

## Volunteers report: Childcare Europahaus des Kindes Ioana Smulders France Hitomi Iino Japan



The Europahaus des Kindes is hosting volunteers since many years. The Europahaus is located on a hill in a very romantic and green area in Vienna. Since december they host two volunteers at the same time: Iona Smulders from France and Hitomi Iino from Japan. We asked them about their experiences in the project and in Vienna:

„My first impression about Vienna is that, it is very artistic city.

There are a lot of museums, theaters, concert halls and the city itself is already a big art work with beautiful architectures. The architectures and the city plan is very different than Japanese ones, so just walking around, it is big fun for me.

As it is artistic everywhere, I sometimes confused weather something is a kind of art work or just broken.

The best thing about artistic city, you can find art very close to you. For example, if you want to enjoy opera, you can find standing places only for 3 euro. I've already seen two plays which are "Hensel and Gratel" and " Don Giovanni". No worries about language. They provide you subtitles, and even if you don't understand them, you can still enjoy fantastic music and amazing voices.

To big surprise, you can also enjoy "opera" in toilet! There is public toilet called "Opera toilet". When you get inside, beautiful music begins. Unfortunately, I haven't tried this new art experience, but definitely I must try!" (Hitomi Iino from Japan)

"My first impressions about Vienna ist that there are so many interesting things and the second impression was that I can never do everything I want to do in only 3,5 months. I also found the city beautiful, especially the Museumsquartiers impressive buildings. I don't really fell I am in Austria - I mean I do not have the feeling that I'm in a German speaking country because I hardly use German: I'm living with other people who are not from Austria and our common language is English. At work I have to speak English with the children too.

I do not have the feeling I got to know the Austrian culture yet. In every capital city (more or less) we can feel a mix of both multiculturalism (f.i. I'm living in an area with a lot of turkish people) and of local cultures (in my case the Austrian one) but I got to know to the multiculturalism of the city which I like and which I find interesting.

Another first strong impression when I arrived in Vienna in December was the incredible cold weather ☺ And I was surprised to see how many people follow very strictly the road rules. No one never crosses the roads when the little man is red!

As I want to get more infos about Austria I'm planning to travel to the country side to see the landscape outside of Vienna. I'm already looking forward to discover more about Vienna and Austria!" (Iona Smulders from France)