

# Volunteer report by Noémi Bernard

## European Solidarity Corps volunteer at BOKU Kindergarten

### From October 2024 to July 2025



I started my volunteer experience in October 2024 at BOKU Kindergarten in Vienna. When I arrived in Vienna, I had basically no expectations. I've never been to this city or worked in a kindergarten before, so I had everything to discover and learn, which was perfect for me.



At work, my tasks were mainly to stay and play with the kids. There were three groups, and I used to switch almost daily, according to the planning. I also helped with everyday routines, for example, during the meals. When the weather allowed us, we would go outside every morning, either to some playgrounds around or in the garden. The kids and the team were very welcoming from the beginning. I didn't feel much of a language barrier, even if my German was not so good from the start. Over the months, I got to know each kid very well. It made daily life easier but also made the goodbyes much more complicated.



Discovering Vienna while living there was truly a luck. I got to see the city change through the seasons. It was wonderful to see how autumn, Christmas, Easter, or summer could change all the vibes. I loved Vienna for all the pretty buildings and museums, of course, but most of all for the landscapes by the vineyards or the Danube, all the green and the space, public transportation that works (unlike Paris, haha) and, obviously, the cafés. I was really proud to show the city around every time I had some visitors, because Vienna can offer so much.





Besides work, I spent a lot of time with my friends, whom I met thanks to Grenzenlos. I built very strong friendships, and all those people made this year truly unique and unforgettable. It was really great to be able to have friends from other countries and share about our cultural similarities or differences. We all came with some common convictions and values, eager to help and discover. Together, we also had the opportunity to travel around Austria, and sometimes further in Europe. I highly recommend the train for all the incredible landscapes.



If I had to give some advice to incoming volunteers, I would tell them to keep their mind and heart as open as possible. This opportunity has so much to offer: dare when you're afraid, care when you're needed, and share when there are moments of joy. During those 10 months, I changed a lot: I learned how to ask for help, how to take more responsibilities, and how to enjoy each day as it comes. Be ready for it.



I would like to thank Grenzenlos for their support throughout the year, for giving us the opportunity to live such experiences and make it great.

Alles Gute aus Frankreich!

