

Volunteering in the
Arche Tirol
Community & Work
People with disabilities



Apply for a 12-months EVS project in Tirol, Austria
EVS starts in the beginning of October 2017



Hosting Organisation:

Arche Tirol

www.arche-tirol.at

Located in St. Jodok am Brenner + Steinach am Brenner, Austria

Arche Tirol is an experienced EVS hosting organisation for many years. Two EVS volunteers from different countries are hosted at the same time. One lives in St. Jodok and one in Steinach, two villages close to each other in Tirol, Austria.

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 Arche community's international Charta. This Charta says that every person has a unique importance.
- Arche Tirol was founded in 1992 and is a Christian – ecumenical community. In our daily routine there is place for spirituality (morning and evening).
- We have contacts to many Arche communities in Europe (mainly Germany) and in the whole world. The work at Arche considers the UN convention for people with disabilities.
- Arche Tirol: At the moment 11 people are living in two houses, one is in Steinach and one is in St. Jodok am Brenner (few kilometers distance).
- Arche is open for people with disabilities, starting at the age of 18. At the moment, six people with mental und multiple disabilities live in the Arche-house in Steinach and five live in St. Jodok. Arche calls them “core-members”. Our main philosophy is not only taking care of them, but also offering a community, personal relationship and a home.
- In Steinach there is a workshop, where our core-members work. They are producing candles, potteries, paper and bags. We offer them to sell these products.
- There is a “basale group” also. Our core-members with multiple disabilities spend a special and diversified time there. In this time we try to support them and develop their skills with music, movement, dance, etc.
- The main tasks of the community are to share life, to eat and work together, to play and to sing, to do shopping, to offer social bond, make excursions and holiday trips. We try to create a familiar atmosphere and to structure social life. We try to participate actively in the life of the local villages and stay in regular contact with the people and the public.
- Another aspect of the community is participating in the household, for example cooking, tidying up, doing the laundry and cleaning up.
- We try to offer our core-members an exciting and diversified life. So we have many weekly leisure activities. The volunteer accompanies our core-members (for example: dancing, swimming, hiking...).

Location and housing:

There are two EVS volunteers at Arche, one in Steinach and one in St. Jodok.

Each volunteer has his/her own room in one Arche house. The Arche philosophy is to work and live together with people with disabilities. So the volunteer lives in the same house as our residents, but will have his/her privacy. It is important to know that living as part of the community is an important part of this EVS project and experience. All common facilities can be used by the volunteer (kitchen, living areas...). The volunteer has to accept the house rules of the hosting organisation.

Infrastructure is good in the villages, although small (grocery store, music shop, public transport, bars in Steinach). The volunteer can use the bus or train.

The next city is Innsbruck (capital of Tyrol), which is 20-25 minutes away by train. **We have two annual tickets for this train connection for our volunteers (hourly train connections).**

The boarder to Italy is just a few minutes away. The landscape is mountainous and the villages are very small (Steinach is a bit bigger). The volunteer has many possibilities for hiking, bicycling, climbing, skiing and more nature activities.



Steinach:



St. Jodok:

Money and food:

The volunteer can eat in our community and takes whatever she/he needs. Additionally, he/she gets a monthly pocket-money and some food money.

This project is funded by the EU- programme "Erasmus+: Youth in Action". The EVS is financed by the EU and the hosting organisation. The **ONLY** financial contribution that the selected volunteer will need to make is to pay a small share of the travel costs (there is a lump sum budget).

The volunteer will receive a German course, offered by a public education institution in Innsbruck.

Tasks & Activities of the EVS volunteer:

- Being part of “Arche”-team
- Caring for the residents
- Live and work together in our community
- doing household and other necessary jobs
- to organize daily life of our “core-members” (leisure time)
- taking part in regular team meetings
- participate in projects in the local communities of the Arche houses
- The EVS service is 35 hours per week

The volunteers live and work in Arche Tirol with a professional team (pedagogues, nurses, psychologist,) who have multicultural backgrounds. Arche staff has weekly meetings in the teams and monthly supervisions. The volunteer will join these meetings.

The volunteer will work five days a week, around 35 hours a week including the German course. The volunteer has 24 holidays during his/her project time. One volunteer will be in the house at Gries/Steinach, and another

The role of the volunteer will for a big part of EVS be working with our core-members, caring for them. The volunteer accompanies their daily life. He/She will help them in several situations - changing clothes, eating, managing morning routine, free time, workshop, cooking etc....

Our team gives the volunteer time to get to know our core-members and the other way round also. Slowly the volunteer will get more and more responsibility. We try to create a good balance to encourage the volunteer and not demanding too much. Our volunteer can discover his/her potential and we are open for new ideas and opportunities.



EVS duration:

12 Months:

From the first week of October 2017 until 30th of September 2018!

We ask you to be committed to participate the whole duration, it's important for the project, your learning development and for the hosting organisation.

The application deadline is on the 26th of March 2017!

Profile of the EVS-volunteer:

We are looking for an open-minded volunteer who wants to collect a lot of experience in work with disabled people. We expect that the volunteer brings in high motivation for the project and is interested in the target group. Moreover the volunteer should have a stable personality, in order to be able to work with our core-members.

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
- ✓ can imagine to live in a community (in an own separate room)
- ✓ is open-minded, friendly, enthusiastic, creative and communicative
- ✓ is able to work in a team
- ✓ is motivated to learn some German (and some Tyrolean German dialect)
- ✓ brings her or his own culture and interests into the project
- ✓ is ready to volunteer for 12 months starting in October

Due to pre-existing partnerships with some non-EU countries, we can ONLY accept volunteers in this project who do not require a visa or residence permit for 12 months in Austria.



Coordinating organisation:

The coordinating organisation of this project is InfoEck, a youth info centre in Innsbruck. InfoEck coordinates 14 volunteers in the region of Tirol. The coordinator is ready to answer open questions and to prepare the EVS project with the hosting organisation, the selected volunteer and the sending organisation! InfoEck will link all volunteers during the EVS and support all along the project. The coordinator is Erika: erika.mischitz@infoeck.at (send your applications to Arche, not to Erika!). More info: www.mei-infoeck.at, InfoEck Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.



Support during the EVS:

The volunteer will have regular meetings with her or his mentor and with 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 main responsible employee and from the entire team.

The coordinating organisation InfoEck will hold a regular group meeting with all volunteers in Tyrol in order to share experiences, give support to one another and to stay connected. Also, there are regular free-time activities organised for the volunteers. At the end of the project we will evaluate it 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. Volunteers are involved in common projects, like radio or similar.

The volunteer will get to know other volunteers from various countries and will be invited to participate in monthly free-time activities, organised by young Austrians.



How to apply:

Please send your CV and the enclosed APPLICATION FORM directly to the hosting organisation!
Contact person: Mr Gottfried LAMPRECHT, E-mail: office@arche-tirol.at

The deadline to apply is the 26th of March!

Only complete applications will be considered. Option: You can additionally send something creative to express your motivation (this is not demanded).

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

We ask for your understanding: Due to pre-existing partnerships with some non-EU countries, we can ONLY accept volunteers in this project who do not require a visa or residence permit for 12 months in Austria (this means you need to be an EU or EEA citizen).

We are looking forward to getting to know you!



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!

