



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**



pewobe Gemeinnützige Soziale  
Betreuungsgesellschaft mbH in Frankfurt (Oder)

# Active Youth Across Borders

**Information for Volunteers**  
**Volunteering in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany**  
**December 2021 to November 2022**



## **Dear Volunteers,**

We want to welcome you on board! We are looking for young people between 18 and 30 to join our volunteering project for 12 months in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany and Słubice, Poland, right at the border.

This Information Pack contains some more information about the Volunteering Project. You will find information about how to get to Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice, about the city itself and about the volunteering conditions. We are looking forward to meet you soon!

## **Summary of the Project**

Within this project we will host 4 volunteers in Frankfurt (Oder) that will support our international youth work. The volunteers will actively contribute with their own ideas to the development of different opportunities that we are creating for young people in an international context. As a volunteer the following areas of work are waiting for you:

- Support of the project work
- Management of local volunteers
- Public Relations
- Development of own projects
- Local Youth Policies

The European Solidarity Corps with its voluntary service should continue to enrich our organisation and the young people involved. The volunteers will come closer to the European specialties and support the attempt that different initiatives for integration will be supported. This will include the inclusion of refugees. Frankfurt (Oder) is located directly at the border to Poland. Only 500 meters of bridge are separating us from our Polish twin city Słubice. In such a city a special feeling for Europe can be developed. However such a location also brings challenges, as the borders of the European Integration become visible and the problems of common European strategies can be seen on local level directly. Therefore the location Frankfurt (Oder) at the periphery brings the possibility to get to know Europe at its edges and borders, and at the same time to value its possibilities and to become active to overcome the borders. European Citizenship and participation of young people are the topics that will be worked on during this project. At an inner European border one can develop a new view on youth participation in Europe. The volunteers can get to know this view. We expect that the volunteers as the participants of this project will develop their learning aims further. We hope that they manage to expand their competences as they expect and that they can have the experiences that they are aiming for. We will support and accompany this process.

Volunteers should be motivated to work on the topic of EU citizenship, healthy lifestyle, intercultural community, youth opportunities and promotion of voluntarism. Volunteers should have good English speaking skills (in the office and during the projects we speak English). Volunteers should be ready to work in an office and have basic knowledge about MS Office tools. Further they should be motivated to learn about German culture and language, learn and gain new experiences and skills and should be able to easily communicate with young people, be flexible and responsible.

The project is coordinated by pewobe g GmbH in Frankfurt (Oder) and co-funded by the European Solidarity Corps of the European Commission.

### **About the Organizer:**

You will be hosted by pewobe g GmbH Frankfurt (Oder) in Germany. Pewobe g GmbH is a NGO working on regional level in the Federal State of Brandenburg in the East of Germany. Since 1996, pewobe is running kindergartens, youth clubs, assisted living for youngsters, the child emergency service as well as assistance for families in need. All projects of this association aim to have an international orientation and promote education for tolerance. They already have established many contacts for international cooperation in several countries. Since 1999, pewobe hosts international youth meetings where young people from Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice (situated in Poland, the town next to Frankfurt) are volunteering to make these projects a reality. The main office is located right next to the border river with Poland.

### **Finances:**

The costs in Germany for accommodation and the activities are covered by the fund of the European Commission. You will also be signed up for the group insurance provided by the European Solidarity Corps.

You will be accommodated in a single or shared room (depending on availability) with shared bathroom and kitchen. Together with the pocket money you will receive monetary value for free meals paid in cash if the meals are not provided in one of our institutions. The monetary value is currently maximum 246,00 EUR monthly. The monetary value for free meals is calculated each month. All volunteers receive a monthly ticket for the local transportation within Frankfurt (Oder).

According to the rules within the European Solidarity Corps we will reimburse the travel costs for arriving in Germany and returning to your own country on the basis of the cheapest and safest possibilities, e.g. second class railway tickets, APEX-flights etc., accompanied by the receipt of complete and original tickets, invoices, bills, receipts, boarding cards etc. upon a certain "contribution to the travel costs of participants, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return". This contribution is "based on the travel distance per participant. Travel distances must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission". The tickets can be booked by you and reimbursed, but we can also book them for you if needed.

All financial details as well as other obligations from both sides will be clarified in a personal volunteering agreement between pewobe, your supporting organisation and you as the volunteer.

