


Volunteer report by Astrid Jungersen
European solidarity corps volunteer at Kinderladen Hütteldorf
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Volunteering in Vienna

What do you need to be truly happy? The ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus pointed out “friends, freedom and an analyzed life” as the answer to this question. I learned that in school and as a volunteer in Vienna I experienced it to be true.



Let's begin with the friends: The volunteers in Vienna. This colorful group of people from all over Europe consisted of openminded, motivated youngsters. The common choice to join the European Solidarity Corps brought us together - not only physically but also emotionally.  On this adventure we were in the same boat.

Continue with the freedom: As a volunteer, you have a lot of it. You must spend 30-38 hours per week at your project. In exchange for your time and energy, you get your basic needs covered. The project is the key to freedom and might even provide purpose and give you valuable experience. I am grateful to have been part of the everyday life in Kinderladen Hütteldorf. Ranging from children's songs to life lessons; Working with children alongside skilled pedagogues and committed parents has taught me a lot.



Lastly “an analyzed life”: Reflection and afterthought are integrated parts of the volunteering experience. The best examples for this are the On-Arrival Training and the Mid-Term Meeting. Here you get to spend four days in a hotel with volunteers from all over Austria. There will be trainers who will provide tools and tasks for analyzing your life as a volunteer and you have the chance to exchange experiences and perspectives with fellow volunteers. Doesn't that sound wonderful? For me it was.

Looking back on these 10 months fills me with gratitude. Even though I cannot promise that your experience will be anything like mine, I strongly encourage you to go abroad. You will not always feel like a fish in water, but it is only by going ashore that you get your own legs to stand on.