

My name is Silja, I'm from Denmark, I've spent 11 months in Vienna working with young people from 15-21 years old. My "almost year" has been incredibly giving. At my project I've worked with teenagers from all sorts of different backgrounds, and have learned so much about the youth culture in Vienna, and also about the cultures of the teens, since most of them came from countries outside of Austria. Before coming here I could not have imagined how much I would learn, and how much I would teach. It almost feels like I have gotten a whole little group of younger siblings that I have to leave behind:(

Júlia, me, (Johnny Depp?) and Damla

I've lived in a flat with two lovely girls, Júlia and Damla, and the three of us did so many things, and experienced Vienna together. Vienna really has so much to offer when you're young and want to explore and learn. There is so much art to be looked at, and events to attend to (I recommend looking at the site Goodnight.at to find small events like fleamarkets and poetry slam and the like). And if you can get your hands on a Kulturpass a lot of cinemas and museums are free! Me and my flatmates went to the cinema together, the opera, we hosted themed parties at the flat where the guests brought food from their own culture, we had picnics by Alte Donau where we of course went swimming as well! It was amazing, and I could never have imagined meeting such sweet girls.



I feel so lucky that I got to spend a good chunk of months living with them!

Through Grenzenlos I also met a handful of other volunteers, and it has been most pleasant to be able to meet up with them and host our own little events, and hear about how their projects are. When I just arrived in Vienna I was quite nervous about it all, but talking to other young people who are in the same boat as you is a great way to feel less alone or scared about being in a foreign country, where everything is new. And Grenzenlos are really good at planning little events where you can meet up with the others in the beginning.

In short I am just so grateful for having had this experience, and I feel like I leave a much richer and wiser person than I came, with friends from many different countries, and with new skills and talents that I look forward to applying in my life back in Denmark:)



*Grenzenlos arranged that we could go to the Diversity Ball!
It was the first ball I ever went to, and I had such a blast.*



Rathaus Christmas market