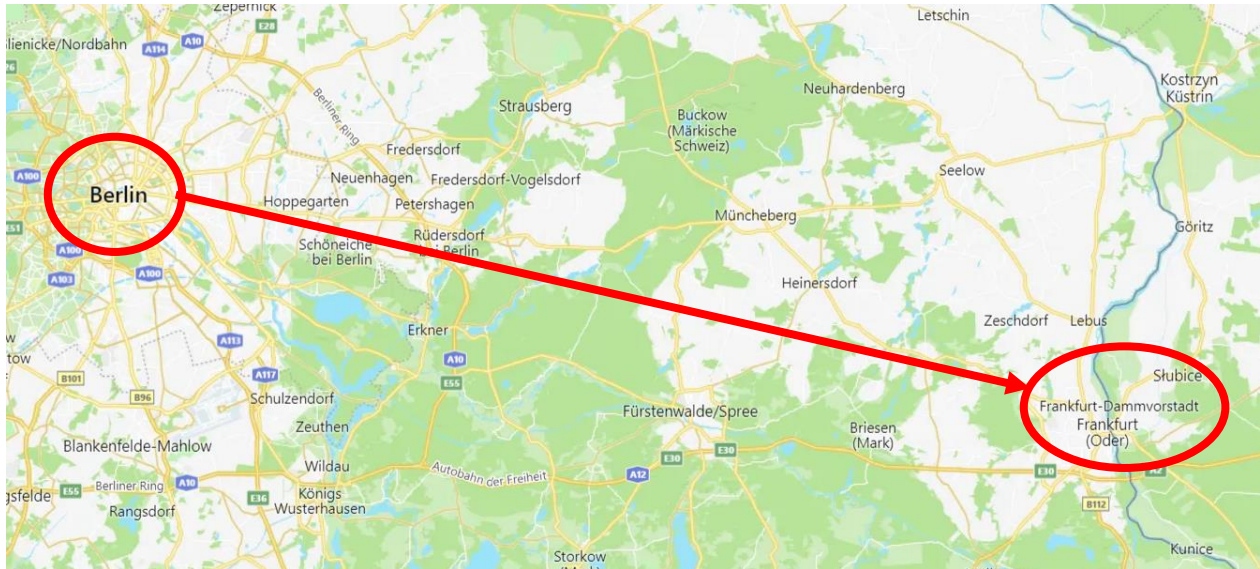
**If a PCR test is necessary to enter Germany, this test will be covered by the project budget.**

### **Travel Details:**

The Volunteering Project takes place in **Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice**, small cities close to Berlin, right at the German-Polish borderline. Please **don't confuse** it with the other Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main.

## Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice:

Here you can see location of Berlin, Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice:



Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice are cities with many facets. Some of them we want to present to you now so that you can get an idea what to expect.

- **Frankfurt (Oder) is:**



### Region and Twin City:

Frankfurt (Oder) is located east of Brandenburg and is a town of around 58 000 inhabitants. It is located on the west side of the Oder river around 80km east of Berlin. Before the end of the second World War, the city of Słubice in Poland has been a part of Frankfurt (Oder). At the end of the war the Oder river, that was passing through the city, became the border. Nowadays the cities have decided to work closely together as a European Twin Town that make decisions together and cooperate in all areas of live.

Until 1945 the towns Frankfurt (Oder) (today in Germany) and Słubice (today in Poland) used to be one city that has been divided into two separate cities under the Potsdam Agreement.

Since the reunion of Germany in 1990 both towns grow together and many cooperative German-Polish projects have been established.

One of these projects is the artificial town "Slubfurt", an artist commercialized both towns as one European town in two nations with two cultures.



### **The Kleist-City**

Probably the most famous son of the town is the German dramaturgist Heinrich von Kleist. His theatre plays are known beyond the borders of Germany and in 2011 in whole Europe, the year of Kleist was celebrated because of the 200th anniversary of his death.

Frankfurt (Oder) also has got a long tradition in other arts; for example, in 1535 the first civil association of music "convivium musicum" has been founded by Jodocus Willich.

Today the citizens of Frankfurt (Oder) can be proud of the state orchestra of Brandenburg, a school of music, a singer's academy and many choirs and music associations as well as of a theatre school, a cabaret and youth bands.

