

## Youth Centre ECHO in Graz, Austria

### INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



#### About JUKUS

JUKUS ([www.jukus.at](http://www.jukus.at)) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting youth, culture, and sports. Operating the youth centre ECHO, JUKUS focuses on providing a supportive environment for young people, particularly those with a multicultural background. At the ECHO Youth Centre, young individuals can unwind, have their needs addressed, express their ideas, and engage in various activities.

*Chill, Chat, Try Something New. There's Room Here.*

#### About Youth Centre ECHO

Youth Centre ECHO is a space for active leisure activities, providing opportunities for friends to meet, play and sports, group crafts, themed workshops, identity development, celebrations, communal cooking, and much more. In the informal atmosphere of the Youth Centre, young people can explore their potential and receive support. The centre is open and welcoming to youth from all backgrounds.

*Support Services at ECHO:* For school and career-related queries, ECHO offers the learning support and coaching.

*Opening Hours:* Tuesday to Saturday afternoons, with 25 hours per week, offering fixed activities and project-specific initiatives.

*Free and Open to All:* All activities at ECHO are free and require no registration. The centre takes young people's needs seriously, listens to concerns, and implements ideas whenever possible.



#### What Happens at ECHO:

- Games: Whether foosball, billiards, PS4, or board games, ECHO has it all.
- Sports: A multifunctional sports court, table tennis, and spacious outdoor areas.
- Creativity: Bicycle repairs, creative projects in wood and metal workshops.
- Learning: Homework help, study rooms, and workshops on youth-relevant topics.
- Relaxation and Celebrations: A large lounge area with a bar and kitchen for relaxation and events.
- Creative Expression: A dedicated space for making music and various arts and crafts.
- Gender-specific activities for boys\* and girls\*

*Additional Activities:* Regular Saturday events include "Repair Cafés" and other open JUZ gatherings for all age groups.

*Workshop and Repair Café:* The hands-on experience in the workshop enhances technical, creative, and language skills. The ECHO Repair Café promotes sustainability and mobility.

### Role of ECS Volunteer

The ECS volunteer's role involves supporting activities, projects, and daily work at the ECHO Youth Centre. They are encouraged to initiate their projects and workshops. JUKUS seeks an active individual with a keen interest in youth issues, and any ability to organize workshops is a plus.

*Profile of an ECHO volunteer:* ECHO is looking for an open-minded person who is willing to embrace diversity and cultural differences within the multicultural youth community. A volunteer should be communicative, proactive, and able to interact with young people. Concrete ideas for youth work and the ability to organise own projects are welcome. The volunteer should show a genuine interest in social issues and educational approaches. Reliable, responsible, trustworthy and a team player who contributes to a positive working environment. Motivated to learn and speak German.

*Volunteer Benefits:* JUKUS provides volunteers with a room at a student dormitory, and transportation options include a provided bicycle or public transportation with a provided ticket. Food allowance and pocket money are provided according to program guidelines.

*Training and Support:* Volunteers will receive at least an On-Arrival Training and a Mid-Term Training organized by the Austrian National Agency. There is also an opportunity to attend a German course, and ongoing support will be provided by experienced colleagues.



### Volunteer's experience:

*"I had the opportunity to interact with teenagers aged 12 to 20. My responsibilities included caring for them, designing projects, and helping with any school or family-related issues they faced. I was fortunate to work with an amazing group of individuals at Echo, who quickly became more than just colleagues but close friends and created an environment that made me feel at home despite being far away from my actual home".*

More testimonials on [https://www.instagram.com/logo\\_europe](https://www.instagram.com/logo_europe)

**How to Apply:** check actual vacancies and information here <https://www.logo.at/logo-eu/application-for-esc>

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

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## **Haltegriff – assisting youth in their work and life training**

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### **What is Haltegriff?**

The word means a support strap, used to hold on for passengers on their journey with busses or trams. In this way, Haltegriff means a support, something to hold on, for youngsters on their way to adult life. Haltegriff is an institution, which offers living and work training for young people with NEET-status (Not in Education, Employment or Training) aged 16 to 21, who for various reasons can't live at home. "Haltegriff" aims at encouraging the young people regarding a long-term professional and personal independence. There are two teams working in Haltegriff. Work coaching team (Arbeitstraining) consists of 5 people. Work coaching team is responsible for internships and apprenticeships (job placements combined with education). They also organize various workshops to help youngsters prepare for their job. For example, there is a wood workshop, where teenagers train their craft skills. Also, different trainers help to develop soft (communication, reflection, etc.) or hard (IT, mathematics, etc) skills.

Haltegriff can accommodate and support up to 16 young people. There is a living facility (Jugendwohngemeinschaft), where 12 teenagers are living. The team of living facility consists of 7 persons. The house is always under supervision of a caretaker. For four young people we offer the possibility to live in single flats in Kapfenberg and provide mobile assistance. Teams are multiprofessional: they consist of pedagogues, social workers, psychologists. The variety of education and experience that people bring help to develop the best service for the youngsters.



