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CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME-III (CSSP-III)

“POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” PROJECT

EU - TR MUTUAL OPPORTUNITIES GUIDE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This “EU-TR Mutual Opportunities Guide” was developed by Gaziantep Training and Youth Association (GEGED) to raise awareness about cooperation between countries and institutions by increasing the skills of public institutions and non-governmental organizations to create harmonization policies within the framework of EU-TR, and to raise awareness of youth from Europe and Turkey. It has been prepared in accordance with the rules of the CSSP–III Program, in order to develop mutual and sustainable cooperation between organizations, and also to enable young people to learn about EU programs and to ensure their active participation in policy-making processes



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PREFACE



This Guide is a tool for those who want to get detailed information about the content of European Union Programs with mutual opportunities between Europe and Turkey. This document has been prepared for university students, trainees, apprentices, young people, volunteers, trainers, youth workers.

For individuals who want to benefit from the European Opportunities programs, all the rules and conditions related to the programs are specified in this guide. All European Opportunities mentioned in this mutual opportunities guide All rules and conditions are explained in the Program Guide prepared by the European Commission every year.

The EU-TR Mutual Opportunities Guide has been prepared within the scope of our project named **"Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development"** aims to inform youth workers and volunteers in youth centers and non-governmental organizations about opportunities. It is aimed that CSOs in the EU and Turkey contribute to mutual cooperation and increase the knowledge of young people about EU-TR Mutual Opportunities.

The guide has been divided into the six colours for the sections. Each colours represent a section to understand topics easily. For easy access to the platforms and websites we created tap buttons for you. While you are reading you can easily get information through the links.

Our EU Mutual Opportunities Guide; We hope that it will be helpful and guiding to our youth, volunteers, students and youth workers who will counsel them, and we wish you a pleasant reading...

In order to decrease carbon emission and protect the nature, this guide has been prepared for digital use. Printing version of this guide will not be available.

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ABBREVIATIONS

EUROPEAN UNION	EU
TÜRKİYE	TR
INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE	IPA
CENTRAL FINANCE AND CONTRACTS UNIT	CFCU
CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME	CSSP
CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE	CSD
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS	CSO
NON-GOVERNMANTAL ORGANIZATIONS	NGO
GAZİANTEP TRAINING AND YOUTH ASSOCIATION	GEGED
EUROPEAN OUTSOURCING INSTITUTE FOUNDATION	FEIO
İSTANBUL CULTURE AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION	IKOS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSOCIATION OF INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES	EBAGEM
DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN CULTURE	POVOD
UNITED NATIONS	UN
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	SDG
WORK PACKAGE	WP
YOUTH TRAINER	YT
YOUTH WORKER	YW
ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK	ESN
CIRRICULUM VITAE	CV
ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTIFICATION	OID
PARTICIPANT IDENTIFICATION CODE	PIC
TRAINING COURSE	TC
YOUTH EXCHANGE	YE
BOARD REPRESENTATIVE	BR
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	VET
ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION	ECHE

PROGRAMME INFORMATION



The Grant Schemes are funded by the EU within the Annual Action Programme for Turkey for the year 2016 under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)-III.

“Supporting Civil Society Dialogue Between EU and Turkey Grant Scheme” (CSD-VI), which has a total budget of 4.750.000 Euros, is a programme aiming to increase interaction and dialogue between Turkey and EU civil societies at local, regional and national levels and support awareness raising initiatives regarding the importance of Turkey’s EU membership and its benefits.

The global objective of this call for proposals is to develop a sustainable civil society dialogue between Turkey and EU Member States.

The specific objectives of this call for proposals are to increase bilateral exchanges and cooperation between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Turkey and the EU at local, regional and national levels, and to promote awareness raising initiatives on importance and benefits of membership of Turkey to the EU within Turkey and the EU, and on challenges and opportunities posed by Turkey’s accession.








PROJECT INFORMATION






The “Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development” project is financed by the European Union and the Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) is the contracting authority in Turkey. The project is implemented within the scope of the Civil Society Support Programme-III (CSSP-III) with the partnership consortium which consists of Fundacja Europejski Instytut Outsourcingu (FEIO) as the lead applicant and Povod Institute for Culture and the Development of International Relations in Culture (POVOD), Istanbul Culture and Sports Association (IKOS), Development Center Association of Individual with Disabilities and Their Families (EBAGEM) and Gaziantep Training and Youth Association (GEGED) as partners. The project was started on 01.04.2021 and lasted for 15 months.

The overall objective of the project is building mutual and sustainable cooperation between youth organizations from EU and Turkey through raising cohesion policy making skills and ensuring positive attitude towards the bilateral partners in the frame of EU-Turkey.

Specific Objectives Of The Project Are:

-  To raise the consciousness of the CSOs in EU and Turkey about mutual cooperation to build a sustainable and inclusive background and apply common European Values & United Nation Sustainable Development Goals
-  To raise the organizational capacity of Youth CSOs to increase the structured dialogue making process among other NGOs and Public Authorities
-  To inform the people in Turkey and in the EU about the mutual benefits and to raise the positive opinion about Turkey in the EU.
-  To empower youth CSOs’ methodological capacities in order to increase the efficiency of youth work
-  To increase the institutional capacity of Youth CSOs and Board Representatives in order to strengthen their decision-making process

Target Group Of The Project


-  CSOs: Civil society organisations working with/for youth. 15 CSOs in total from targeted 3 countries and 8 cities: 5 project partner organisations are expected to reach at least 2 youth CSOs from their local and involve them into the project.
-  Youth Trainers/ Youth Workers: People who directly work with young people
-  Authorities from Policy Maker / Decision Maker Bodies: People who are in the decision-making process from different stakeholders - local authorities, municipal officers, governors, governmental institutions, youth councils, big-scale CSOs, academicians, media - from 3 countries and 8 cities.
-  Board Representatives / Managers / CSO staff: CSO professionals who work in the CSOs as staff, and decision makers such as Board Representatives.
-  Young People: Youth from Poland, Turkey and Slovenia.

