

#7 - Ready to go?

Nacer Zorgani: Hi, it's Nacer Zorgani, I work at Paris 2024 in the volunteers programme, what is the volunteers programme? What do volunteers do, what are their roles, what are their missions? To answer these questions, to talk about the programme, to talk about the volunteer experience, join me with those who have done, are doing and will do the Games. Welcome to the uniform of a volunteer.

Jingle (Introductory music)

Nacer Zorgani: Since the launch of the podcast, we have been telling you about the volunteer adventure from all angles. We welcome guests from all walks of life, always with the same goal in mind: the opening of the volunteer portal in March 2023. Well then, who better than Camille Mocquet and Nabil Drif to come and talk to us about the application process and this famous portal? Thank you for joining us. Hello, Camille, let's start with you, what are you doing at Paris 2024 and what is your connection with volunteering?

Camille Mocquet: I am project manager, mobilisation of the Paris 2024 volunteer programme. This means that with my team, we will receive and study thousands of applications, among which will be the 45,000 volunteers for the Olympic Games. As for my connection with volunteering, I have already had the opportunity to work on volunteer programmes, notably in Lens, my very first during UEFA Euro 2016.

Nacer Zorgani: Thank you, Camille! And you Nabil?

Nabil Drif: I am a coordinator on Camille's team. My job is to guide the volunteers through the application process you mentioned. And this is the first time I have worked on a volunteer programme.

Nacer Zorgani: Camille, at the end of each episode of the podcast, I repeatedly direct those who are listening back to the same target date: the opening of the volunteer portal in March 2023. So, here we are, what is this famous portal?

Camille Mocquet: The portal is a digital platform that gives access to an application form that consists in a few main steps to be completed by the candidate. The first step is giving personal detail

and contact information, the second concerns skills or experiences, the third is about information related to the mobilisation of the Games, and the last step is an orientation questionnaire. But we will talk about this in more detail later on.

Nacer Zorgani: And how do you access the portal?

Nabil Drif: Through the Paris 2024 website and more specifically the page dedicated to volunteers: www.paris2024.org/en/volunteers/.

Nacer Zorgani: And to get to the end of this journey, of these infamous four steps, how long does it take?

Camille Mocquet: It will take about 40 minutes and these 40 minutes are really important because they will allow the Paris 2024 teams to offer a rich and qualitative experience to every volunteer based on the information that are given.

Nacer Zorgani: Thank you very much Camille and Nabil. For this first description of the application process, I am going to put myself in the shoes of a future candidate, so that our audience can discover the path. So... we're in March... I want to apply... What's going on?

Camille Mocquet: To begin with, Nacer, do you know the programme? Have you ever been to the frequently asked questions on our website? Or even, have you listened to the podcasts?

Nacer Zorgani: Indeed, I've been to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Paris 2024 website, in the volunteer's section. I even listened to all the podcasts until today. However, I needed help because I am visually impaired. Those who are listening to us don't know that. I need to know if the Paris 2024 website is going to be accessible to anyone. And above all, will the portal be accessible to anyone?

Camille Mocquet: The vision of Paris 2024 is to organise Games that are open to all, accessible to all. The volunteers' programme aims at representing the full diversity of French and international society. This is why we are making every effort we can to make the website as accessible as possible and, of course, the same goes for the volunteers' portal. In addition, we have a contact centre that will also be available at the same time as the portal opens. We'll have people there ready to assist all those who encounter difficulties, whether technical, related to specific needs or any other situation.

Nacer Zorgani: Nabil, can you remind me of the questions I need to ask myself to find out if I am eligible for the programme or not?

Nabil Drif: Will you be 18 years old on 1 January 2024? Will you be available for at least 10 days during the Olympic and Paralympic Games? And do you speak French or English?

Nacer Zorgani: You're talking about accessing a website and clicking on a link when the portal is open, but I'm moving in March, I have no internet, no computer, no access. What do I do?

Nabil Drif: Don't worry! You don't need to necessarily do it from a computer, you can also access the portal from a smartphone. If anything, you could as well ask a friend or neighbour for help. Remember that you can also contact the volunteer contact centre if you have any questions or need assistance.

