



activeEVS

European Voluntary Service (EVS/ ESC) in Szczecin, Poland

Hundreds of projects in more than 30 countries in and near Europe – and I choose Poland, a country I know nothing about, let alone speak its language. So why don't I regret this decision?

Because doing an European Voluntary Service is always a good choice. The possibility to travel, live and work abroad, financed by Erasmus+, is an offer especially created for young people in Europe to promote cultural exchange and lifelong learning. I am lucky to participate in a project organized by Stowarzyszenie POLITES, an amazingly passionate and caring coordinating organisation. From the beginning, our group of twenty volunteers was welcomed warmly in Szczecin. Apart from some administrative tasks (opening a bank account, buying tickets for public transportation), POLITES workers organized events and meetings for the volunteers to make sure the group grew together very fast.

Just when I was starting to get used to this new life, more new people from more new countries were to be met at On Arrival training in Warsaw. It was interesting to talk to other volunteers living in Cracow, Kielce and all over Poland. We had the chance to discover Warsaw and were presented Polish culture by attending basic Polish lessons and a private dance show. In this short week, I was not only prepared for EVS but also met great people from Polish cities with visiting.

Back in Szczecin, I finally started to work at school. Together with two volunteers from Ukraine and Spain, we introduced ourselves to the students by presenting our countries. Teachers and children were happy to have us, and soon we started to feel comfortable in our work. During the last week of October, we showed the students Halloween traditions of our countries. In świetlica, the kids crafted pumpkin masks with us, and danced to a Halloween song.

Two months of my EVS have passed.

Of the many impressions I got, most were very positive, and I am sure more wonderful experiences will follow. The only thing bothering me about the following eight months of EVS: It's only eight months!