

Volunteer report by Iida Hyytinen
European Solidarity Corps volunteer at Grenzenlos
From June to November 2024

My European Solidarity Corps volunteering project was at the Grenzenlos office in Vienna. I can say, this has been the best six months of my life. I have experienced everything that I wanted and much more. The whole experience was surrounded by awesome new people that I got to know during my whole time here.

My work in the office environment was something new for me compared to my previous experience, but from the beginning I was very excited to see what I could learn here and how I could use and improve the skills that I already have. At the office I was very free to try different interesting tasks, for example creating content for social media, improving my skills with different digital tools, planning and supporting the team with events, preparing materials and much more. Besides the office work I got a chance to participate in the seminars, workcamps, meetings and trainings, which was very interesting. There I got a chance to challenge myself and practice different skills and for example get more confident speaking different languages.





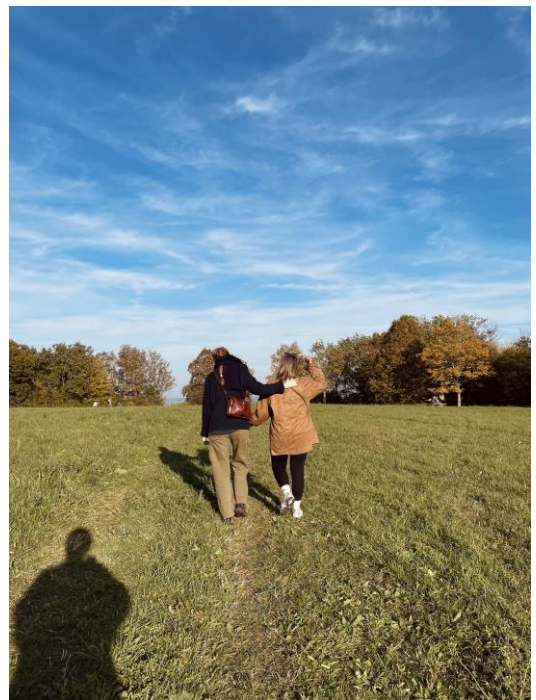
I enjoyed working at the office with the funniest, talented and supportive team, who were always there for me if I needed help or support with anything. The working environment was the best that I have ever experienced and here I learnt that I can try new things without worrying about failing and I knew that I could always ask for help if something was unclear. Every day I enjoyed coming to the office especially, because I knew that there are always the people who make me feel seen and heard.

And why should you come to Vienna? Well, life here is amazing (at least for me)! Even though you create your new routines in a new country, and you will live your daily life also here, still for me it was important to try everything new and get new memories. And this city is full of things that I love to do on my free

time, for example art museums, cute cafes, hiking paths, live music, flea markets and everything! Also, I made many trips to the cities and villages close to Vienna.

As I said, the thing that makes this experience so unique is the people. From the first day here, I made good friends and getting to know people from different countries and cultures is very interesting and eye-opening. I think it is very valuable to have this experience together with the people who are in the same situation as I am. I will always have this experience to connect us, and I will always remember these inspiring and funny friends when I think back on my time here.

The amount of experience and learning here in such a short time is something truly amazing. Before I came here, I didn't have any kind of idea how much I would develop and grow as a person in every level. I feel that for me this has been a boost for my future to try new things and create new memories and try to maintain the same mindset in life that I had here.





My advice to the future volunteers is that if you want to learn more about yourself, this is a great chance to try, learn, experience and notice the things that are important to you. If you have even this tiny thought about living abroad, learning languages or getting new experiences, go for it! It is totally worth it!