

International longterm voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V.  
profile place of assignment  
within the program: weltwärts, EVS



## Hort der evangelischen Grundschule Halle

<http://www.evangelische-grundschule-halle.de>

The „Evangelische Grundschule Halle“ is an elementary school located in the socialistic outskirts „Heide-Nord“. The school is independently operated by the protestant church, but is nevertheless open for all children regardless their confession. The school is an all-day-school, integrating elementary education (Schule) and after-school child care (Hort). There is a strong connection between educational and extracurricular learning together with a church based life.



The concept of the school takes educations not just as studying facts but to educate children to ask questions about the world by themselves and to develop skills to answer these questions. All this happens in an innovative atmosphere. The Christian values lead the education, the work and the community in the school. Therefore its a basic obligation to demand every child in its uniqueness and to give self-esteem. It's a desire that the children learn to integrate in a community and to be open-minded for other opinions and life attitudes. In this process they learn not just to develop an own personality but how to create a respectful togetherness. For the children it offers individual and interdisciplinary learning. There is a variety of methods concerning the creation of the lessons. For example morning circles and devotions.

Part of the institution is the after-school care club (Hort). A “Hort” is a place, where (primary) school-children are taken care of outside school. In Germany most primary schools finish midday. Since parents might have to work till afternoon/evening, their children have to be watched after till they can go home. The same during school holidays. In a Hort children can play, but they also are encouraged to do their homework and follow special offers by the Hort. In the “Evangelische Grundschule Halle”, the activities in the Hort are seen as an important part of the overall school education and the two institutions, Schule and Hort, interfere, that means there is a close cooperation between the two institutions and several educators are working in the Hertz as well as the school.

### **Field of engagement and activities of the volunteer within place of assignment**

The voluntary service at this poa mainly is social and caring work with children!

The volunteer is assigned to the Hort (after-school care club). However, it might be possible that s/he can assist on school activities (projects as well as regular school lessons).

Activities of the volunteer:

- companion of individual children in free play
- teaching English or other languages in the after-school care club
- offering activities to children in the after-school care club: own program offers for
- children in the sporty, musical, artistic area, depending on the interests and skills of the volunteer
- participation and assistance in educational projects

**Please be aware:**

- You mainly work afternoon-hours!

**Volunteers profile – Specific for this place of assignment**

- willingness to work independently and to contribute actively
- enthusiasm for working with children
- interest in sports, music, cultural and/or creative work, cooking and interest to bring in this
- knowledge in the work with children
- openness to religious themes and religious education
- need a certificate of good conduct without any entries
- preferable: good skills in English

**Volunteers profile – General**

- 18 to 28 years (exceptions can be made, when reasonable)
- (high) school graduation or comparable personal suitability
- basic knowledge of English and German and willingness to learn German starting in home country
- motivation: voluntary service as an opportunity to learn in different fields and to get involved with (civil) society (voluntary service as learning and peace service)
- openness to the special structure of a voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle, that is: willingness to participate in the accompanying educational program, to develop and implement one or more small project(s) and to get occupied and engaged with topics and activities of (local) civil society,
- interest in global relationships and peace politics as well as education on these topics
- preferable already dedication in civil society in the home country, willingness to get involved in civil society in the home country after returning

**Reports of former volunteers****Nejla, 2016-17, in-between-report**

My name is Nejla Beganovic and I am a Bachelor of Social pedagogy. I come from Bosnia and Herzegovina. From September 2016, I have pleasure of volunteering at Evangelische Grund Schule, in one small city in Germany, named Halle.

First of all, I can say it is life-changing experience. At the beginning we all have thoughts like "is it worth to go somewhere abroad, somewhere you have never been, or to deal with difficult language barrier, just to volunteer? After few months spent in Germany I can say definitely is worth of

it. At the beginning it was really hard, because how much you came prepared you can't even imagine with what kind of things you will deal, or what kind of people you will find here. Some of those experiences are good, and some of them not so. But you are learning and in that process of learning you discover a new world inside yourself and you deal with new YOU; some way better than before.