Main Activities

-  **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PARTNERSHIP WP**
 - Partner's Online Meetings
 - Kick of Meeting in Mersin
 - Final Evaluation Meeting in Katowice/Poland
-  **EUROPEAN VALUES & EU-TURKEY COLLABORATION**
 - EU-TR Fellowship Guide
 - International Conference "EU - TR Fellowship" in Ljubljana/Slovenia
 - "EU - TR Mutual Opportunities" Guide
 - Stakeholders Meeting – IV:
 - National Conferences "EU - TR Mutual Opportunities"
 - International Conference "EU - TR Mutual Opportunities" in Poland
-  **YOUTH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION & STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WP**
 - Stakeholders Meeting - II "Round Table" with YW's/YT's
 - Stakeholders Meeting – III
 - International TC for YT/YWs in Gaziantep/Turkey
 - Local Trainings for Young People
-  **CAPACITY BUILDING WP**
 - Stakeholders Meeting–I: CSOs Meeting
 - Good Governance and Management Guide
 - Training Module for Board Representatives and CSO staff
 - Training Course for BR/CSO Staff
 - Study Visit in Slovenia

EU-TR MUTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

European Union Programmes

 EU Programs are the whole of activities implemented for a certain period of time and in a way to cover certain areas in order to support the establishment of partnership awareness by developing cooperation between countries, to contribute to the implementation of EU policies and legislation and to produce common solutions to the problems faced by the Union. Citizens, businesses, non-governmental organizations and public institutions have the opportunity to participate in the Unity Programs.

Union Programs also make important contributions to the studies of candidate countries in the field of legislative harmonization and implementation. Programs come into force with the approval of the European Parliament and the European Council. A significant part of the programs operate with a “Call system”. “Project Calls” are published under the programs and those who can meet certain conditions according to the nature of the call can submit proposals and project proposals to these calls. These processes are carried out by the Commission General Directorate related to each Program or by the agencies affiliated to this General Directorate.


There are many programs and sub-activities within the scope of mutual opportunities offered by the European Union. European Union programs; While it offers young people studying at university the opportunity to study at a different country, it supports the mobility, non-formal education and intercultural dialogue of young people aged 17-30 in the broadest sense, and encourages their participation regardless of their educational, social and cultural backgrounds. It also supports projects and activities carried out by young people on their own initiative.

EU Programs provide important contributions to young people to get to know and promote foreign cultures and their own cultures, and to acquire social and cultural skills. In this context, it provides the opportunity to develop international or local projects or to participate in activities and projects carried out in EU countries and to carry out various activities in their countries. Young people can benefit from projects or activities that fit their activities as individuals and through youth organisations, official institutions, non-governmental organizations and informal youth groups (at least 4 young people).

Detailed information and explanations about these opportunities are listed below. Candidate learners who want to take advantage of these opportunities can read the contents and learn more about the opportunities related to the specified links.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Higher Education Internship

 It is the process of obtaining vocational training and/or gaining work experience in a business or organization abroad for a student registered in a higher education institution. Internship activity is the student's obtaining practical work experience in the field of vocational education.

Internship Mobility aims to increase students' basic and professional knowledge, skills and competence; to increase their foreign language proficiency; understand the importance of social, linguistic and cultural diversity by strengthening intercultural dialogue; aims to actively participate in democratic life and the labor market.

In order to take advantage of the internship mobility opportunity, one must be a full-time student at any of the education levels (associate, undergraduate, graduate and doctorate) within a higher education institution.

Internship Mobility activity period is two months for students.

You can apply for internship mobility applications from the official websites of the universities they are studying in each academic year.

If your internship mobility application is approved by your university, you must find an institution/organization suitable for the vocational field you are studying in order to do internship.

Within the scope of internship mobility, you will be able to receive an EU grant for your travel and subsistence expenses during the period you spend abroad. The grant amounts foreseen by the European Commission are included in the Erasmus+ Program guide published every year. You can find this guide on the websites of the National Agencies in your country and the official website of the European Commission. You can get other detailed information about the internship from the Erasmus offices of your university.

To find an internship place, you can check the Erasmus Student Network's (ESN) which aims to bring together students seeking internships and businesses seeking interns. Please click the button.



Success Stories...



I am Şeyma, I am from Konya. I graduated from Meram Faculty of Medicine in 2021. I am currently working as a general practitioner in an institution. As long as I can remember, I love to explore new places to see new places, to experience the diversity of the earth and people, and to get to know the planet as closely as possible.

With the medical faculty, my interest in the map of the earth shifted to the map within us, and the geography atlas was replaced by the anatomy atlas. Both were actually reducing the marvelous complexity of nature to an understandable and manageable simplicity. However, I did not give up my love of geography in the midst of the intensity of the medical school. I still take care to explore different places and get to know different cultures from time to time. I participated in the ERASMUS+ Internship program. I was lucky enough to benefit from the Erasmus+ experience twice. First of all, I did an internship at Cambridge University, Department of Cardiovascular Research in England in the 3rd year of the university. The following year, I had the opportunity to do my second internship at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Pathology department in Germany in the 4th grade.

I was lucky enough to benefit from the Erasmus+ experience twice. First of all, I did an internship at Cambridge University, Department of Cardiovascular Research in England in the 3rd year of the university. The following year, I had the opportunity to do my second internship at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Pathology department in Germany in the 4th grade.

First of all, the thought of leaving the society in which a person has lived since birth and going to a place where he does not know the language and culture exactly, and does not even know how to get on the bus, creates a great anxiety at first. In fact, sometimes this anxiety reaches such a level that it can even prevent us from going on the road, but when the sense of curiosity and learning dominates, one starts out somehow. From that moment on, an inward and outward journey begins. In this journey, I learned to be a self-sufficient individual in life, to start from the zero point and come to the point where I have been living there for years. I learned to be stubborn in the face of difficulties when things didn't go the way I wanted because, as Mevlana said, "thorns that prick my feet are the harbinger of the approaching rose garden." I gained good networks academically. I made friendships that I could look for when I went to a different country.

