

## **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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**Lead Organisation:** LOGO jugendmanagement gmbh, Graz, Austria

**Website:** [www.logo.at/esc](http://www.logo.at/esc)

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## **VOLUNTEER AT COMMUNITY CENTERS NANET AND LEND**

### **INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS**



**Stadtteilzentrum Lend** and **Nachbarschaftszentrum NaNet Floßlend** are two community centers in the district Lend in Graz. They offer the residents of the charming district a space for information, social counseling participation and community. The centers aim on establishing and promoting a welcoming, friendly and engaging neighborhood. Our broad activity offer is aimed at increasing the quality of life in the neighborhood and district. The main goal is to set up social networks in the community, provide advice in various psycho-social challenges and foster civic engagement.

Different activities are organized to share and develop ideas, motivate neighbors to follow a healthier lifestyle or promote sustainability, for example, by taking part in a food sharing network and running campaigns against food waste, maintaining a community garden or promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The volunteer will assist the team in organizing and executing community events, get in touch, communicate and collaborate with people from different backgrounds and of different generations and take actions in sustainability and food sharing networks to reduce food waste.

In case you still have doubts, we invite you to check our social media sites: @NaNetFlosslend, @STZlend and our website: [Stadtteilarbeit – JUKUS GmbH](#) so you can get familiar with our initiatives and our great team!

#### **Tasks of the volunteer and weekly work plan**

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Volunteer specific tasks include:

- Support the association with the current offers of the community centers (events, media)
  - Promotion of the different activities through designing and distribution of flyers, sharing relevant events and news on social media. Making sure that all the needed materials are available in the centers. Take many pictures!
  - Encounter different client groups (adults, parents and children, older people, migrants, marginalized groups, etc.). Make our visitors feel at ease, engage in conversations and inform them of activities that might be relevant for them, offering coffee and tea, assisting them with easy tasks such as copy-printing documents, etc.
  - Making sure that the room looks fine for the people to come in and take part in the usual activities of the center.
- Get involved:



- All ideas are welcome, don't be shy. Participate in the weekly team meetings and be pro-active and talk active. Offer your help where you think it might be needed or appreciated!
- Become part of the food sharing network and save food.
- Community Garden:
- Help the staff with the development of gardening related activities such as organizing "Seeds exchanges" or meetings around our small garden.
- Plan and realize your own mini project.
- The volunteer has autonomy to develop a small project that can be a one-time event or a series of meetings, with the support of the staff, if it is related to the goals and values of our centers.

## PARTICIPANT PROFILE



*Profile:* open, communicative, proactive and self-organised person, eager to work in team; interested in community work and sustainability; experienced with office suite and social media platforms; some knowledge of pedagogical and social work; motivated to learn German.

*Volunteer's Benefits:* JUKUS will provide the selected volunteer with accommodation at a student dormitory. Transportation options include a provided bicycle or public transportation, with the organization covering the cost of the transportation ticket. The locations are conveniently accessible by bus or tram. Moreover, volunteers will receive a monthly food allowance of €300 and a monthly pocket money of €210.

*Training and Support:* The volunteer will benefit from essential training during their placement. JUKUS will arrange for On Arrival Training and Mid-Term Training, both organized by the Austrian National Agency. Additionally, volunteers will have the opportunity to attend a German language course.

## Volunteer's Experience

*"Is it right to go abroad for a year? Will I meet people? I was scared at the beginning, but in the end, I experienced a lot, learned social work, German and the daily life of a community centre NaNet @verein\_jukus*

*The community centre NaNet is a space where people can meet and exchange. With the arrival of good weather, the cafes and bars opened, the terraces were full, and the weekends were full of excursions, walks and visits to the lakes. When I think back on that time, I am torn between 'time has flown' and 'it seems like a lifetime'. I don't think there is anything that can compare to this experience. In this year I have experienced Graz and its people, many places, many cultures, many languages and I could not be more grateful"*

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