

Volunteer report by Giordana Drago
European solidarity corps volunteer at Kindergruppe Farbklecks
from October 2022 to January 2023

Ciao! I'm Giordana from Italy and I volunteered for three months at Kindergruppe Farbklecks. My experience should have lasted for about one year, but I decided to end it before: there are many reasons behind this choice, but I would never blame the Kindergruppe that hosted me.

Farbklecks has always been really kind to me, from the teachers to the parents, so if you are in search of a familiar and little environment I would definitely suggest this project.

At first it was strange for me, because I'm not used to a certain philosophy inside kindergardens: in this one, children are let free to paint, create and play, there is not a strict schedule (as in Italy) and the group is really tiny and it contains children from 3 to 6 years. Then, I started to understand the mechanism and to be more relaxed. I used to play with the children inside and outside the kindergarden (prepare yourself: in Winter times it's really cold and there isn't much sun! Protect your throat) and also I helped with keeping clean.



Grenzenlos was always caring and helpful with me, for any question or suggestion. Luckily, I didn't have any serious problem with my accommodation or any other issue.

The main issue is that I felt pretty much alone, mainly because I used to stay a lot inside, due to the weather and couldn't meet many people between 18-25 years. Of course, you can go in the city center, there are many attractions and the streets are beautiful, but I was searching for something less urbanized and raffinate and more wild. In autumn (and in Summer too) the atmosphere around the Donau river is amazing, you can sail and swim too.

Also I was searching for a project that could involve me more in social issues, like immigrations or people with important needs, but that doesn't mean that you can't get anything from this experience: I really grew up in this period, I learned how to live in a foreign country and how to get by when you are alone. The On Arrival Training was the best period for me, I met so many people and had so much fun! I also did a theater course and many workshops, which means you have a lot of free time that you can occupy with whatever you want. Vienna has a huge cultural range of activities, from museums to libraries and festivals, so you never get bored!