The process of participating in these European Opportunities brings great changes both spiritually and physically. The first step of this starts with stepping out of our comfort zone. That is, if we eat the same things at the same time every day and do the same movements all the time, some problems begin to appear in the body. For example, children who grow up walking on flat ground in the city experience balance system problems. Since there is no bump, the system is not warned and this system does not develop when it is not warned. So is the brain. If we don't force it, it will shrink. It develops as you learn new words, travel to different places and listen to people's life stories. After taking advantage of the Internship mobility, which is one of the European Union programs, I felt that I grew up as I got to know different countries and cultures, I became more confident and more courageous in the face of opportunities.

In both activities I participated in at the university, there were things I learned and the habits and awareness that they gave me.

Both of my internship mobility contributed greatly to my professional knowledge and career. In addition, I had the chance to do my job in a different country and to work with my colleagues in different countries. In addition to this, while getting the chance to get to know different cultures; I developed feelings of tolerance, respect, empathy. The thing that impressed me most from these two activities was that there was a strong business discipline in Germany. Work starts at 8 o'clock and at that time everyone is at work; they had their breakfast, drank their tea and coffee and were ready to work and tried to do their job in the best way. After witnessing this, I realized that we should be like that and started to act like that.

Apart from all these, I met many different people, saw places I didn't even know existed, and listened to music. Each of them added a new self to my character, and while my love and respect for humanity and diversity increased, my motivation and willingness to work towards what I wanted to do increased.

Success Stories...



In the places I went with this project, I met people with similar life goals as me. From this union, beautiful projects and friendships were born. We touched many lives and perhaps we left beautiful traces without even realizing it. After my return, I experienced faster progress in the academic field. I was able to get reference and support more easily from my teachers. Like the waves of water created by a stone thrown into a river, this effect expanded as it expanded. When I was 23, I was able to travel to 9 countries with the support of the project, although my family did not have enough financial means. I have tasted the beauty of being a citizen of the world. When I returned to my country after the difficulties I experienced there, I realized that the problems here were not as difficult as before, and I started to progress faster in life.




Şeyma Acaroğlu

Cambridge University, England
Higher Education Internship

Charité Universitätsmedizin, Germany
Higher Education Internship

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Vocational Education Internship

 With the learner mobility in vocational education, the development of the skills and competencies of the learners who attend the basic vocational education programs (vocational and technical secondary education students and vocational trainees) and the learners who attend the continuing vocational education programs abroad is supported. With this activity, it is aimed to provide vocational development opportunities to vocational education learners.

There are three different types of learner mobility:

- Participation in skill competitions (1 to 10 days)
- Short-term learning mobility of basic or continuing vocational education learners (10 to 89 days)
- Long-term learning mobility of basic or continuing VET learners (ErasmusPro) (90 to 365 days)

Basic or continuing vocational education learners can spend a learning period abroad in a business or vocational training institution.

Learning mobilities should be strongly work-based and an individual learning program (achievements to be achieved) should be defined for each participant.

The target audience of this activity are learners who are continuing basic vocational education training (iVET) or continuing vocational education training (cVET) programs and personnel responsible for vocational education (teachers, trainers, international mobility officers, staff with management and guidance roles). Learners must be enrolled in a basic or continuing professional education program. Basic or continuing vocational education learners can participate in mobility abroad for up to 12 months after their graduation.


Duration of the activity: From 1 day to 365 days for learners; For personnel, it can be from 2 days to 365 days. The durations vary according to the type of activity.

**If you want to access
Erasmus Vocational Education
Internship website, please click the
button.**

HERE

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Higher Education Opportunities

 With this activity, it is aimed that higher education students experience the educational environment in a different country and increase their achievements by taking education in a higher education institution located in the program countries in a part of their education life. This opportunity allows higher education students to study at a higher education institution abroad.

The target audience of this activity is the students and staff of higher education institutions studying in formal education programs at all levels (associate, undergraduate, graduate, doctorate).

Duration of the activity: For students (Associate Degree, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate); for a minimum of 2 months and a maximum of 12 months, for Personnel (Academic and Administrative); It can be from 2 days to 2 months. In mixed mobility and short-term doctoral mobility for students, physical activity can be carried out from a minimum of 5 days to a maximum of 30 days.

The institution where the learning mobility will be carried out must meet the following 2 conditions.

- Being a Higher Education Institution with ECHE, and
- An inter-institutional agreement must be made between the higher education institution and your university

Daily grant support is provided to the selected student in amounts determined by the European Commission according to the country of destination.

The grant given to the student benefiting from the student learning mobility is a contribution. Supports provided by countries are included in the application announcements published by the Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinatorship.

For Erasmus+ inter-institutional agreements of your universities, you can get information from the Erasmus Coordinatorship of your university.

Success Stories...



Hello, we would like to get to know you a little bit. Can you briefly introduce yourself?

HELLO, I'M ALIME BEYZA TEZEL, I was born in Konya (Turkey) in 1996. I graduated from Selçuk University Landscape Architecture Department in 2018. Now I am working as a Landscape Architect in a private company.

Which program\Programs did you benefit from within the scope of European Opportunities?

I BENEFITED from the Youth Exchange and the education program I attended in the 2nd year of the university that changed my professional life.

Which country did you go to for this education program that changed and improved your professional life? Which university did you study at?

I HAD the opportunity to study at UTP University in Poland for 6 months.

Well, what features/qualifications did you gain in this learning program that you benefited from?

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I had the opportunity to go abroad alone, to lead my own life in a place I have never known, and this gave me self-confidence. My self-confidence has increased tremendously. During my stay abroad, I had the opportunity to get to know myself. Since there were students from many European countries at the university I went to, I made friends with people from different languages and cultures. Getting education from professors abroad has changed my perspective. This process gave me professional benefits. By participating in this program, I had the opportunity to teach in a multicultural environment that I could not obtain anywhere else. While getting to know different cultures, I actually became aware of my own culture, and I had the opportunity to tell my country's culture to many different friends from different parts of Europe. This was my pride. On the other hand, while I was a student at a different school, I had the opportunity to see a different education system. Thanks to all the professors I met during my Erasmus Internship, my academic and professional connections became stronger after my education.

