

**Volunteer report by Avelina Cardoso**  
**European Solidarity Corps volunteer at La Rueda in Vienna, Austria**  
**from March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023**

The idea of volunteering abroad came when I had the opportunity to participate in an interview with RATO and met a girl who had volunteered in Spain. After learning her story, I was very interested and felt safe and confident to try it and when I felt ready, I registered on the ESC (European Solidarity Corps) platform and quickly received several proposals. I identified very much with the "La Rueda" project, because it is a bilingual kindergarten, which was advantageous for me because Spanish is similar to Portuguese and throughout the activities I could also learn a little German.



*in Salzburg, during my Mid-term meeting*



*Typical activity at the kindergarten: learning about the seasons of a year in German and Spanish*

After a year of working with children between the ages of 2-6 years I am very satisfied with my development, I have learned a lot. Mainly about activities based on the Montessori method, a system that encourages more independent learning. Another positive aspect is having the opportunity to learn a new language (German) from the very beginning and without pressure.

My routine is not intense. Normally my tasks consist of supporting the activities that take place during the day and at lunchtime I attend to the children's needs, keep the space organized and clean, accompany them to the park, and take photographs.

I really value the moments I spend with my friends in my free time, and I love visiting new places, but sometimes I also like to stay at home and enjoy my own company.



*When my „COALA” Pia and I went to Bratislava*