

Volunteer report by MIRJAM
European Solidarity Corps volunteer at "CASA PIA"
from OCTOBER 2022 to MAY 2023



Olá!

My name is Mirjam, I am 19 years old and from Vienna. I moved to Lisbon for eight months to volunteer at a kindergarden and now that my project is almost over, I can say that that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I fell in love with the city immediately and over time also with the rest of the country, as we had lots of opportunities to travel and explore. Me and my friends, who I made during my stay, took trips to the Algarve, Porto, the north, a village in the middle of the country, the highest mountain of Portugal and even flew to Madeira for a few days. I can't even describe how much all those precious moments mean to me and I am so thankful for everything I got to experience.

Of course, ESC is not only about free time, but I also enjoyed my work. As everybody, I felt challenged and overwhelmed at times but luckily, I always received great support from my friends, family, mentor and hosting organization. My tasks were:

- Assisting the teachers with activities like crafting, formal education or specific projects
- Going to sports class, music class and excursions to support the teachers
- Helping out during lunch time
- Playing with the kids and watching them while they play
- Other, creative and personal tasks/projects



One of my favorite tasks was painting a big wall in the playground of the kindergarden with my fellow volunteers. Everybody at my workplace was super thankful and amazed by our final result and it feels great to know that a visible part of me will always stay there.



I learned so incredibly much during my project and I would recommend every young person to also take a chance on ESC. You will face challenging and hard times but they are so absolutely worth it because you will come back a changed person: matured, confident, happy and with lots of new friends.