How would you describe Beyza before she joined the program and Beyza after she joined the program?

BEFORE THE PROJECT, I was looking at my own little world. After the project, I saw the world through the eyes of others, felt the differences by experiencing them. I realized myself.

You mentioned that you benefit from youth exchange and learning programs. Well, after taking advantage of these opportunities, can you share with us a story that you saw successful in your life?

AFTER GRADUATING FROM SCHOOL, I found many job opportunities. Although the job opportunities of my department were low, job offers came after I graduated. I gave two conferences about my Erasmus experiences at my university. It was an incredibly good experience for me to tell students or young people as much as possible and to encourage them.

Do you have anything you want to say to young people who want to participate in Erasmus learning here?

OF COURSE. Read a lot, travel a lot and learn a lot. Combine your knowledge with your experience. After reading this, run to the Erasmus Offices at your university immediately and get information to benefit from the program.



Success Stories...




Alime Beyza Tezel

UTP University, Poland
Erasmus+ Higher Education

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Exchange

 **YOUTH EXCHANGE** activities are one of the European Union opportunities that allow young people from different countries and cultures to exchange ideas and views on a predetermined topic. When you take part in youth exchange projects, you participate in workshops, trainings, group work and outdoor activities on a particular theme with your peers from other program countries or neighboring partner countries.

Being a student for youth exchanges, being a university graduate, knowing a foreign language, having a green passport, etc. There are no conditions. Anyone in this age range, including 13-30 years old, can benefit from this program as a participant. In addition, each country's participant group is accompanied by a group leader over the age of 18. There is no upper age limit (30 years old limit) for group leaders. Youth exchanges take place with the gathering of partners (youth group, youth association, etc.) from at least 2 programs or neighboring partner countries, and at least 16 and maximum 60 participants, excluding group leaders, can participate in an activity at the same time.

Project partners (youth group, youth association, etc.) participate in activities by forming groups of young people from their own country. The duration of these activities can vary between 5-21 days. In addition, the participants who will take part in the project are provided with travel, accommodation, meals, visas, etc. Financial support is provided for their expenses.

Youth Exchanges; to develop your competencies; raise awareness of socially relevant issues/thematic areas; discovering new cultures, habits and lifestyles, especially through peer learning; It provides opportunities to strengthen values such as solidarity, democracy and friendship.

Youth Exchanges support mobility, non-formal education and intercultural dialogue within and beyond the EU borders and encourage the participation of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background. Thus, it provides important contributions to young people to get to know and promote foreign cultures and their own cultures, and to acquire social and cultural skills. In this context, it provides the opportunity to develop international or local projects or to participate in activities and projects carried out in EU countries and to carry out various activities in our country. Therefore, you can benefit from projects or activities that fit your own activities, through youth organizations, official institutions, non-governmental organizations and informal youth groups (at least 4 young people) and as an individual.

Within the scope of this mobility opportunity, you can participate in projects abroad as well as carry out international projects in the country. For this, you can apply for a project to your national agency in your own country (for example, Turkish National Agency <https://www.ua.gov.tr/>)

If you want to be involved in youth exchange mobility as a participant, you can follow the relevant social media groups and pages, as well as search for projects suitable for you by visiting the website <https://www.salto-youth.net/> In addition, you can get detailed information on the subject from the European Information Network, EURODESK, which provides information about European opportunities for young people in the fields of education and youth, and the participation of young people in European activities.

In addition to benefiting from this mobility individually or on behalf of your institutions with any partnership, if you want to carry out this activity in your country as a coordinator, a youth group operating in the field of youth work, whether within a youth organization or not). Alternatively, you can apply for projects by choosing one of the 2 application periods determined by the European Commission. For this, you can follow the website of the National Agencies in your country.

Success Stories...

I AM MELIKE SILA ACAR, I was born in 1996 in Konya, Turkey. I completed my undergraduate degree at Selçuk University, Department of Architecture. During my undergraduate life, I did volunteer activities in Konya Metropolitan Municipality Youth Council.

I met European Opportunities in the 3rd year of my university and participated in the Youth Exchange program through the institution I volunteered for.

THIS YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM I attended was a 10-day cultural project that combined art with entrepreneurship. Our project took place in Portugal with a total of 30 participants from 6 different countries. This project represents my firsts in every way. It's my first time to go to a place away from my family, my first project experience, my first abroad experience and firstly having friends in different languages and cultures.

IN THIS YOUTH EXCHANGE project I participated in, I had the opportunity to participate in many cultural and artistic field studies, so it gave me different perspectives about my architecture department. Thanks to this program, I gained organizational skills, language and awareness. This project and the many European Union projects I participated in afterwards helped shape my worldview for the rest of my life. Both the friendships I gained and the theoretical knowledge contributed to my personal development by improving my problem-solving skills. It also helped me learn more about cities and cultures.

AFTER MY UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION, I continued my master's degree at Ibn Haldun University in order to deepen my research. Then I started my doctorate education at Yıldız Technical University. Now, I am continuing my doctorate and I am trying to contribute to the culture and architecture of the region as a Specialist Architect at the Dicle Development Agency.

Success Stories...




Melike Sıla Acar

Lisbon, Portugal
Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Workers Mobility

 This activity offers groups of young people the opportunity to meet with their peers and learn about each other's cultures. However, regardless of age, it supports the training of active people in youth work and organizations, carrying out activities that will enable the formation of partnerships and networks. It is implemented under the name of Youth Workers' Mobility activities.

Youth Worker Mobility programs can participate in the project as a group on behalf of your institution, or you can benefit from this mobility by making your individual applications on the website called

SALTOYOUTH and you access this website through tap or click on the button below the page. Youth Workers Mobility activities are attended from more than one country at the same time.

