



# VOLUNTEERING IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Freiraumschule Kritzendorf is an alternative school based on the concepts developed by Rebeca and Mauricio Wild. Stimulating environment, Montessori equipment and intensive support by teachers allow for open and self-determined learning. The curriculum includes among others also intercultural learning and foreign languages. With opening hours from 8:00 to 16:00 the school offers day care for 40 children aged 6-15 years. Leisure activities are in line with the philosophy of the school. The main motivation to host international volunteers is to promote the tolerance between different cultures and traditions, to encourage young people to learn about cultural differences, to develop the understanding what it means to be a 'European', and to deal critically with nationalism. All involved benefit from ESC: volunteers, pupils, teachers, parents. Since 2001 our school has hosted volunteers from different countries, including France, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, Turkey, Italy, Ukraine, Greece, Romania, ...

Our volunteers support our team in caring for the young people, through their presence and their individual input, which is always welcome. For example with the preparation of the daily snack, accompany them on excursions, and do individual activities with the young people, according to their own skills or passions that they can contribute (handicrafts, drawing playing games, yoga, dance, language, ...).



## KRITZENDORF

The small village of Kritzendorf is located just under 20 kilometers outside of Vienna, on the slopes of the Danube and has about 2,500 year-round residents. For more than 100 years, Kritzendorf has been known beyond its borders for its Danube stream bath, which is freely accessible and accommodates a small settlement with summer houses. Kritzendorf is well connected to Vienna by public transport and at the same time it has kept its rural and quiet character. Kritzendorf itself has local suppliers, wine-growing enterprises, some catering trade enterprises as well as a voluntary fire-brigade. For further activities Vienna is easily accessible at any time at half-hour intervals by public transport. The Freiraumschule has been located in Kritzendorf for 30 years. Our school building is located in the former „Herzogenburgerhof“, which is situated on a hill at the edge of the forest and has a large garden and forest belonging to the school, which is freely accessible to our children at any time. In our building there is also the children's group Wasserfloh, which, like us, has had an ESC volunteer for many years.







## TRAINING DURING THE ACTIVITY

A German language course matching your level in renowned organisation in Vienna will be included.

You have regular meetings with your mentor to reflect on your process and get support. Your tutor (part of the team you work with) will also give you guidance and feedback on a regular basis.

Your biggest learning opportunity will for sure be the experience to accompany the children during a whole school year. You learn about their culture and share about yours. You can grow as a person and learn a lot about yourself and your capacity to be compassionate and mature while lively and in the flow.

You can meet other volunteers nearby and exchange your experiences. There will also be an On-Arrival-Training and Mid-Term-Meeting organized by the National Agency where you can connect to other volunteers.

## ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

For the time of the ESC project, which is lasting around 1 year, you will live in a student residence in Vienna (15 min by train from Kritzendorf). You have your own room and shared bathroom. There is a kitchen and other communal spaces available. If needed we provide bedding and kitchen ware.

In addition, you will receive €210 pocket money and €390 food allowance per month. You will also be given a bicycle and a monthly flat rate of €45 for public transport.

## PARTICIPANT PROFILE

We are looking for volunteers aged between 18-30 years. You should have some experience in working with children of different ages and be interested in alternative approaches to education. You closely work with a team of educators and get involved in many aspects of our school life. You love to be out in nature and are a responsible and open-minded person. You are interested in cultural exchange and alternative and respectful ways of educating children. Basics in German are required!





Our coordinating organization is the Jugend:info NÖ, a regional youth information center in Lower Austria. They organise regular volunteer meetings and an ESC Volunteer Day twice a year to get to know each other. As part of this, you will visit a chosen part of Lower Austria to learn and experience the local language, history and culture.



WANT TO KNOW MORE? YOU CAN FIND MORE EXCITING INFORMATION AND NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.JUGENDINFO-NOE.AT](http://WWW.JUGENDINFO-NOE.AT) AND ON OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS:



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