

## My ESC adventure

If you ask me what is my dream job, I would definitely reply with: »any job connected with children with special needs«. Association of Inclusive Culture within its project »Give to get« gave me exactly that opportunity and I appreciate it a lot. Being involved in children's daily routine allowed me to find out more about their needs and helped me to gain new knowledge about their process of learning.

I took part in various projects such as exercise for children with special needs called Special Sportster (which, I have to admit, was also very useful for developing my own physical fitness). Although it was not always easy to motivate children, especially those with autism spectrum disorder, and although sometimes I had to put a great effort to even draw their attention, seeing their progress made me feel very proud of my co-workers and myself. The other project that I would like to point out is the International festival »Play with me«, which is the main event of our volunteer work. This festival takes place every year in May in Ljubljana's Congress square with the main concept of *inclusion*. Some of you will maybe think that »inclusion« is just a cliché, a word that is overused, a concept that lost its original meaning and I don't blame you, because I thought the same, but this experience made me change my mind. To see children with special needs and their peers with typical development playing or performing together during this festival, without any prejudice, was not just a fairytale story, it was reality and I am very happy to be part of that reality.

Volunteering in the Association of Inclusive Culture brought a lot of benefits to me. I gained new skills and experiences and I met great people, which had impact on my personal growth. I would definitely recommend this type of volunteering to everyone who would like to try something new and unique.

DEANA KOTEVSKI

