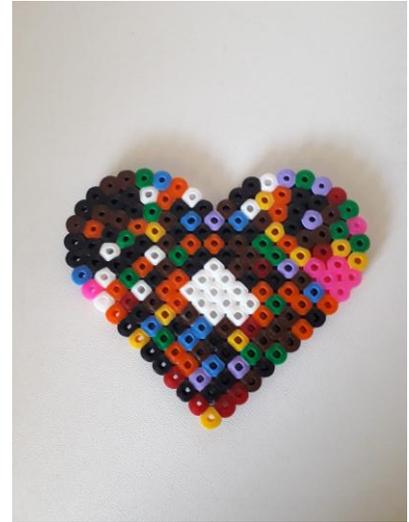


My Report

I was very lucky to get the volunteer project from Vienna.

The kindergarten, where I did my volunteering, was very amazing. There were three groups so lot of children's names to learn. The kids had different backgrounds so the atmosphere of the kindergarten was international. One kid even spoke English with me which was so nice! They have had lot of volunteers before me so I think they really know what volunteer could do there. My tasks were mainly just help pedagogues and assistant for example with cleaning and during mealtimes and more importantly spend time with the kids. Just like the tasks of volunteer probably should be. I think they had managed quite good to find the right balance of volunteering where volunteer feels useful and important but at the same time the project could work without the volunteer.



Something I get from the kindergarten

The highlights during my time in the kindergarten were all the parties we had. We had for example fasching and laternenfest and also Saint Nicholas came to visit in kindergarten in December. We don't have any of these parties in Finland so it was very nice to experience this kind of cultural things. For me they were really once in the life time moments. Also we did something special during Easter, Christmas and the kids' birthdays for example. It was very interesting to see how much more different things are in different countries than I thought before. The Easter bunny isn't so big thing in Finland and nobody brings a cake to kindergarten on birthday. I really enjoyed that we went very often to parks near the kindergarten too. The thing was just that in my country kids in kindergarten normally go out every day. So I think I would have been ready to go out more often than we actually went! No that I would have been sad to miss the rainy and cold weather.



Otherwise I was very happy to spend almost ten months in Vienna exactly. It is a very nice city. Austria isn't too different to my country so most of things worked like I had used to (which means well) and I didn't have too bad cultural shock. There is lot of things to see and do in Vienna. I like places like museums and café and there is totally enough of them. Cool experiences were to go to traditional ball (thanks to Grenzenlos), Opera (standing tickets are cheap, painful and totally worth it) and skate to Rathausplatz. Also once in the lifetime experiences. And when I was tired to see Vienna it was very easy to just take a train and travel little bit in the neighbor countries. Very nice!

Some of my favorite things in Vienna:
Melange and Sacher Torte in Café Central