

Report AIR

Participant: Petra Soukupová

Just very briefly what I have worked on here. My book is a series of connected short stories about kids, who might be viewed as weirdos by their peers. Each one of them is „weird“ in a different way and for a different reason. The book would hopefully help children to accept themselves, to realize that it is OK to be a bit weird. My target group are children between 10-12 years.

I have managed to write more than thirty pages, my estimation is, that it is more than a half of the book. Judging from my previous experience, it would take me more than three months to accomplish the same amount of work at home, possibly more. I also feel that the material I have written does not need much revisions as I was fully concentrated on it.

The text of the book is attached.

AIR was my first long term residency abroad and it has exceeded my expectations. The support of the organizing team was amazing, the communication both before and during the residency was perfect. I knew that in case I needed anything, the organizers would do everything to help me. They also helped to organize a public reading in Czech center in Vienna. It was very pleasant, I have enjoyed it and I hope that so did the audience.

My colleagues in residency were also nice. We have not spent that much time together because I needed to be alone and concentrate on my book. I am not a person who makes acquaintances easily, so I appreciated the welcome meeting at the beginning of the residency.

Krems is a perfect location. Not only is it a lovely town with a charming and inspiring atmosphere, it also has the ideal size – you are not tempted by many attractions a city would offer, yet you have everything you need here. The flat was perfect, with a great view. A nice quiet place for work.

The funding was generous, it covered all my expenses.

Going on any long-termed residency seemed impossible – I have a small child, family, work. Thanks to AIR I realized, that it is possible, and it is definitely worth it. I will recommend this residency without hesitation.

No matter how hard I try, I cannot think of anything that I would miss or want to be arranged otherwise.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

With kind regards,

Petra Soukupová