The duration of the activity is a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 21 days, excluding travel days. In order to benefit from mobility, you must be over 18 years old without any age limit.

According to the program rules, the following supports are provided to the participants selected for Youth Worker Mobility. Generally, these supports are offered to the participant as a service, not directly in cash. The decision authority on this matter belongs to the project coordinators/coordinators. For this reason, the participants cannot demand a cash budget from the coordinators of the project for the following supports.

TRAVEL SUPPORT

You will be paid for your international travel expenses to and from the country where the project will take place. When you are accepted to the project, the host institution usually expects you to buy the round-trip ticket and when you arrive at the project site, you will receive the original ticket, invoice, boarding pass, etc. pays you in exchange for documents. These payments can be made while you are in the project, or 3-4 months after the activities are completed in some projects. Travel supports are not unlimited. There are budget limits for round trips according to certain km range. If you exceed these limits, you are expected to cover the difference. It is calculated per person according to the distance between the starting point and the place where the activity takes place, via the Distance Band Calculator provided by the European Commission. You can tap or click on the button below the page to redirect in Distance Calculator website

ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT

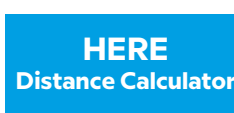
Accommodation support is provided to you during the activity program for any Youth Worker Mobility project that you will participate in at home or abroad. Accommodation, dates etc. details are organized by the host organization of the project and the details of the accommodation are shared with you before the activity period. When you take part in Youth Worker Mobility, you must stay in the accommodation indicated by the host organization during the activity program and fully participate in the entire program. This support is provided only during the life of the project.

MEAL SUPPORT

In Youth Worker Mobility projects, such as accommodation support, your three meals during the activity program are also covered by the host organization from the project budget.

VISA SUPPORT

When you are accepted to a project, all visa costs are covered from the project budget. The cost of issuing a passport is not included. The application fee you pay during the visa process to go to the country where the project will take place, the translation fees, the costs of the intermediary institution, your health insurance costs (if you need to have a separate insurance, etc.), and the transportation costs you make to obtain a visa are examples of these. Invoices, receipts, receipts, etc. you have received for all these expenses you have made. You have to deliver the originals of the documents to the organization (host or sender) that will pay you. The only exception to visa support is that the institution managing the project budget did not specify this cost at the project application stage. For this reason, please inform in advance whether you will receive visa support for the projects you have been accepted for and the limit of this support amount.



Success Stories...



Hello, we would like to get to know you a little bit. Can you briefly introduce yourself?

I am Ayhan ESMEK, I was born in 1993 in Gaziantep. I spent the summer months of my childhood in Gaziantep as an apprentice. In some summers, I worked as an ironer at a curtain tailor. In some summers, I was helping the elders working in the slipper manufacturing workshops with their bring-and-take jobs. I continued these works until I met Gaziantep Youth and Culture House. After meeting with Gaziantep Youth and Culture House, I started volunteering in social awareness projects. After a while, I started to take responsibility in projects. Then I worked as a project coordinator and mentor at Gaziantep Education and Youth Association. Since 2016, I have been working in Jerusalem in the field of humanitarian aid at FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

You are currently working in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO), but what effect did the previous European Union work have on your current position?

January of 2016 was the beginning of the story where I left youth work behind and stepped into the humanitarian field. I worked with a new field through my partners while carrying out Erasmus+ projects and Youth Studies. This area was the Humanitarian Aid area. I always knew the name FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) from agricultural issues, but I never thought that one day I would be the Operations Officer of FAO Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Aid activities. Our paths crossed with FAO and now I suddenly found myself among a humanitarian team working hard to solve agriculture and livestock problems rather than our local social problems. It was a very different source of pride for me to see myself as a United Nations employee years later, following the second spark that formed in me in the GAP (Southeast Anatolia Project) Administration. It was one of the turning points in my history to go to the GAP Administration as a Youth House beneficiary in those days and to go back with the FAO delegation years later. One day, one of the representatives of the institutions we work with in Syria said to me, "You don't give us fish, you teach us how to fish." When he said that, I felt how much the work I was doing helped the people in the field. This situation reminded me of the logic I had acquired in my previous volunteering work in Greece. In this institution, I have been involved in all areas of the executive and have developed myself in many different areas, and now I am running the program and operational activities as a crazy humanitarian aid worker.



Can you tell us about which European Opportunities you benefited from as a youth worker?

First time I participated in the volunteering program in Greece, which was then called European Voluntary Service (EVS). Then it continued with youth exchanges and trainings. The main thing has been the training courses I have attended, which have greatly contributed to my professional development.

Ayhan Esmek

Sousse, Tunisia
Youth Workers Mobility

Success Stories...

Which countries have you been to with these programs?

I have visited many European countries such as Greece, Spain, Italy, Germany, Tunisia with programs.

Well, how would you describe Ayhan before taking advantage of European Opportunities and Ayhan after taking advantage of European Opportunities?

I believe that I can be a good example for those who are considering taking advantage of these opportunities. My education life passed with many limitations due to both the school I went to and the city I lived in. When I was in high school, at the age of 16, I started to look for opportunities and ways to improve myself and I met Gaziantep Youth and Culture House/Association. The new era of my life began there. I have been involved in many volunteering projects, large and small. At that time, I started as an 18-year-old young Ayhan voluntarily and gained my current title by gaining a lot of work experience.

After the training courses and youth exchanges I attended, 29-year-old Ayhan is now a young man with social circles in 81 cities in Turkey and all over Europe. Ayhan has become a more self-confident young man who can find solutions to social problems, and who can express himself in two languages except his mother tongue (Turkish). These opportunities, which Ayhan took, allowed him to gain skills such as teamwork, effective use of time, and disciplined and planned work.

I currently work for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). I achieved my dream, but that doesn't mean I have to stop improving myself. I look forward to improving myself and working hard for all tasks in my life.

What changes do you see as successful in your life after participating in the Program/Project?

When I was young, I had great difficulties in my life and I never thought of giving up to learn something in these difficulties. Frankly, my life has changed with youth projects, I have improved my personal and professional skills from A to Z with the training courses I attended.

