



## My „European Voluntary Service” in Poland

- Bianca (Germany) -

When I first decided to participate in the program of Erasmus+, to do a voluntary service, it was just to have a gap year from finishing high school and going to university. Looking back on my 10 month experience abroad in Poland, it was definitely not just a " I don't know what to do with my life" year, it was much more than this. It was a journey of finding myself with changes and lots of adventures.

September the 1st 2015, it was time for me to leave my little home town, out of my comfort zone, to go to see some more of the world. Sitting in the plain to Warsaw, I was really excited, but nervous as well. It was the first time for me to live alone, without parents telling me what I should do. But as soon as the first weeks in Bialystok were passing, I did not have any doubts anymore. I met the most amazing room mates in the world and in general the most amazing and inspiring people I could ever imagine. We were some kind of family, caring for each other, drinking lots of tea, sharing stories and discovering Poland together. This part of my Evs was absolutely perfect, in fact I got to know awesome people from different countries, I had the possibility to learn something about their cultures.

Of course, there haven't always been good times. There were ups and downs, but I guess that's what Evs is about : Enjoying the good times with good people and dealing with times were you might not feel so comfortable. But dealing with harder periods, you grow, because you have to deal with it and find a solution.

Now, looking back on my Evs two month after leaving Poland, I can say, I am really grateful for everything what happened. For the people I met, for the country I could discover, for the culture I learned about, for the new language I could speak, just for all experiences I made. The time in Poland will always stay in my mind and be a reminder for me to go and see the world, meet new people and learn a new language.

Bianca, August 2016



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