

Welcome to my experience volunteering in Vienna!

It's REALLY hard to summarize such a year full of so much different things happening, but I will write about the three most important experiences: Where did I live? Who did I met? What did I do?

I was living in the most amazing place I could have ever imagined: a renovated old factory with a flat on the top where 9 people including me and a cat were living. In the groundfloor: the school, coworking space, creative rooms, kitchens, music room,...



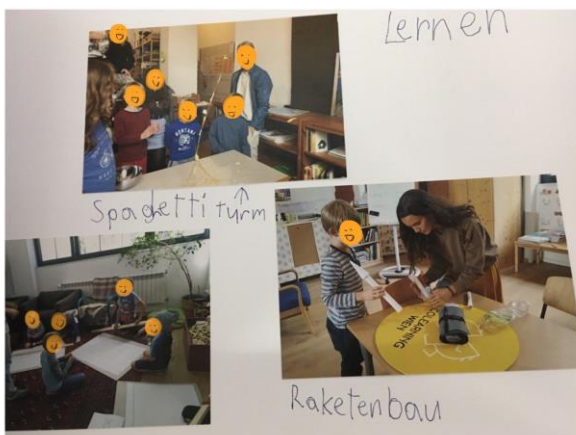
I met my flatmates, people totally different from each other not only from age but also in personality. This was sometimes challenging but also very beautiful and of course we shared many funny moments: organized a concert for 50 people, spontaneous dinners (picture), building a swimming pool,...

I met also other volunteers, luckily since the first moment I had May volunteering in the same project with me and living in the same house. I could do a whole chapter of the things we experienced together. I met also other volunteers, thanks to the activities that Grenzenlos prepared we could be in contact with other volunteers and we could find some long weekends where we travelled around Austria. I met the people at the school, mostly very active and powerful women striving for a better education that what is offered in conventional schools.



I did many different things; I started in another project where my tasks were related to preparing rooms and caterings for customers. As this was not what I expected from volunteering, I changed to the school that was in my own building. I really recommend to work with children as they are very funny and sweet.

My school was not a conventional school, it was a place where children between 3 and 18 years old met to learn together. This means, there is no timetable, there are no separated classes, adults are not teachers but accompanying the learning process.



I learnt a lot working with this system. The creativity of the children is normally not stopped by rules (see picture above), but they have to learn about being responsible (clean every mess). I played a lot with the smallest kids, we built rockets, experiment with fire, did music, workshops, cook together, spent days and nights together on the summer excursions, and of course we also learnt together a lot of mathematics, physics,...

I will never forget this year.

