

# A life changed by helping others



## EVS and multicultural experience

“ I was not just a volunteer. I felt I made my colleagues (I don't like calling them patients) see me as a friend.

*Victor Serrato Martín*

**Victor Serrato Martín's EVS project took him beyond borders and into a new type of role, but he soon discovered it was more than just a job.**

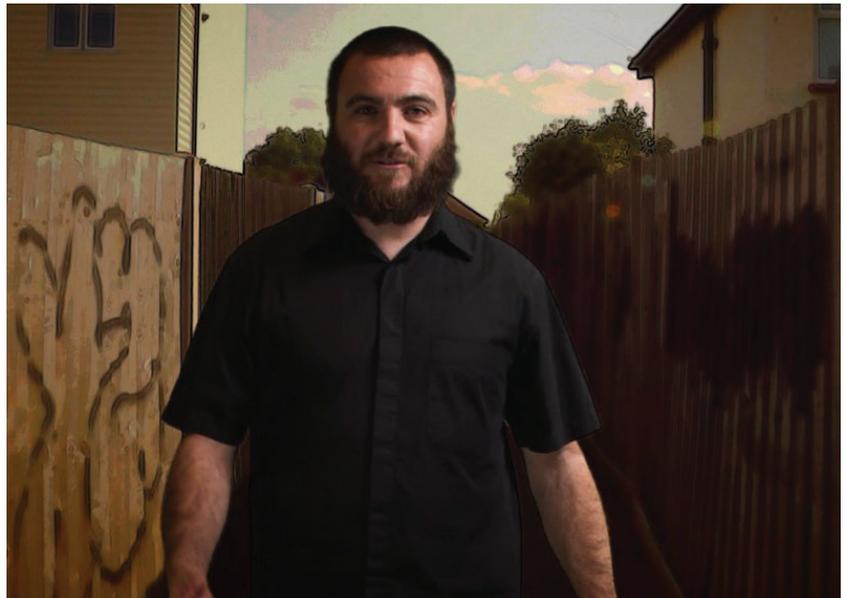
In March 2007 Victor Serrato Martín boarded a flight from sunny Malaga and touched down in a snowy Czech Republic, unaware of how profound an effect the trip would have on his life.

During the ten months Victor spent in Czech Republic, he worked with Diecézní charita Brno, an organisation which helps to integrate people with disabilities into society. Victor's role involved supporting the professionals who worked with people with severe disabilities in sheltered housing.

Victor's main tasks included helping with daily care needs such as cooking, leisure activities and participating in awareness raising campaigns about disability.

He grew close to the people he supported, and embraced the challenge of working amongst people with a high level of need. One of the most challenging parts of Victor's placement was receiving news that one of the patients he had been caring for had passed away.

The European Voluntary Service has played a part in changing the lives of many young people over the past two decades. For Victor, the emotional effect of his placement has stayed with him. Touched by the love and affection from his new friends, he is still working with people with disabilities nearly ten years later.



*Victor Serrato Martín embraced his cross-cultural EVS experience supporting people with disabilities in the Czech Republic*

**Home country of the EVS volunteer: Spain**

**EVS duration: 12 months**

**Country where the volunteering took place: Czech Republic**

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) gives young people the opportunity to volunteer abroad. As an organisation you can get financial support to run a project involving one or more international volunteers in your activities.

**Find out more:** <https://europa.eu/youth/evs20>