

Esmé Voltera Eikenaar:

At Amnesty International I had my first 'teaching' experience. I was the country expert for Egypt and responsible for informing, educating and representing the 15 groups active in the Netherlands. When I was based in Jerusalem I was teaching professionals on environmental issues. The aim was to produce environmental articles and raise environmental awareness in the Israeli and Palestinian media. During my 6 years at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture I have helped a couple of trainees get to know the bureaucratic and political tricks of The Hague.

But the last 10 years raising my beautiful family in the United States and now in Italy has been the most valuable experience to me. In San Francisco I volunteered for the parents association; I worked with teachers and parents and their kids. In 2010 we settled in Italy, first in Milan and now in Varese. Since I have focussed mainly on learning Italian, getting the kids settled and trying to make myself useful with fulfilling various non-profit tasks and translation work.

Although I am not mother tongue English I have lived in the United Kingdom and the United States and I know what it takes to learn the language. Now the girls are getting more and more self sufficient my situation allows me to broaden my scope on a more professional level.