

I stayed in Zagreb for 10 months as an European Solidarity Corps volunteer, from November 2021 until September 2022. My name is Ezgi Kocdag, and I am from Turkey and 24 years old. I was excited to immerse myself in a new culture and learn more about Croatian society. I am grateful for the opportunity to volunteer at RNV Zagreb and contribute to their efforts in promoting the rights of Roma in Croatia. Overall, my time in Zagreb was a meaningful and enriching experience, and I am glad that I was able to make a positive impact during my time there.

During my time at RNV Zagreb, I had the opportunity to interview and learn about the lives of Roma people in Croatia. The project focused on writing articles on Croatian minorities, with a particular emphasis on the Roma minority. I also attended various events and workshops related to Roma rights and advocacy. Through my articles, I aimed to bring attention to the challenges faced by the Roma community and highlight their contributions to Croatian society.

In addition to my work at RNV Zagreb, I also had the opportunity to make new friends with other volunteers and locals in Croatia. I enjoyed exploring the city of Zagreb and learning about Croatian culture and history. I also participated in various social activities and events organized by the European solidarity corps, which allowed me to meet people from different countries and backgrounds.

I also enjoyed working at the office with the other 3 volunteers. We had a friendly and collaborative atmosphere, and we often supported each other with our work and projects. We also celebrated each other's birthdays and special days, and had fun outings and activities together. For example, we went hiking in the nearby mountains, explored the local markets, and tried traditional Croatian dishes. These experiences added to the enjoyment of my time in Zagreb, and I am grateful for the friendship and camaraderie I shared with the other volunteers.

Overall, my time in Zagreb was a meaningful and enriching experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to volunteer at RNV Zagreb and contribute to their efforts in promoting the rights of Croatian minorities. I also cherish the friendships I made with other volunteers and locals in Croatia, which added to my personal growth and development during my time in Zagreb.



