VOLUNTEER PROFILE

JAKOB

21, Germany

MY PROJECT: LOIMAA EVANGELICAL FOLK HIGH SCHOOL

I'm volunteering in an evangelical-lutheran private school which is now mainly focusing on adult immigrant and Finnish language education. The main idea was that I would organize after school activities for the students. When I started my work I organized an English chatting club for students a German chatting club for teachers and I did English mentoring for some students who needed special support.

After the pandemic worsened in Finland as well, the school eventually had to be closed in mid-December and so the work with the students was cancelled. Since then, I have been working in the kindergarten, children's orphanage, developed together with another Spanish volunteer an educational game about electoral campaigns and I did some excursions with my supervisor.

ALLIANSSIN NUORISOVAIHTO
ALLIANSSI YOUTH EXCHANGES

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

About the ESC I liked the European idea and culture exchange and that even people from neighboring countries like Tunisia and Azerbaijan can participated in it and that it isn't reserved for students like in Erasmus. I was always fascinated about the nordic countries because of the high standard of living, education, welfare state and democracies and I wanted to learn more about them and their culture. About Finland I found the bilingualism and history interesting and the many forests and lakes and I liked that people are there the most pro-European from the Nordics.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

I didn't thought that the culture is so uncomplicated, communication is precise and direct, power structures are balanced. Before I came here I wanted to study teaching and now Economics. I was reassured that I prefer living in a decent city and in a shared flat rather than living alone. I learned to see my home country in a completely different perspective just by talking with other ESC volunteers and locals. I also learned to see the world and Europe from the view of a small and geographically isolated country.

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