### **The Hanse-City:**

In 1430 Frankfurt (Oder) has been named in a list of participants of the "Lübecker Tagfahrt", where only members of the "Hanse" had been invited. As a result, Frankfurt (Oder) can be seen as a member of the medieval trade organization Hanse at least from this day on. In 1517 Frankfurt (Oder) left the Hanse because of the wish of electoral prince Joachim I.

Meanwhile Frankfurt (Oder) is a member of the city association DIE HANSE again, which is the biggest voluntary towns association worldwide and engages active on all kinds of activities like the days of the Hanse for example.

### **The Sports-City:**

Sport is also a tradition in Frankfurt (Oder), the oldest shooting club has been founded in 1406.

Other traditional sports in Frankfurt (Oder) are gymnastics, biking, wrestling, Judo, handball and boxing. In all of these sports Frankfurt (Oder) has produced Olympic champions, world champions and European champions since the first Olympic games of the modern age and still does.

Some of the most popular sportsmen of Frankfurt (Oder) are Hermann Weingärtner (Gymnastics), Joachim Sanne (Biker), Karin Balzer (Athletics), Klaus Köste (Show Jumping), Torsten Reißmann (Judo), Henry Maske (Boxing), Jörg Brümmer (Sumo) and Manfred Kurzer (Marksman).

### **The University-City:**

On the 26th of April 1506 the "Alma Mater Viadrina" university with 950 students was opened in Frankfurt (Oder). The first principal was Konrad Wimpina who, for example, wrote the antitheses for Johannes Tetzl who refuted the 95 theses of Martin Luther.

In 1668 Mattheus Gottfried Purman was able to successfully make a blood transfusion from a lamb to a human being (Mr. Welslein) and, thus, cured him from the Leprosy –200 years before the birth of the discoverer of the ABO-blood-group system Dr. Karl Landsteiner.

On the 10th of August 1811 the university was moved to Breslau because of the Humboldt-University in Berlin that had been founded one year before –by the way: Wilhelm of Humboldt also finished the Viadrina University. On the 15th of June 1991 the Europe-University Viadrina was re-founded. At the moment here are studying 6500 students from 84 countries.

- **Słubice is:**

### **Region and Twin City:**

Słubice is located in western Poland, on the Oder river, in the voivodeship of Lubusz, on the German-Polish border. It has a population of 18.148 in 2011 and spreads over an area of 19,2 square kilometers.

Until 1945, the Eastern suburb of Frankfurt (Oder) was called Dammvorstadt, to which it is now connected by a bridge over the Oder river, called Stadtbrücke in German.

The city is the administrative capital of the Słubice County and the capital of the administrative district Słubice.

### **History:**

Słubice is closely linked to its German sister city Frankfurt (Oder), of which it was a part until 1945. The two cities have been forced apart by the drawing of the Oder–Neisse line, which drew the Polish-German border through the city.

The two cities share many urban amenities and collaborate on various projects, such as a wastewater treatment plant in Słubice that serves both towns, as well as the Collegium Polonicum as an extension of some of the Viadrina European University's departments on the Polish side of the border. Furthermore, Słubice is part of a special Słubice-Kostrzyn Economic Zone.

### **Culture:**

Słubice was the setting for the 2003 film Distant Lights (Lichter) as well as for scenes in the 2002 film Grill Point.

In 2014, the municipality erected a monument by Mihran Hakobyan in Frankfurt Square (Plac Frankfurcki), in honour of the collaborative online encyclopaedia Wikipedia, "in homage to all community work, carried out in a selfless way for the good of others" and also in the hope that it would become an emblem of the city and a tourist attraction.

### **Our venues:**

The place where the work will mainly take place is not the same place you will be staying. You will sleep in your apartment and work in our office:

pewobe g GmbH  
Große Oderstraße 29  
15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

When we implement activities and projects they take place all over the cities as well as the region. Depending on the situation we will be able to implement various activities and interact with different target groups.

### **The Team:**

Usually, we host around 4 volunteers at the same time. You will be able to get in contact with them before arriving here. Besides that the team consist of one permanent worker, freelancers as well as local volunteers. Further there are more employees in pewobe that you will also have contact with.

**See you soon in Frankfurt (Oder)!**