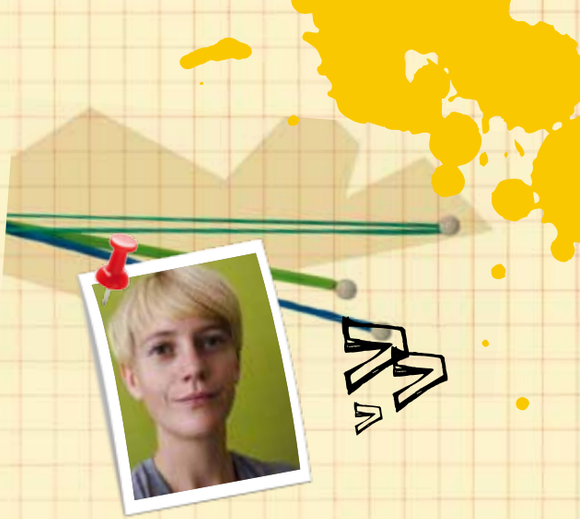
The art of volunteering

by Marlies Pöschl
marlies_poeschl@gmx.net



Jose Gallego Hidalgo
24, from Spain, EVS volunteer at Grenzenlos

I did not really have experience with actually living in a different country before I came here. And now I think this experience, where you get to know a country and a culture in all kinds of situations, creates a very strong bond, and I have the feeling that this connection between me and Austria will always stay very important for me, even after I go back to Spain.

My original project was at a kindergarten, but due to some problems with the project there, I now work for Grenzenlos.

As I was working as a teacher in Spain I wanted to get to know the Austrian educational system and compare it to the Spanish system, that's why I chose to volunteer at the kindergarten. One thing that really struck me there is the independence of the children in Austria as compared to Spain. Here, the parents and the teachers give the children much more responsibility, and so they learn quickly to do things by themselves, and I think when you grow up, this also results in a more active attitude to work.

Here at Grenzenlos I mostly help in the organisation of seminars and with computer related work. The biggest challenge for me is the language, because if you work in an office, you have to know the language really well. My contribution to this organisation is, of course, that I try to do my best, but also that I have 'a good face'. I mean I'm always happy when I come to work and I try to make jokes, even if I mix up the words. I try to make people laugh.