I was a volunteer, a youth worker, and then I started humanitarian work with UNFAO for the Syria crisis. Now I am working as International Operations Specialist for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip office (in Jerusalem). I am responsible for the field office in Gaza as the vice president. I am proud to represent my country and my family abroad by working at the UN.



Finally, do you have any suggestions for new volunteers and youth workers?

European Union projects play an important role in my success in my professional life. With these projects I developed my skills and used them in my professional career at the UN. My advice to new volunteers would be to follow their dreams and never give up. Let them make the most of the European Opportunities. Let them participate in all training courses that they believe will improve themselves. Then success will come automatically.

Ayhan Esmek

**Field Operation
UN FAO Operation Consultancy**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

National Volunteering Opportunities

They are full-time free events lasting 2-12 months, and in some cases 2 weeks or more, that allow young people to help with the day-to-day work of organizations. Young people can volunteer in projects involving social inclusion, environment, culture and other issues in their home country.

Young people between the ages of 18-30 can benefit from National Volunteering opportunities.

Provided that the project is selected at the application stage, the projects are between 3 months and 24 months. The activity period is between 2 months (60 days excluding travel days) -12 months. The activity period can start from 2 weeks (excluding travel days) in projects where young people with fewer opportunities participate. Activity duration for volunteer teams is between 2 weeks and 2 months (up to 59 days excluding travel days). The duration of the activity for the preliminary visit is a maximum of 2 days (excluding travel days).

In order to take part in all country-based projects of the European National Volunteering Program, young people must complete the registration process described in the following processes.

For all activities of the European National Volunteering Program young people are required to register on the European Youth Portal. Young people can search for volunteering opportunities suitable for them on the portal. Young people can register on the portal at the age of 17, but cannot start any project until the age of 18. The projects of the European National Volunteering Program cover the 18-30 age group. Young people who are members of the European Youth Portal will be given a 10-digit Participant Reference Number (PRN) code through the system. This code will be used by the applicant in the European National Volunteering Program projects that young people want to take part in, at the stage of filling out the application form, during the selection of participants and at the final report stage.

Youth; After registering on the European National Volunteering Program, they can take part in a project, if deemed appropriate by the organizations, by sending their CV and motivation letters to the organizations. The list of organizations with a Quality Certificate (Accredited) can be accessed by certain filtering methods on the relevant page.

**For more information please
touch/click on the button**

**EUROPEAN
YOUTH
PORTAL**



Success Stories...



I am Burak TATLI, I was born in Gaziantep and I am 23 years old. I am at Düzce University Foreign Trade department. I was first introduced to European Union youth opportunities through European Solidarity Programs (ESC).

I work as an activity and social media manager in a Non-Governmental Organization. I love exploring new places, talking to people and getting to know new cultures. All of these are among the things that support me in making volunteering a lifestyle. Now on to my story of volunteering... As a child, I always dreamed of being rich and helping people. But when I grew up, I realized that desire is more important than money in these jobs. When I started University in 2020, I had bad processes, I had health problems. In the same year, just as my life was getting worse, I met the European Solidarity Program, which is one of the opportunities of the European Union.

In these projects, I volunteered in the national volunteering program with international volunteers. When I joined the volunteering program, I was introduced to the concept of youth work. I was getting more excited as the information I learned and the experiences I gained increased. With this excitement, I applied to the institution I volunteered for and expressed that I wanted to take more responsibility. So this is how my journey began. Thanks to European Opportunities, I learned to respect people by breaking down my prejudices. I learned to listen to people, and most importantly, I learned to align with people's troubles. Now, with our foreign volunteers who came to our country with the European Solidarity Program, we share what we have learned with children and our peers. My goal; The concept of volunteering, which I met with the European Solidarity Program, is to spread volunteerism both in our country and in the world.



Success Stories...



Burak Tatlı

Gaziantep, TÜRKİYE
National Volunteering

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

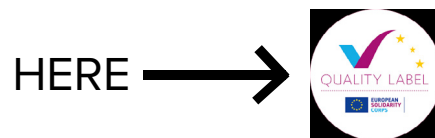
International Volunteering Opportunities

International volunteering opportunities; It is a new European Union initiative that aims to meet societal needs, while promoting the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of young people, while creating opportunities for them to volunteer, work or network in projects that benefit society abroad.

International volunteer programs run by the European Commission bring young people together to build a more inclusive society, support vulnerable people and respond to societal challenges. The program provides an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and improve.

Volunteering programs are one of the free European Union opportunities for young people aged 17-30 that allow organizations to help with their day-to-day work.

Within the scope of this opportunity, you can take advantage of two types of opportunities, individual volunteering and volunteer teams in projects involving social inclusion, environment, culture and other issues in the program countries or one of the neighboring partner countries. In order to take part in the volunteering project, institutions/organizations must have a quality certificate. You can reach the list of organizations with quality certificates by using the link below.



The activity period of volunteering programs is between 2 months (60 days excluding travel days) -12 months. The activity period can start from 2 weeks (excluding travel days) in projects where young people with fewer opportunities participate. Activity duration for volunteer teams is between 2 weeks and 2 months (up to 59 days excluding travel days).

Volunteering projects are free. No fee is charged for your applications. The supports provided to the volunteers by the National Agencies within the scope of the program are listed below.

Travel Support: You will be paid for your round-trip travel expenses to the country where the project will take place. When you are accepted to the project, the host institution usually expects you to buy the outbound ticket and when you arrive at the project site, you will receive the original ticket, invoice, boarding pass, etc. pays you in exchange for documents.

Accommodation Support: The host institution provides you with voluntary home, dormitory or homestay support. In addition, this accommodation place electricity, water, heating, etc. The costs are also borne by the host institution.

Meal Support: Often you will be paid a small fee for this and asked to cover your 3 meals a day. Instead, the host institution can provide you with 3 meals directly. Or it can be in cases such as paying for two meals and providing one meal directly (for example, lunch in the office). Some establishments can also buy you groceries directly.

