



The show must go on!

2020 was strange enough, but 2021...! Our review of the last year is even stranger than the review of 2020 and relates a bit to the famous Queen song: The show must go on! With the start of the new year Germany went into another lockdown, with shops closed, events cancelled, and even private meeting restricted to two people or households. Youthwork was completely closed, with the current volunteers Natascha (Russia, Jukuz) and Jennifer (Luxembourg, Multigenerational House), we met for long walks across Aschaffenburg, but could not offer our much-loved Café International Group Meetings. Instead, we tried to meet online, but sometimes young people (and older ones too....) got a bit sick of meeting virtually.



In March an international training seminar on European Values and Racism was hosted online by IN VIA and Hotspot Demokratie, our partner organisation in Aschaffenburg. We had ten young people from different countries in our two online sessions, exchanging views and learning about solidarity.

The two volunteers, who had started their ESC volunteering activity in September/October 2020, found themselves in a strange situation with their work turned upside down, if any at all, or sometimes with new routines and challenges.

Natascha, a young woman from Russia, found herself preparing youth radio snippets, interviews and shows rather than doing team sports at the Jukuz with disadvantaged children because schools were closed.

Our project in Johannesburg, at the multigenerational house, was reduced to a minimum, as the after-school club was closed and there was no more work for Jennifer, from Luxembourg, instead she had to concentrate on supporting staff in the maintenance of the centre and office work.

Meanwhile in Aschaffenburg, we still could not meet for Café International - an open youth club, where volunteers and Au Pairs could meet, make friends, and socialise in an open environment. We found ourselves organising a photo competition against Racism called "Solidarität. Grenzenlos." in March with 11 entries and a winner, Aileen, who was taking part in an ESC in Laval, France. (Winning picture see on the right)



In June, Florian Diegmann started his job at the Europabüro, in charge of the outgoing department. Maresa Gieles is coordinating the projects in Germany and on Madeira.



We found that a lot of young people were again motivated about travelling abroad, be it into ESC or Au Pair placements. We scheduled a lot of online meetings and counselling with applicants.

In the summertime, we dared to offer a summer party in the backyard with Mediterranean food and soft drinks on our new backyard sofa.



At the children's home, staff waited on Pavel, another Russian volunteer, who was faced by a closed embassy and had his visa turned down. Finally, in September, he managed to travel to Germany with a valid visa, with a one-year delay.

With our new partners in Funchal, Madeira, we coordinated our project, "Tell the past, to prepare the future". So, we could send the second and third volunteer, Lena and Zoe, from Germany to Portugal in March for 6 months. Annika, the fourth volunteer followed in July, a bit postponed due to Covid-19.

This year, we prepared 7 more volunteers and 5 Au Pairs to leave Germany for their projects and families in several European countries.

Berfin joined the beautiful "Béal" in France for an ESC. Amelie and Norina became our happy new volunteers in Funchal, Madeira. In addition to our ongoing and valuable partnerships, sending Katharina, Mathilda, Nele and Antonia resulted in new cooperation within the ESC. At this occasion, we want to express our delight and gratitude to all partners in the outgoing ESC and au pair sector. We are looking forward to our further collaboration in 2022 and beyond! 😊



In October, only one new volunteer, Oline, managed to arrive in Aschaffenburg, delayed, due to the late start of the new ESC programme. Several other applicants cancelled their interest in the last minute, so we could not find a volunteer for the project at the Jukuz.

Oline, originally from Denmark, started off into an interesting project in Johannesburg. Especially working at the after-schools club gave her a lot of joy. Unfortunately, Oline leaves us at Christmas due to personal reasons. Another volunteer will be taking her place in January.

Pavel, volunteer at the Kinderheim, left us as well and will be replaced by Mokhtar from Algeria after the holidays.

This season seems to be stormy for volunteers as well as organisations.



We managed to have physical meetings in September until the end of October with a welcome party, and a guided city tour. The famous Christmas market was cancelled and meetings as a group were restricted due to Covid regulations.

Now, as the year is closing, we are looking ahead and hope the best for 2022, thank you for your support!

In case you would like to promote our projects amongst young people, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Thanks especially to our brilliant volunteers and their diligent sending organisations in the background.

With warm Christmas wishes



Florian + Maresa

Florian and Maresa