Weltöffner
Connect through Solidarity

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS VOLUNTEERING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

📍 **Steinach am Brenner, Austria**

📅 **September 2023 – September 2024**

👤 **for EU/EEA, Turkey, + Rep. of North Macedonia residents**

⏱ **apply by 18. June 2023, 23:59**

Your Hosting Organisation:
Arche Tirol

Arche Tirol is a **community of people with and without disabilities.** 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, where you can accompany them (for example: dancing, swimming, hiking...).

ARCHE TIROL ——

Hosting Organisation

St. Jodok am Brenner & Steinach am Brenner

🌐 **www.arche-tirol.at**

✉️ **office@arche-tirol.at**

Your Tasks & Activities

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. Volunteers in our organisation bring an important and unique quality to our work, but you also be willing to accept challenges. You will work five days a week, around **35 hours a week** including a **German course**. Each month you will have a different work schedule. The work schedule for the month will be announced 2 weeks in advance.

There will be a weekend, this means two consecutive days off every week. You also get two vacation days per month which you can accumulate. National Holidays are free days for you.

YOUR MAIN TASKS

- 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.

You live and work 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. You will join these meetings.

Your task is to work with, care for and support the residents. You accompany their daily life. You can help them in several situations – changing clothes, hygiene, eating, managing morning routine, free time, workshop, cooking, going to bed etc.
Our team gives you time to get to know the people with disabilities and the other way round also. Slowly you will take over more and more responsibility. We try to create a balance to encourage you while not demanding too much. You can discover your potential and we are open for new ideas and opportunities. Communication is the key.

Your Profile

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.

You can apply for this project, if you legally reside in an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Republic of North Macedonia or Turkey. According to the rules of the EuSC only people between 18 and 30 years can participate. This project requires you to be available full time – you must not study, work, be in training or any other side occupation that keeps you from volunteering.

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 12 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 12 months starting in September 2023.

We are open to host volunteers with different backgrounds and especially encourage participants who face challenges in their lives to send their application.
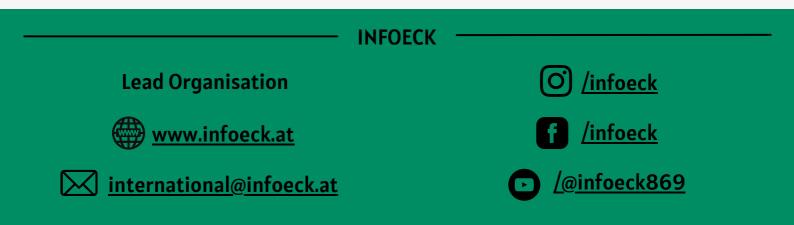
Project funding & Lead Organisation: InfoEck

The lead organisation of project "Weltöffner" is **InfoEck** (Verein Generationen und Gesellschaft). InfoEck coordinates eight volunteers in the region of Tyrol at seven 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 integral part of the volunteering project and you should be prepared to p**articipate in all these activities.**

The duration of this project is **12 months,** expectedly **from 18. September 2023 until 16. August 2024.** 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!

InfoEck has submitted this project to the Austrian National Agency. As we are still waiting for the funding contract (grant agreement), these dates may change. However, 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 you may need to make is a small share of the **travel costs.**

The responsible coordinator is ready to answer open questions and to prepare the project with Arche Tirol, you and the Supporting Sending Organisation. The coordinator's name is **Elisabeth Summerauer:** international@infoeck.at (send applications to Arche Tirol, not to Elisabeth!).

INFOECK

Lead Organisation

🌐 **www.infoeck.at**

✉ **international@infoeck.at**

📷 **/infoeck**

f **/infoeck**

▶ **/@infoeck869**

We support you

You will have regular meetings with your **external mentor** and your **tutor Sidonie Tomaschitz** at the hosting organisation, to talk about the wellbeing or about the project activities.

In the hosting organisation, you will receive orientation and support for the activities from the house management and from the entire team. There is a strong network and a lot of possibilities to socialise if you are an open person.

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. The volunteers are involved in common projects and will receive a **language course.** You 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 you and look at what you have learned and which competences you gained and as a result, you can fill in the Youthpass certificate.

Location, Housing & Finances

You will **live in the community in St. Jodok,** where you are offered **your 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, volunteers live in the same house as the residents, but you will have your **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 you (kitchen, living areas, laundry room…). You have to accept the house rules.

There is some infrastructure in the village, although small (grocery store, butcher's shop, bank, public transport, bars in Steinach). You can use bus or train. The next city is Innsbruck (capital of Tyrol), which is 20-25 minutes away by train. You will get 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). You have a lot of possibilities for hiking, cycling, climbing, skiing and other activities in nature.

You can **eat in the community.** Additionally, you will receive sufficient monthly **food money** and EUR 6,- per day of **pocket money.**

How to apply

To apply, send an e-mail with **your CV and the <u>Application Form</u>**
directly to the hosting organisation.

Contact person: Sidonie Tomaschitz
E-Mail: <u>office@arche-tirol.at</u>

The **deadline** to apply is Sunday, 18. June 2023 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.

„This great experience is giving me a lot of knowledge and experience for my professional development. But it goes beyond that, as it contributes to my development as a person."

– former volunteer

ARCHE TIROL

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