Concept of school is divided in two parts: school time where children can learn from teachers, and hort where fun things are happening. I am in school every day from 9 o'clock in the morning till 15:00. I spend 3 hours helping teacher in class, learning with children German language, math, art and many others interesting subjects. Also children can learn English language, or just having a fun. Time passes fast, and like volunteer I am trying to figure out how I can the best help the school and children. As at school German language is spoken I had a few difficulties to understand everything what every child have to say. Sometimes we communicate in English because it is a bilingual school, but for the kids bilingual is also something new. I was really pleased with way they accept me like a part of their team. I saw many good ideas, and creative things that can be implemented at schools in Bosnia. After just few months here in Germany, I started to think differently and I got another picture in my head about education. Why there is a need to have SAME school system now and before 100 years? Why children need to sit calm in their chairs and just listen? WHY NOT TO INTERACT? There are a lot of things that I have learned here and definitely I will make that happened in Bosnia. Some things are not so good, but we came here to learn, to reasearch and to be bold. So be bold!

### **Nejla, 2016-17, final report**

<http://www.evangelische-grundschule-halle.de/aktuelles/articles/nejla-vom-internationalen-freiwilligendienst-verabschiedet-sich.html>

"Alice in wonderland"

04. September 2017

I was born in small country in the heart of Europe, named Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many people don't even know where it is placed, but as a girl from small country, I decided a big step. I decided to go in a faraway country named Germany. I didn't know what to expect, but guided by an idea that I will gain new experience and learn new things, I got into the adventure. After selection, interviews, and preparation seminars I finally came to Germany and Evangelische Grundschule, in the city of Halle. Most people would not be wondering why they did choose me, but if you see my picture you will understand. I am a Muslim girl with a scarf on my head in an Evangelical school. Big challenge, isn't it? To be honest, I was in doubt and fear, would I be accepted, how would children react, and of course their parents. Thousands of questions and fears, but I bravely entered into adventure. From the first day I entered school, until the last day of my volunteering, I did not feel different from the rest of the team or that I was a foreigner at school. At the beginning it was a tough time. Sometimes my basic knowledge of German language was a hardship but never an obstacle in working with teachers or educators. Their constant support, managing in different situations, and using examples, or even gesturing, greatly contributed my adaption and rapid learning. For me it was also important that parents accepted me and responded positively. My tasks were divided into two parts: school time and after school time. I was in school every day from 9 o'clock in the morning till 15:00. I spent three hours helping teachers in class, learning with children German language, math, art and many others interesting subjects. Also, children could learn English from me as well, or being creative and have fun. Here in school, I saw many good ideas, creative things that can be also implemented at schools in Bosnia. I thought I'd be lost here like "Alice in wonderland" but at the end I found myself. After just few months spent here, I started to think differently and beyond the limits of my mind. I asked myself why there is need to have the SAME school system now and 100 years ago? Why children need to sit calm in their chairs and just listen? Why not interact? Thanks to this school and school team I found out that there is possibility to do it better. Sometimes I had the feeling that I didn't come in school, but in one big family where all are included and all are equal. Here, every kid is known by its name. So, for me, that means something and tells something. It is also important to mention unconditional love, support and care that I received from kids. That was my greatest success and gift. I believe that this year I spent in Evangelische Grundschule has contributed to my professional development as a social pedagogue and it will be a good start and

progress of my private and professional life in future. I see myself in future like someone who will continue to work with children in some educational institution, and I am planning to continue my educational growth, here in Germany.

I am especially thankful to Elisabeth Lauterbach for her everyday support and help in any situation. She was not just a mentor to me, she was also my friend. Also, I would like to thank the rest of school team, and I wish them a lot of success in further work and life paths.

Let the dear God guard you.

Nejla Beganovic