circle, plan adventures etc. They have to help plan and organize the work of Youth division (YD)

In the afternoon is working time in YD for children and youngsters. Several groups visit the centre – there are more than 30 children per each day. Volunteers can instruct a study circle like movie making circle, computer design circle, guitar teaching, guiding youth band or dance groups, photo and editing etc. There will be enough active work with youth more than 5 hours per day. Plus planning.

Take youngsters to a training in outdoors, do hiking, prepare a Youth Exchange project – be creative and enterprising and children and youngsters will join you! Right now we miss evening activities. We need someone who could start a "Friday fever" project for youngsters from different villages of area. In summer period volunteers can participate in organising and preparing youth work camps and children projects that are initiated by youth NGOs that are active in the area. We have 4 different NGO-s in Hageri area.

There are lot of projects initiated also by **local government**. We will engage volunteers also to plan and implementation of those projects (baby-parade, St John's Day, independency day etc).

Volunteers can choose also among other institutions to get extra activities and bring variety into the day.

**Kohila Training Centre** [www.tohisoo.edu.ee](http://www.tohisoo.edu.ee) :

In the mornings – there are several possibilities to study languages, prepare evening classes and practice fine arts.

In the afternoon you can teach or participate in study circles – youth bands, acting classes, sewing workshop, pottery class, musical instrument lessons etc.

We are specially looking forward to a volunteer who is interested in playing bagpipe or plays bagpipe!

Kohila Training Centre is full on possibilities and lot can be done. It all depends on the motivation of a volunteer to do something and to start something.

In summer period volunteer can help to organise and plan pupil work camp, different youth projects (see [www.rn.ee](http://www.rn.ee)) and music projects (see [www.kaparock.ee](http://www.kaparock.ee)) that a initiated by voluntary youth organisations in the area.

### **Social sphere in Kohila**

Volunteers can participate in the everyday work of different nursing homes. To be a helping hand as nursing person, trainer or teacher, offer companion, friendship and support for elderly people and people with disabilities. We also offer volunteers to start and organise different short term projects for elderly and handicap people. Volunteers can also take part in our traditional campaigns and events like Day of Elderly People, Day of People with Special Needs, Surprise Present etc.

### **Kohila Sport Complex**

Sport Complex has been working for several years now. It's a modern complex that offers different opportunities – tennis, aerobics and endless opportunities for athletics and ball games and so on.

### **Kohila Gymnasium <http://www.pinal.ee/kohilakool/>**

In addition to ordinary school work, pupils can participate in different after school activities, like dancing, sport, drama, singing, environmental study circle etc, that support the development of children.

### **Kindergartens**

There are 5 kindergartens in our parish that including other activities offer activities that support children creativity on different fields and levels. There are art, music, handicraft etc classes.

### **Hageri Nursing Home**

It's a beautiful and safe living place for elderly people, where nursing and living aid is offered. Additional work hands are always most welcome!

### **Kohila Safety Centre**

The centre coordinates a shelter "Kati's Home" for handicap people. For that the centre sells and trades used clothes, home supplies and etc. In addition to nursing everyday handicap people, different social activities like study visits and courses are arranged for handicap people.

We also have two libraries, open internet point etc.

In Kohila area there are also active different culture societies, youth organisations and other interesting organisations that also always need helping hands. Two of the biggest are NGO Youth of Raplamaa (children camps and youth projects) [www.rn.ee](http://www.rn.ee) and NGO Stage Music Organisation (festival of young bands and international festival KapaRock) also we have different NGO-s on village level such are developing cultural life in village level.

## **Profile of Volunteer and Recruitment Process**

The project is open to everybody who is positive, creative, with good communication skills, friendly and. Volunteers don't need to have previous experiences in youth work neither special education. Most important is that they are willing to work with children and youth.

All the volunteers who contact with coordinating organisation International Youth Association EstYES will be informed about the vacant of the project for certain deadline. Volunteer will get special application form to fill in, which is the basis for the pre-selection. Then host project receives applications approved by EstYES to make their final decision. Staff of the host project chooses the volunteer, whose profile and interests match the best the proposed activities of the project.

## **Risk Prevention, Protection and Safety**

The host organization will ensure:

- 1) that the volunteer work is safe and been assessed for risk
- 2) that every effort is made that project meets high health and safety standards
- 3) that the volunteer is trained and familiar with the volunteering work and have access to adequate safety equipment if needed
- 4) that the volunteer will get all the practical and psychological support from the staff