Camille Mocquet: And one very important piece of information, Nacer, you will need to use a unique and personal email address to create your account so make sure you have one before you start your application.

Nabil Drif: What we mean is that you won't be able to candidate twice with the same email address.

Nacer Zorgani: Ok so now I click, I'm onto the portal.

Nabil Drif: So, Nacer, you are now on the portal, on the first tab, where you'll be asked to give personal detail and contact information. That will enable us to reach you during the application process.

Camille Mocquet: In addition to the personal details, you will also be asked where you intend to stay during the Games.

Nacer Zorgani: So far, I have no idea.

Nabil Drif: No worries, at this point, you don't need to know that yet. You can still candidate without knowing your accommodation.

Nacer Zorgani: So then, why do you ask this question?

Camille Mocquet: We're asking because Paris 2024 wants to ensure the best possible experience for each volunteer and that includes having volunteers being on missions that are as close to their residence as possible.

Nabil Drif: In addition, that would reduce the carbon footprint of the Games which is always a good thing! There will also be information about your uniform's size. But, in fact, I think that an episode on the topic is scheduled very soon.

Nacer Zorgani: Oh, you're well informed, I see! Back to my application process, what happens next?

Camille Mocquet: As you mentioned earlier, you are visually impaired and have specific needs related to your disability. You will be able to notify us those needs and we will then get in touch with you. The second stage of the application process will allow you to tell us which language you speak, the sports you master and to what extent. For example, if you already practice, if you have a licence with your federation and/or if you have experiences on major international sports events.

Nacer Zorgani: So, if I'm not a polyglot, if I'm not a sportsman and I haven't done any major international events, that's a no-no, I'll stand no chance?

Nabil Drif: Not at all! I'm saying it to you and to all that are listening, whether you speak several languages or not, whether you're an athlete or not or whether you've taken part in major events' organisations or not before, the programme is open to anyone. Second to last step, you will be invited to make your games. Now, what does that mean? First of all, you will choose whether you want to apply for the Paris 2024 programme, for the programme of the city of Paris or both.

Camille Mocquet: For your information and for those listening, the volunteers of the city of Paris will be mobilised throughout the city to welcome visitors. Guidance and information to visitors.

Nacer Zorgani: And I imagine they will be part of the party by creating the magic of the Games. As a matter of fact, I'm taking the opportunity as the subject comes up to say that we're going to have the director of the City of Paris programme and the director of the Paris 2024 volunteers programme on a future episode.

Nabil Drif: To come back to this part where you make your games, you will be able to give us your availabilities, i.e. tell us if you are available for the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games or both.

You can also choose your desired mobilisation zones as we mentioned earlier in order to tell us where you would like to carry out your mission, if possible.

Camille Mocquet: And finally, we'll give you a free space of expression. You can ask us questions, tell us about your experiences or tell us about your motivations.

Nabil Drif: All that remains is for you to fill in your orientation questionnaire which, as its name suggests, will help us to guide you towards the missions most suited to your profile.

Nacer Zorgani: Alright. So that I understand Nabil.... What does this questionnaire consist of, can you tell me more?

Nabil Drif: It's a series of questions about real life situations. They'll allow us to get to know you better, to understand your motivations with the goal of finding the role that fits you best.

Camille Mocquet: Here we are, all you have to do is submit your application and then 3,2,1 go!

Nacer Zorgani: Great, thank you very much! Well, see you in March so that I can validate my application. In the meantime, I'll be back to my role as facilitator. Thank you very much Camille and Nabil for this immersion and this role play. Traditionally, at the end of the podcast, we give the floor to the guests so that they can give a little word of commitment to make those who are listening want to join us. Camille, what could you say to our listeners to make them join us?

Camille Mocquet: When I was at Euro 2016, what marked me was the intensity, the emotions, the sharing we had with all the volunteers and what touched me more particularly was, at the end of the adventure, the mutual thankfulness we felt for each other, and I really want to relive that.

Nacer Zorgani: Thank you very much Camille, Nabil, for being with us. As for those who are listening to us, see you in March 2023 when the portal opens. Ready, set, apply!