

Volunteer report by Adriana Caggese
European Solidarity Corps volunteer at Kindergruppe Farbklecks
From 10/2024 to 07/2025

Hello! My name is Adriana, I'm 23 years old and I've recently ended my volunteering project in Austria.

From October 2024 to July 2025, I stayed in Vienna and volunteered in a kindergruppe. A kindergruppe is a type of kindergarten where a maximum of 14 children from the ages of 2,5 and 6 years of age are taken care of, and where the parents administer and help with all the tasks. I worked together with four teachers, and everyday there were two teachers other than me staying with the kids. The place I worked is called Kindergruppe Farbklecks.

I worked from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm, and my tasks were helping in the kitchen, with the preparation of meals and with observing the children, spending time with them, playing with them and ensuring they were safe and happy.



During the project, at work, I felt safe and welcomed at all times; I felt enriched, respected as a person, and always made part of activities and decisions. Nobody ever looked down on me. I have learned a lot of German—especially food!—and, especially, I have learned a lot from the kids and their way of living and being taught and educated, which is very different from my home country and gives me a lot to think about. The experience has helped me understand myself, my dreams and goals and my limits, especially when it comes to my professional life, and for that I consider it to be an incredibly satisfying experience.



Living in Austria has been overall a very nice experience. I have explored lots of places and have fallen in love with many elements of Vienna, specifically the greenery and parks, the museums and the variety in everything. Accessibility is readily available to anyone and there's always vegan and vegetarian options for food everywhere. This is something that really impressed me.

Coming from a hot country, I *have* had difficulty with the winter cold, but it's understandable! What was a quite negative experience, though, was the feeling of alienation I felt which came from not knowing the language. I definitely suggest keeping that in mind before moving! It can feel like a lot. Luckily, all the other volunteers had similar experiences and at work I never felt that. My experiences outside of work have also been wonderful. I've had friends over, I traveled to visit others, I gathered really wonderful experiences that I never could have had back in my home country.

Overall the experience truly changed my life for the better: I'm considering changes to my future that I never would have considered before, I feel my mind changed and opened, I feel more confident, more aware and ready. The practical aspect of the job and experience was very important to me specifically, and I'm now seeking very different things because of this.

I would highly recommend this type of project to anyone, especially those who may not exactly know where to go next—it's an all around incredible, life-altering experience and as tiring as it can be I do not regret a second of it.

Remember to always have fun and take your time!