

**Volunteer report by Júlia Joan Bauzà**  
**European solidarity corps volunteer at Kinderladen Hütteldorf**  
**from 01.10.2021 to 30.06.2022**

Uep! Com anam? ;)

Dear future volunteer,

Do you still have doubts about participating in an ESC project? Are you scared of moving abroad all by yourself?

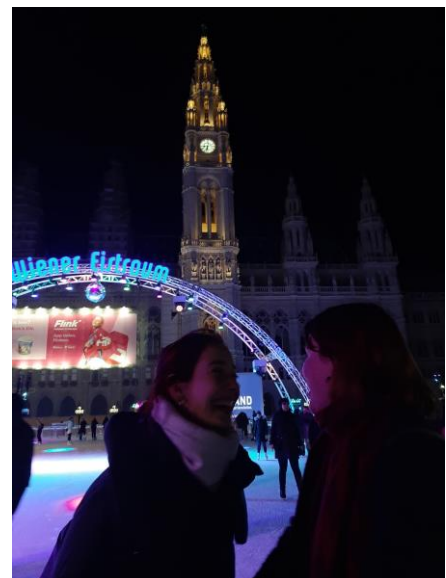
I had those same doubts and many more just a year ago. However, the amount of amazing experiences, unforgettable friendships and personal development gained in such a short period of time is countless.



Volunteers have something special regardless of where they come from. The first gift I got when I landed in Vienna was meeting my two amazing, loving flatmates, one from Turkey and another one from Denmark. They have been my sunshine even on cloudy days and have made my stay in Austria unforgettable. Living in such a cosmopolitan city and thanks to the multiple gatherings organized by Grenzenlos I also met lots of other really interesting young people from whom I learnt a lot.

Keeping it real, Vienna is a city that has a lot to offer for those who are ready to seize it. By this I mean, there is always something happening, but most of the time you have to look for it yourself. Check out pages like [goodnight.at](https://www.goodnight.at) or Facebook groups and don't be scared to join random activities. Winter can be hard if you don't have a bit of a social network, so try and meet up with friends (or even with strangers\*) and don't let the lack of light keep you all day inside.

\*There are many cool apps to meet new people that are definitely worth a try: Tandem (for language exchanges), Bumble (for friends), Tinder (for dating), etc.





The atmosphere at Kinderladen Hütteldorf is very welcoming and safe. Both parents and pedagogues helped me integrate and in no time at all I started feeling at home. It has been such a heartwarming experience to enter these childrens' worlds and be part of such a professional team, that took care of each child with endless love and patience.

Working with children has been incredibly rewarding, but it is important that you set your boundaries and limits. Even if it's your first time working with children, if you act with confidence they will immediately respect you. Something I did

and that I would definitely recommend, is to stay determined to speak German all the time and not jump to English. This may be hard at first, but it will undoubtedly pay off in the long run.

All of these factors and many more have contributed to making this the best year of my life. Maybe it won't be such a big deal for you but I bet whatever your background is, you will not regret embracing this wonderful experience with open arms, an open mind and an open heart.