

# Freiraum SCHULE in Kritzensdorf



## Project description:

Freiraumschule Kritzensdorf is an alternative school based on the concepts developed by Rebeca and Mauricio Wild. Stimulating environment, Montessori equipment and intensive support by teachers allow for open and self-determined learning. The curriculum includes among others also intercultural learning and foreign languages. With opening hours from 8:00 to 16:00 the school offers day care for 40 children aged 6-15 years. Leisure activities are in line with the philosophy of the school. The main motivation to host international volunteers is to promote the tolerance between different cultures and traditions, to encourage young people to learn about cultural differences, to develop the understanding what it means to be a ‚European‘, and to deal critically with nationalism. All involved benefit from EVS: volunteers, pupils, teachers, parents. Since 2001 our school has hosted volunteers from different countries, including France, Belgium, Spain, Hungary, Turkey, Italy, Ukraine, Greece, Romania, ...

Our volunteers support our team in caring for the young people, through their presence and their individual input, which is always welcome.

For example with the preparation of the daily snack, accompany them on excursions, and do individual activities with the young people, according to their own skills or passions that they can contribute (handicrafts, drawing playing games, yoga, dance, language, ...).

## Accommodation:

We try to accommodate our volunteers as much as possible in terms of accommodation. Preferably, we organize a room in a family near the school. However, we are also happy to support accommodation in a shared apartment or a student dormitory in Vienna.

## Food:

The volunteer gets a monthly food allowance and on his/her work days will have lunch with the children and teachers at school. We pay attention to regional organic food, mainly vegetarian.



## Kritzensdorf:

The small village of Kritzensdorf is located just under 20 kilometers outside of Vienna, on the slopes of the Danube and has about 2,500 year-round residents. For more than 100 years, Kritzensdorf has been known beyond its borders for its Danube stream bath, which is freely accessible and accommodates a small settlement with summer houses.

Kritzensdorf is well connected to Vienna by public transport and at the same time it has kept its rural and quiet character. Kritzensdorf itself has local suppliers, wine-growing enterprises, some catering trade enterprises as well as a voluntary fire-brigade. For further activities Vienna is easily accessible at any time at half-hour intervals by public transport. The Freiraumschule has been located in Kritzensdorf for 30 years. Our school building is located in the former „Herzogenburgerhof“, which is situated on a hill at the edge of the forest and has a large garden and forest belonging to the school, which is freely accessible to our children at any time.

In our building there is also the children's group Wasserfloh, which, like us, has had an ESC volunteer for many years.

