

“Grenzenlos without Barriers”

What is Grenzenlos?

Grenzenlos is part of the international youth exchange network (the ICYE Federation). It was founded in 1949 as a pacifist programme standing for tolerance and re-conciliation between different cultures. Grenzenlos is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation, which main aim is to promote peace and tolerance through international non-formal education programmes that combine cultural integration with engagement in non-profit initiatives worldwide.

We are located in Vienna’s 9th district. In our (small) office, 10 paid staff members are employed, all of them part time. Many volunteers and voluntary co-workers, Austrians as well as internationals, visit our office on a regular basis, as well as young people interested in our exchange offers which makes the office a lively place to work for a volunteer, with many opportunities to meet people. Concerning the EVS Programme, our main priorities are working with disadvantaged youths (e.g. handicapped people, young migrants, long term unemployed...).

Proposed activities

The possibilities and capacities for youngsters with disability and disadvantaged youngsters to include and integrate into voluntary services are limited. One thing Grenzenlos offers is the international experience in itself – a life-changing one for almost everybody. You

- ✓ will learn about working in an NGO,
- ✓ will learn about international youth exchanges and voluntary service
- ✓ will have the possibility to get to know other social institutions in Vienna.
- ✓ Additionally, your expertise could be used to adapt and improve the projects/ programmes/ activities/ implementations to the needs and capacities of the volunteers.

As every volunteer will have different capabilities, different mobility and different support needs, every project will be different. As mentioned before, Grenzenlos’ focus on working with people

with disability means that there is a constant need of knowledge and expertise that a volunteer with disabilities could give: as a peer-volunteer for volunteers with and without disabilities.

One part of the project will be that you will be working in our office and gather information, do research, visit organisations, speak to other volunteers and compose results of his/her research as resource material for future exchanges.

Depending on the time of the year you will be with us, joining our special events and current activities. During summer, this would mean that you would be joining the short term international projects during which the integration of national and international people with disabilities is one focus: s/he can help the team preparing and organising the activities as well as participating within them.

The second focus of the project could be that the volunteer also visits other EVS Hosting organisations in Vienna: according to your interests, you would be joining another organisation for one or two days per week and develop a small project of his/her own. In this way, you have the chance to be active in an additional field of work. Furthermore, EVS hosting organisations who is not sure yet about hosting a volunteer with disabilities for a full time project would have the opportunity to try a small project first and see how that works out.

Recruitment process and profile of the volunteer

A volunteer working within Grenzenlos doesn't need any special experiences nor specific working skills, neither special language skills. The only thing which we expect from a volunteer is the motivation to work within our organisation. "Grenzenlos Without Barriers" is only available for volunteers with a physical disability. As our project will be very tailor-made to the individual volunteer, it is hard to say which profile a volunteer should have. We would welcome in any case volunteers that are open to new experiences, willing to try new things and to challenge their personal limits.

If you are interested, you just send a CV (curriculum vitae), a motivation letter and the full details of the responsible sending organisation to Grenzenlos.

All available placements of Grenzenlos EVS projects are open to everyone (fulfilling the general EVS criteria). However, in the selection procedure a preference is shown for candidates with fewer opportunities (gender, background etc.). You will be informed about the outcome of recruitment process conforming to the set out applying deadlines (more: [Melange Website](#)).