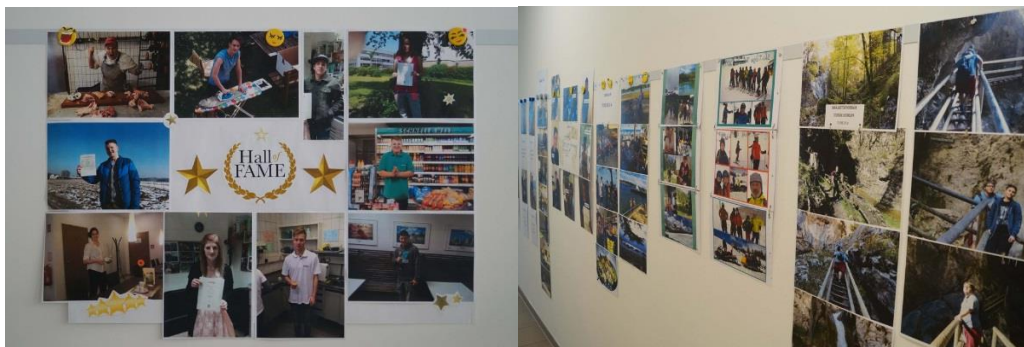


## Young people from Haltegriff

Haltegriff accommodates young people, who experience various problems at home. For example, when parents are not able to take care of them, when they have difficulties at school, when they cannot find any suitable education. Some of young people have social difficulties and are at risk of social exclusion. The aim of Haltegriff is to help them finding a way to live on their own in strengthening their social and professional skills, as well as helping to resist to certain risks (e.g. alcohol, drugs, violence).

## How Haltegriff helps

The team takes care of youngsters from day to day. The team of the living facility ensures, that the teenagers fulfil their responsibilities. They keep in contact with their families, social workers, other helpers in order to keep youngsters on the track and prevent any problems. The team of work coaching are monitoring, how youngsters are doing at their workplace or at their education and offers their support when needed. Group activities such as hiking, climbing and outdoor days, but also individual support and crisis intervention help to provide young people with personal and social skills. Additionally, a broad range of psychotherapeutic support is offered for the youngsters.



## Why volunteer in Haltegriff?

The teenagers are not able to take a lot of possibilities to learn, to travel, to experience Europe. Volunteers are helping to bring this experience to them. We would like the volunteer to bring his/her cultural background, to introduce his/her home country, his/her interests. This may enrich the lives of the teenagers and help them develop opener perspective on life.

Moreover, the volunteer can learn a lot from both teams: He/she can gain knowledge about youth behaviour, education systems, group dynamic process, social work and psychological support practices. Therefore, this position fits the people who are in interested in education, social work, psychology, criminology, prevention work and related areas.

As the target group are youngsters, we are looking for a volunteer from 21 years old. At least basic knowledge of German is needed, so that a volunteer can communicate with teenagers and fully participate in team meetings.

## Tasks

The volunteer will support the training team in different tasks.

### Work training:

- Preparation of training sessions and participation in training sessions, assistance for trainers.
- Visits of companies who offer internships for youngsters (getting to know the Austrian labour market).
- Participation in meetings with teachers and schools (getting to know the Austrian school system).
- Participation in the regular team meetings.
- Participation in meetings with social workers (getting to know Austrian social system)
- Planning of leisure time activities and implementation.

## Living facility:

- Assist team in social skills training (observe the behaviour of youngsters, give feedback, fill reports and motivational system).
- Assist youngsters in their daily tasks (motivate and help them to cook, to make their duties, etc.).
- Participate in outdoor activities and excursions (e.g. hiking, skiing, outdoor education).

The volunteer has the possibility to bring in his/her own ideas. The team of Haltegriff is very open minded for new ideas. According to the interest of the volunteer, he/she can develop workshops for the youngsters, conduct sport sessions, organize sessions, etc. The volunteer will be supported by the task related mentor to realize his/her own project ideas

## **Working and living conditions**

The volunteer will be supported by a task related mentor. This mentor will help the volunteer both concerning all task related issues during the project duration and to get part in the daily life of the organisation. Regular meetings between the volunteer and the mentor are provided.

Total working hours of the volunteer per week; 35, two consecutive days off per week, mainly Saturday and Sunday. The volunteer will have 2 days holiday per month for the duration of the project which the volunteer can take at a stretch as agreed upon with the host organisation. The volunteer will accompany the team and the youngsters to excursions, the working hours during these days can be extended.

The volunteer will live in Graz and commute to Kapfenberg. The host organisation will provide a ticket for public transport in the region. If requested the volunteer can have a bike as well. The volunteer will either have breakfast and lunch in the canteen or get a daily rate á 10,00 €. The money for self-supply will be given according to the schedule of activities.

The pocket money is 210 €/Month. The language course will be provided by the hosting organisation. Trainings (On arrival and Mid Term) will be offered by National agency

## **Volunteer's experience**

*„I discovered that the social work here is very complex and different from my country's practices. There are many positive sides of the place, the housing in the youth home is extremely good and there are seven colleagues taking care of twelve teenagers. Here they learn how to live on their own, take care of themselves, do the laundry, prepare meals and so on. My duties here were mainly supporting my colleagues with the everyday life in the youth home, like checking on the teenagers if they cleaned their room (and trying to motivate them if they didn't) or helping them with cooking, playing some games like darts or uno, or simply listening to them when they felt like sharing. Meantime at the training centre I participated in the activities and sometimes came up with my own ideas. I participated in many outdoor activities, like skiing, hiking or camping. These trips were amazing because you can see a very different side of the teenagers.”*



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