



Funded by
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VOLUNTEERING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AT



Apply for an 8-month project in
Tyrol, Austria starting in
January 2022

Hosting organisation



Arche Tirol

www.arche-tirol.at

Located in St. Jodok am Brenner & Steinach am Brenner, Austria
Arche Tirol is an experienced hosting organisation.

Some info on the hosting organisation:

Arche Tirol is part of an international community of people with and without disabilities, who live and work together based on the international Charter of the Arche Community. This Charter states that every person has a unique value. We have contacts with many Arche communities abroad (primarily Germany).

Arche Tirol was founded in 1992 and is a Christian – ecumenical community. In our daily routine there is place for spirituality. The work in Arche considers the UN convention for people with disabilities.

Currently, 10 people with a disability are accompanied in two houses, one in Steinach am Brenner and one in St. Jodok (few kilometres distance).

Arche takes in people with disabilities at the age of 18. Currently, four people with mental and multiple disabilities live in the Arche House in Steinach and six live in St. Jodok. Our main philosophy is not only to provide care, but also to offer a community, personal relationships and a home.

In Steinach there is a workshop and a basal group (Basale Gruppe) for the cared for people. They produce candles, potteries, paper and bags. We sell these products. The assistants try to support the people with disabilities in their cognition and self-awareness.

The main tasks are care/nursing, housekeeping and creating a familiar and welcoming atmosphere for the disabled people. To achieve this goal, we share life and work, sing and celebrate together and try to organise happy and exciting days for the residents. Household chores include cooking, tidying, laundry and cleaning. We offer people with cognitive impairments a comprehensive everyday life. For example, we have many weekly leisure activities. The Volunteers accompany them (for example: dancing, swimming, hiking...).



Coordinating organisation & Funding



The lead/coordinating organisation of this project is InfoEck (Verein Generationen und Gesellschaft), an info centre in Innsbruck. InfoEck coordinates six volunteers in the region of Tyrol and assists the hosting organisations by overseeing the administration, finances and the quality control of the project.

InfoEck has submitted this project to the Austrian National Agency of the European Solidarity Corps programme. We will know whether it will be granted and funded in December 2021. We are optimistic, due to good experiences in the past. The EU, InfoEck and Arche Tirol will finance this volunteering project. The only possible financial contribution that the selected volunteer may need to make is to pay a small share of the travel costs.

The responsible coordinator is ready to answer open questions and to prepare the project with Arche Tirol, the selected volunteer and the supporting sending organisation. The coordinator's name is Elisabeth Summerauer: international@infoeck.at (send applications to Arche Tirol, not to Elisabeth!).

More info about InfoEck:

Website www.infoeck.at/volunteer
[Instagram InfoEck - Jugendinfo Tirol](#)
[Facebook InfoEck - Jugendinfo Tirol](#)
[Youtube InfoEck - Jugendinfo Tirol](#)



Location, Housing, Money

The volunteer will live in the community in St. Jodok, where she/he is offered an own room in the same house with staff members and the people with disabilities. The Arche philosophy is to work and live together with people with disabilities. So, the volunteer lives in the same house as the residents, but she/he will have their privacy. It is important to know that living as part of the community is an important part of this project and experience. All common facilities can be used by the volunteer (kitchen, living areas, laundry room...). The volunteer has to accept the house rules.

The next city is Innsbruck (capital of Tyrol), which is 20-25 minutes away by train. The volunteer gets a ticket for public transport in the entire region of Tyrol. The border to Italy is just a few minutes away. The landscape is mountainous, the villages are very small (Steinach is a bit bigger). The volunteer has a lot of possibilities for hiking, cycling, climbing, skiing and other activities in nature.

There is some infrastructure in the village, although small (grocery store, butcher's shop, bank, public transport, bars in Steinach). The volunteer can use bus or train.

The volunteer can eat in the community. Additionally, he/she gets 150 Euro pocket-money monthly from the InfoEck and a sufficient amount of food money.

Tasks & Activities of the volunteer



We want applicants to know that it is important to engage with the process of living in this community. You should be willing to communicate, take over responsibility and accept challenges. The volunteer in our organisation brings an important and unique quality to our work, but she/he must also be willing to accept challenges.