Health Insurance: If you are accepted to volunteer projects, you will benefit from a special health, travel and third-party liability insurance for the duration of your activity within the scope of the program. Insurance support is provided free of charge.

Visa Support: When you are accepted to a project, all of your visa and residence permit expenses are covered from the project budget. The cost of issuing a passport is not included. The application fee you pay during the visa process to go to the country where the project will take place, the translation fees, the costs of the intermediary institution, your health insurance costs (if you need to have a separate insurance, etc.), the transportation costs you have made to obtain a visa (for example, if you need to go to Ankara or Istanbul, etc.) are examples of these. Invoices, receipts, receipts, etc. you have received for all these expenses you have made. You have to deliver the originals of the documents to the organization (host or sender) that will pay you. In addition, if you need to apply for a residence permit other than a visa after you go to that country, these costs are covered within the scope of the project. The only exception to visa support is that the institution managing the project budget did not specify this cost at the project application stage. For example, some organizations only apply for projects by anticipating that they will receive volunteers from EU member states, and therefore they do not request a visa budget for their projects. For this reason, please inform in advance whether you will receive visa support for the projects you have been accepted for and the limit of this support amount.

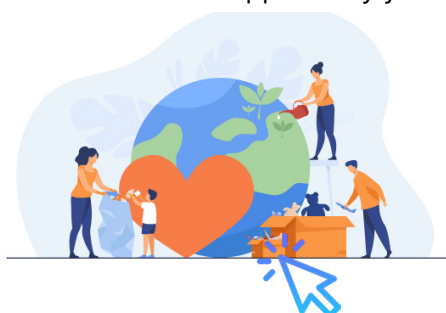
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

International Volunteering Opportunities

Language Education Support: Within the scope of the volunteering program, you are expected to attend the language course of the country you go to (eg German in Germany, dialect in Poland, etc.) for at least 3 months. This language course is also provided to you free of charge by the host institution. The language course can be provided free of charge by a youth worker at the host institution, or by a professional language course or private trainer.

Pocket Money Support: In addition to all the above support in volunteering projects, you are also paid monthly pocket money. This payment includes accommodation, meals, local transportation, etc. You are expected to use it only for your personal expenses, not for your expenses. The amount of pocket money varies from country to country and is calculated on a daily basis.

Young people who want to participate in volunteering activities abroad can take part in the ongoing projects of institutions and organizations. If you want to find an opportunity you can click or tap on image below.



You can find projects in all countries from the search engine on this website. In this search engine, you can search for projects by country, duration, type of work. To participate in a volunteering project, you must find one quality certified host organization and one sending organisation. Once you have found suitable projects for you, a CV and motivation letter should be sent for the project you will apply for.

If you want to create Europass CV and Motivation Letter, you can tap or click on the logo below



Success Stories...



My EVS was held in Turkey, in the city of Gaziantep. The subjects involved in the program were: disadvantaged youth, immigration issues, disadvantaged children, gender equality, environment.

This project helped me to better understand how the non-profit sector works. From logistics to communication, from writing projects to having the opportunity to participate in training with other associations, and most importantly, coordinating volunteers and making the most of everyone's knowledge to create a common project by putting together effort to carry out projects for the benefit of most disadvantaged the social sectors, always learning from each others in a horizontal way.

In addition, this project has given me the space and opportunity necessary to express my creativity skills and insight, through activities involving art courses for adults and kids, video-making for social campaign and storytelling for NGOs in order to promote social integration among international volunteers and different sectors of the local society. Moreover, with the promotion and the teaching of English language as a means of mutual knowledge and the exchange of social values, I collaborate with various local governmental and non-governmental association as well as village schools around Gaziantep.

I approached this project because I felt that my knowledge, both personal and deriving from my studies at university, and my attitude to teamwork for a social purpose needed a place in which to be put into practice.

I would say that learning by doing is the key to change for a more effective empowering of the youngsters: you can be prepared about theory, but you need to practice how to make timely decisions within the respect and the agreement of others, in order to reach a common and fair goal.

Also, since sharing is caring, I have found out that sharing one's knowledge means empowering and giving back to the community, in whatever country that knowledge will be delivered.

So that, after the project, I naturally felt able to start with my NGO, an independent project in which I dedicated myself and my skills, more confident in what I want to do, more convinced of what I can do, and more motivated to learn what I haven't learned yet.

It may seem obvious, but I believe that personal reflections that arise from living in a country other than your own should never be taken for granted. Personal change arises precisely from knowing how to draw on new options that a different culture, a different way of seeing the world, a different organization, even of work, can inspire us.



Success Stories...

GEGED's learning by doing approach gave me the impetus and the necessary support to understand that I could create a non-profit organisation myself offering my knowledge to those who need the most, and that could become my job.

Thanks to the variety of activities offered by my host organisation, I was able to understand the nuances related to a context of mass immigration, what solutions exist to promote social cohesion and how to implement them.

Please share with us a story that you see as successful in your life after the project.*

I am happy to say that my story is a success first and foremost for the benefit of the local society.

After my volunteering experience with European Solidarity Corps at GEGED, I decided to remain and live in Gaziantep to work on my project: together with a team of Italians, Syrians and Turks, I created a small NGO that offers supportive education for children Syrian refugees in Turkey, I'll tell you how it happened.

Still at the beginning of my EVS volunteer path, I met a small NGO located not very far from my host organisation. It was involved in education activity for refugee children, but it was on the verge of bankruptcy due to lack of funds and mismanagement. The aim of the organisation was precious, but the stuff working in there was leaving elsewhere and wanted to quit.

At the beginning it looked kind of a crazy idea to try to help this small NGO or, even crazier, build another one from scratch. After, I understood that, yes, it wasn't easy, but it was definitely worthy.

In fact, in the meantime, thanks to the EVS volunteering path, I was learning everything that is necessary for the life of an NGO in this specific social context, in which young people have few opportunities, even just to meet foreigners to speak English and exchange opinions with, in which there are many immigrants coming from a context of civil war, and many young people with few hope trying to leave looking for a better place.

