



Funded by  
the European Union

# European Solidarity Corps Volunteering for people with disabilities



Apply for an 10,5-month project  
in Tyrol, Austria starting in  
September 2022

# Hosting organisation

Arche Tirol

[www.arche-tirol.at](http://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 human being 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 und 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...).

# Lead organisation & Funding

The lead organisation of this project is InfoEck (Verein Generationen und Gesellschaft). InfoEck coordinates seven volunteers in the region of Tyrol at six hosting organisations and oversees the administration, finances and the quality control of the project. InfoEck organises wide-ranging group activities for all volunteers about once a month (like a radio show, evaluation meetings, a charity cooking event etc.) These group events are part of the volunteering project and all volunteers should be prepared to participate in all these activities.

InfoEck has submitted this project to the Austrian National Agency and has received a confirmation for the grant. However, we are still waiting for the final contract for the funding (grant agreement). 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](mailto:international@infoeck.at) (send applications to Arche Tirol, not to Elisabeth!).

More info about InfoEck:

[Instagram InfoEck - Jugendinfo Tirol](#)

[Facebook InfoEck - Jugendinfo Tirol](#)

[Youtube InfoEck - Jugendinfo Tirol](#)

Website [www.infoeck.at/infoeck-eu-](http://www.infoeck.at/infoeck-eu-jugendprogramme/esk-freiwilligendienst/volunteering-tirol)

[jugendprogramme/esk-](http://www.infoeck.at/infoeck-eu-jugendprogramme/esk-freiwilligendienst/volunteering-tirol)

[freiwilligendienst/volunteering-tirol](http://www.infoeck.at/infoeck-eu-jugendprogramme/esk-freiwilligendienst/volunteering-tirol)



# Location, Housing & Finances

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 Tirol.

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 will receive sufficient monthly food money and EUR 5,- per day of pocket 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 10,5 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 10,5 months starting in September.

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 be available for the project full time. (You must not study, work, be in training or any other side occupation that keeps you from volunteering.)

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 lead 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

10,5 months; Expectedly from 26th September 2022 until 11th August 2023.

As we are still waiting for the funding contract (grant agreement) by the Austrian National Agency, these dates may change. We ask you to be committed to participate the whole duration, it's important for the project, your own 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](mailto:office@arche-tirol.at)

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!

