

Volunteer report by Nastija: European solidarity corps volunteer at Grenzenlos from May 2021 to October 2021

I came to Vienna with the expectation to meet new people, learn some basics of German language and to see how different it would be for me to live in another country as a person in a wheelchair.

I was really happy with the organization Grenzenlos that hosted me and gave me all I needed to have a great start in Vienna.

I meet people from all around the world that I have spent my time with during my ESC. We went together around the city, saw a lot of art projects and also experienced the real Viennese "moments".

I loved how I had time to do everything I wanted to see in combination with volunteering.





I am really happy that I was a part of Gardening camp as a help to the camp leaders. I had a chance to see how the project is organized and how it works in reality. With a group of people I have a chance to see how dynamic is changing all the time and how to be flexible with changing plans at the last minute. Because of that I also learned to speak basic German, as a leader I needed to guide them through the city and I liked the work I needed to do.

There were so many other projects and moments that I am really grateful for. I had a feeling that my organization trusts me with tasks they gave me, so I had a feeling that I am a part of something important.

One of the important things why I chose Vienna is art. It has so much to offer and as a photographer I had a chance to see different points of view. An amazing opportunity happens because I have a chance to do my own photo exhibition "Thank you, Vienna". I think it was a success, because I met a lot of people that gave me an opportunity to exhibit also in other countries and so on.



And as I wrote at the beginning, as a person in a wheelchair, my volunteering in Vienna gave me the chance to show myself that I am perfectly capable of living everywhere with a little adaptation. Vienna is really accessible, especially the traffic system, public places. It was not a question if it is accessible but, are we going or not. This means a lot to me and also, I will bring my experience back to my country and try to do even more public awareness.

If you didn't do your ESC, do it! It's never too late and do as much as you can, because we always regret things we didn't do.









Co-funded by the European Union