

APPLY NOW!

# Weltöffner Connect through Solidarity



## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS VOLUNTEERING AT A FREE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

 Stams, Austria

 September 2023 - July 2024

 for EU/EEA residents

 apply by 2. July 2023, 23:59

# Your Hosting Organisation: *Freie Montessorischule Stams*

The Freie Montessorischule Stams is a small private school with a **self-directed learning** focus of about 35 children, between 6-17 years old. The children have the possibility to be free and to **independently choose** their direction, with accordance to their own development plan. In our school there are no evaluations, no grades, and no reports. The school does not have the typical teaching sessions, as defined from the expected teacher goals.

The activities of the children in our school are based on the principle of fulfilling their own self chosen tasks and goals. This happens with the younger students mostly while playing freely and with the direct implementation of their current needs. During school time these activities change and therefore the wish arises for a more structured time, so that they can reach their goals with our guided support, and with the necessary reflections together of what is needed for their success. This process is moving according to the child's speed and individual plan.

The students are attended by three teachers with their main function of observing the children in their activities and making a picture of their development. The teachers' role is to accompany the children's daily activities and to make sure that the children remain relaxed and connected. In the afternoon the teachers have team meetings or talks with the parents and reflect on the daily activities – which interventions where necessary or if any observed changes in the child's development have occurred.

Instead of classrooms and teachings we have a '**prepared environment**'. This means that different activities are structured according to their topics in prepared rooms, from which the children can choose accordingly. In our school there is a room for language and mathematics, a room for creativity, a project room with textbooks, diverse materials and work tables, a kitchen, a room for movement, a workshop room, a role playing room, a music room, and a big garden with its own fireplace and sand box. Phones and such technology are not commonly used in the school by anyone. The role of the teacher is that the function of each room stays clear and that they keep an ensured relaxed interconnection. This happens through rules, by accompanying the children in the changes of their relationships with each other, and creating a safe space for the children to solve the situation when conflict arises.

**FREIE MONTESSORISCHULE  
STAMS**

**Hosting Organisation**

**Dorfstraße 16,  
6422 Stams, Austria**



**[www.freiemontessorischule.at](http://www.freiemontessorischule.at)**



**[esk.fms@tsn.at](mailto:esk.fms@tsn.at)**



# Your Tasks & Activities

You will be engaged in a variety of tasks and activities. You will work five days a week, around **35 hours a week** including a **language course**. There will be a free weekend, this means two consecutive days off every week. You will have your vacation days during school holidays in autumn, at Christmas, in February and at Easter. National Holidays are also free days for you.

## YOUR MAIN TASKS



- Observing the children & reflecting on them in the afternoon with the teacher team,
- Organising and preparing learning materials,
- Working within the organising of the school and its garden,
- Doing workshops and communicating in your mother tongue,
- Independent activities, which you would like to initiate,
- Simple administrative duties,
- Accompanying school trips and excursions,
- Participating in the parents' training programmes,
- Participating in the activities organised by InfoEck.

Working hours start in the morning with the children from 7:45 till 12:30 and the team meetings in the afternoon. At the beginning you have the possibility to observe how the school works with the children and the teachers and to get to know the team. **In our school the children are the central point.** The activities of the adults are oriented towards the child's interest's and development, the teachers and the volunteers are in the background. The work is to reflect and react. The afternoons are used to discuss the day's observations and the possible interventions, while making decisions and giving direction for the next day together.

You will have a lot of freedom during your volunteering at Freie Montessorischule Stams, so pro-activity, active engagement and bringing in your own ideas is helpful to make the most out of your stay.

# Your Profile

You can apply for this project, if you legally reside in an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Norway. 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 are open to host volunteers with different backgrounds and especially encourage participants who face challenges in their lives to send their application.

## WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST A VOLUNTEER WHO

- wants to work in a school that has self-directed learning for children of ages 6-17 years,
- is willing to work in an educational concept without grades and learning pressure,
- is open-minded and patient to stay in the background and to let the children develop,
- is interested and wants to get to know another culture and its people,
- has initiative and can share their ideas, values, and abilities,
- is motivated and would like to learn German (and Tyrolean German dialect), as it is the main language of the school and is helpful to understand the children during the day,
- brings her or his own culture and interests into the project,
- is open to offer workshops,
- is ready to volunteer for 10 months starting in September 2023.





## 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 **participate in all these activities**.

The duration of this project is **10 months**, expectedly **from 18. September 2023 until 5. July 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), so these dates may change. However, we are optimistic, due to good experiences in the past. The EU, InfoEck and Freie Montessorischule Stams 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 the Hosting Organisation, you and the Supporting Sending Organisation. The coordinator's name is **Elisabeth Summerauer**: [international@infoeck.at](mailto:international@infoeck.at) (send applications to Freie Montessorischule Stams, not to Elisabeth!).

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INFOECK

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Lead Organisation

 [www.infoeck.at](http://www.infoeck.at)

 [international@infoeck.at](mailto:international@infoeck.at)

 [/infoeck](https://www.instagram.com/infoeck)

 [/infoeck](https://www.facebook.com/infoeck)

 [@infoeck869](https://www.youtube.com/@infoeck869)



## *We support you*

You will have regular meetings with your **internal tutor at the Hosting Organisation, external mentor and InfoEck** to talk about your wellbeing or about the project activities. In the Hosting Organisation, you will receive orientation and support for the activities from the main responsible person **Ewald Zillich** and there will be an individual conversation with one of the teachers in the team once a week.

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 middle and 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*

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Stams is a municipality in Inntal in Tyrol with about 1500 people. For the daily needs there is a supermarket, a bank, restaurants and a train station. The next bigger towns are Telfs and Innsbruck, both can be reached with the bus or train within 10-40 min. Stams is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and wonderful nature. Local people speak a German dialect ("Tirolerisch"). The majority of people in Tyrol can speak English, especially young people.

Freie Montessorischule Stams will organise a room and a cooking possibility for you. You will be provided with a **ticket valid for the public transport** in the region of Tyrol, so you can discover the whole area. 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 Application Form** directly to the hosting organisation.

**Contact person: Ewald Zillich**  
**E-mail: esk.fms@tsn.at**

The **deadline** to apply is 2. July 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 hosting team. Ewald Zillich will be in contact with the ones that kept the deadline so please keep checking your e-mails. A selection will be contacted and arranged Skype or Zoom calls will be made.  
All applicants will be informed about their status.

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*"I feel very honoured to be able to work with such kind-hearted and compassionate people."*  
- former volunteer