The main tasks and activities of volunteers are:

- being part of “Arche” team,
- living together and working in our community,
- supporting/caring for people with disabilities in daily life (basic needs, leisure time),
- doing household chores and other necessary jobs,
- participating in regular team meetings and meetings with the tutor,
- participating in projects in the local communities of the Arche houses,
- creating and implementing a personal project with professional support,
- participating in the activities organised by InfoEck.
- The EuSC service is 35 hours per week

The volunteer lives and works in Arche Tirol with a professional team (pedagogues, nurses and psychologist) who have multicultural backgrounds. Arche staff has team meetings two times a month and supervision 6 times a year. The volunteer will join these meetings.

The volunteers’ task is to work with, care for and support the residents. The volunteer accompanies their daily life. She/he can help them in several situations - changing clothes, hygiene, eating, managing morning routine, free time, workshop, cooking, going to bed etc....

Our team gives the volunteer time to get to know the people with disabilities and the other way round also. Slowly the volunteer will take over more and more responsibility. We try to create a balance to encourage the volunteer while not demanding too much. The volunteer can discover his/her potential and we are open for new ideas and opportunities. Communication is the key.

The volunteer will work five days a week, around 35 hours a week including a German course. There will be a weekend, this means two consecutive days off every week. The volunteer has 24 holidays during his/her project time. National Holidays are free days for the volunteer.



Profile of the volunteer



We are looking for an open-minded volunteer, who wants to collect experience in working with disabled people. We expect that the volunteer brings high motivation for the project and is open for the target group.

We would be happy to host a volunteer who

- wants to get to know our organisation “Arche Tirol”,
- is interested in working with people with mental and multiple disabilities,
- has a stable personality, in order to be able to work with people with disabilities, can imagine to live in a community for 8 months (in an own separate room),
- is open-minded, friendly, enthusiastic, creative and communicative,
- wants to work in a team,
- is motivated to learn German (and Tyrolean German dialect),
- wants to gain social, intercultural, communication and nursing skills,
- brings her or his own culture and interests into the project,
- is ready to volunteer for 8 months starting in January.

You can apply for this project if you live in an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Norway. Only for people between 18 and 30 years. The volunteer must not have any other occupation on the side while volunteering. (You cannot study, work, be in training etc. at the same time.)

We are open to host volunteers with different backgrounds and especially encourage participants with fewer opportunities to send their application.



Support during the project

The volunteer will have regular meetings with her or his external mentor and the tutor Sidonie Tomaschitz at the hosting organisation, to talk about the wellbeing or about the project activities. In the hosting organisation, the volunteer will receive orientation and support for the activities from the house management and from the entire team.

The coordinating organisation InfoEck will hold regular group meetings with all volunteers in Tyrol in order to share experiences, give support to one another and to stay connected. Volunteers are involved in common projects and will receive a German course. The volunteer will get to know other volunteers from various countries and will be invited to participate in occasional free-time activities.

At the end of the project, we will evaluate together with the volunteer and look at what he or she has learned and which competences he or she has gained and as a result the volunteer can fill in the Youthpass certificate.



Project duration

8 months; Expectedly from the 10. January 2022 until 23. September 2022.

As the project and funding is still pending for approval by the Austrian National Agency, these dates may change. We ask you to be committed to participate the whole duration, as it is important for the project, your learning development, and for the hosting organisation.



How to apply

To apply, you **HAVE TO** send an e-mail with your CV and the enclosed APPLICATION FORM directly to the hosting organisation!

Contact person: Sidonie Tomaschitz. E-mail: office@arche-tirol.at

The deadline to apply is the 1st December 2021 at 23:59.
Only complete applications via e-mail will be considered.
Please do **NOT** apply online via the Solidarity Corps Portal!

The selection phase will start after the deadline and the final decision will be taken about two weeks later by the Arche Tirol team. All applicants will be informed.

Embrace the challenge. Be open to leaving your comfort zone several times.
Be curious about yourself and others and ready to meet inspiring people.
Try new things and learn for a lifetime!
We are looking forward to getting to know you!

