

YOUTH CENTRE *JUGENDCAFE ARENA* GRATKORN

INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



About the Organisation

Youth Centre Gratkorn is a welcoming space for young people to connect, explore, and grow. We offer a safe and supportive environment where youth can spend their free time, discover new interests, and build meaningful relationships. Our work is rooted in inclusion, participation, and empowerment – we believe every young person deserves a place where they feel seen, heard, and valued.

We support young people from diverse backgrounds and encourage them to shape their own experiences. Whether they come to relax, get creative, or seek guidance, our centre is open to their ideas and energy.

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday: 15:00 – 20:00, Saturday: 13:00 – 18:00

From Tuesday to Friday regular visitors are aged 12 and above. On Saturdays as well as during excursions or special age-appropriate activities, children under 12 are welcome to participate.

Facilities & Location

The youth centre is in Gratkorn, a small town easily reachable from Graz by public transport or even by bike. We're situated next to a public park, which offers great opportunities for outdoor activities.



At the centre, young people can enjoy:

- Games: Table football, billiards, PlayStation, and board games.
- Sports: Access to nearby football, basketball, and volleyball courts, as well as a calisthenics park.
- Creativity: Handicraft workshops, art projects, and themed activities.
- Learning: Homework support, workshops on youth-relevant topics, and opportunities to learn new skills.
- Relaxation and Events: Large lounge area with space for communal cooking, music-making, and celebrations.
- Youth-specific activities: Events and workshops tailored for different interests and age group

We aim to create an atmosphere that feels informal, open, and youth-led – where young people can shape the space according to their needs. The centre also provides help with school-related tasks and offers space for studying, workshops, and personal development. We're happy to support young people in finding jobs, apprenticeships, or further education opportunities. We also offer guidance and advice throughout the application process and can provide information on gaining international work experience.

Our Team

Our team consists of experienced youth workers who are passionate about creating meaningful connections with young people. We work with empathy, humor, and flexibility, and we value trust and authenticity in our relationships. The volunteer will be welcomed as part of the team and supported

in finding their role. We encourage open communication and shared reflection, and we're always open to new ideas and perspectives.

Volunteer Role

As a volunteer, you'll be a valuable part of our team and involved in many aspects of our daily work. Your main tasks may include:

- Supporting open youth work activities (games, cooking, crafts, conversations...)
- Helping run workshops or small events
- Assisting with social media and creative documentation
- Bringing in your own ideas and culture
- Creating and leading a small personal project (with support)

Volunteer Benefits

Basic German will help you feel more connected – both in the centre and in daily life. You'll receive one **German language course**.

Accommodation is provided in a student dormitory in Graz, a single room in a shared flat. Local transportation to the youth centre (public transport ticket) is covered.

As a volunteer you receive food allowance of 330 Euro/ month and pocket money 210 Euro/ month - according to ESC program guidelines. Travel and visa costs are also covered by the program.

Training and Support

Volunteers take part in On-Arrival Training and Mid-Term Training provided by the Austrian National Agency. A German language course is offered, and volunteers receive continuous support from experienced youth workers.

We're Looking for a Volunteer who is

- Motivated to work with young people
- Open-minded and communicative
- Interested in creativity, inclusion, and youth participation
- Willing to learn and contribute to a team

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