Working on many GEGED's projects, I learned that I could change something, I could help someone by teaching English and art, painting and drawing, one of my greatest passions.

So that, I decided to continue.

Networking with friends from local community and other volunteers, who are now also my colleagues, we connected the dots of each other skills: someone could write educational programs, someone else knew how to teach, someone a subject, someone else another subject, there were those who knew how to search funds, someone else proficient in finding communication strategies and contents, others involved in learning monitoring process, translations and so on.

We rolled up our sleeves and build again the educational center that was closing, calling it Kids Rainbow.

We have literally renovated the building with our own hands, not only from the management, the relationship of trust with the beneficiaries, looking for the necessary funds, but also learning to work as bricklayers!



“

While drawing, painting and experimenting together, I see my little students learning and practicing one of the most beautiful values that we have, freedom of expression.

”

GIULIA BERNACCHI
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

With Kids Rainbow, now I work in an education center with more than 40 Syrian refugee children aged from 6 to 12. With my team I support their primary education with non-formal education methods, not only consolidating Turkish language, but also their mother tongue, Arabic. In the meantime we take care of the environment, we look at the map and we learn geography, we get known with the history of art and we paint with our emotions and our imagination. I must say that it is not only the children who learn from me, I also learn a lot from them, for example about languages, both Arabic and Turkish!

Success Stories...

Our project also aims to empower the local community, including both Syrians and Turks in management and implementation, as well as enhancing the role of teachers coming from a refugee background.

Soon, we will start a project dedicated to the history of art that unites the Mediterranean countries, understanding that the mosaic, symbol of the city of Gaziantep, which represent a common artistic root for Syrians, Turks and also for Italians. During the project we will visit the local museum and get inspired to create our own mosaic series, and I can't wait to get started!

It was more than effective, it was essential. Through this project I acquired the necessary skills, support and motivation to develop my own project for empowering the local community.

The team of my host organisation gave me constant support in a friendly and collaborative environment, with practical advices, specific trainings and a lot of space for creativity and innovation, always promoting creative solutions for different kind of issues.

Thanks to GEGED's support I learnt how to program and manage activities, how to coordinate volunteers, team building and team working, fair communication and transparency, as well as motivation for my personal projects. In addition, I was provided with extensive and engaging trainings about forms and methods of gamification and non-formal education, networking and collaboration with other local NGOs, allowing me to experience different types of activities, in order to understand which ones are most suitable for me.



Giulia Bernacchi

Italy

Gaziantep, TÜRKİYE

International Volunteering

Success Stories...

I had my EVS voluntary project in Gaziantep/Turkey. I have been a volunteer at the project related to activities against xenophobia and empowering disadvantaged youth and refugees.

Firstly I have participated in a short term project project, after my successful contribution I had a chance to come back for a long term project, in total I've spend 1 year of voluntary in Gaziantep Training and Youth Association. During the project I become aware of the definition of voluntary, what is dedication, what is life being in international team, project implementation duties, I had a chance to develop my leadership skills, my self confidence in society, my self organizing skills in any work I do, my self initiative, communication in intercultural community, team building, working in a team, respecting the environment I live in, being in solidarity with each other, dealing with crisis management and problem solving. I had a chance to know more about humanitarian field work and its missions in Gaziantep province.

Before the project, a master degree graduated youngster without much knowledge of volunteering abroad and youth work, willing to learn new environment, culture and new network. I was without experience in work with kids, refugees and disadvantaged youth. After the project I become an experienced volunteer with the leadership skills, confidence, familiar with youth work and humanitarian organizations. Learned new language, large network of successful youth, successful implementation of project activities, positive relation with the other volunteers; I had ideas about project management, time management throughout the project duration, created own workshops, involved the other colleagues to it. My horizons become wider, it made me a happy motivated youngster who look forward to move on and keeping up the developing process.



Become more confident in myself, more active being citizen, quick learner, able to listen and analyse the situation with further solutions, gained problem-solving skills, ability to work in a team and under the pressure, improved communication skills due to large amount of activities, volunteers, our target group participants, when you manage all of it you feel satisfied of work you do, that made me so as well. Moreover being open minded after the project has given to me more opportunities in life, particularly in my career and life vision. In my private life also I had seen benefits of knowing how to listen people, setting up a dialogue and relation with people, finding a common point from all the sides.

Success Stories...

After my successful voluntary project I had a chance to be a leader, to be a mentor and decision maker. I became able to lead my own projects, with successful implementation, evaluation and dissemination, involved the other youth and gave them a chance to develop their life skills, helped them to discover themselves and see the potential, to believe and be a self-confident in any new beginning actions in life. Moreover after my voluntary projects I had many positive changes in my daily life, reduced habits, became more aware of what is civil society, how it is important to be an active citizen in our daily life and I started another page of my life. Own initiatives, which I developed during the voluntary project, which were appreciated by my hosting crew, opened the doors for me in my next life steps. I established my own company, which is focusing on opportunities for youth and education abroad in order to keep giving to youth motivation and building lives, as they want to.

I would say it was more than just effective, I dedicated myself to project and my hosting organization, I was in close touch with my project leaders, who gave me opportunities to learn many things, culture, language, practical things, living abroad skills, I led the activities with kids and youth, my communication became better, as I became more open-minded person, I raised up my potential, my abilities, moreover I show up my ambitious to the world, found new friends with whom still cooperating and happy for that. I have to say a big thank to Gaziantep Training and Youth Association, its crew and all the network of people who live with it, for such a professional approach to us as volunteers. My views and life become with wider horizons and I'm proud of it.



Ignat Krupnytskyi Ukraine

Gaziantep, TÜRKİYE
International Volunteering

Success Stories...



My name is Mustafa Öztürk, 28 years old, from Gaziantep, Turkey and currently living in Athens Greece. I study Electric and Electronic Technician in Gaziantep University and work in many companies. Now I am working as a team leader at an international technology company in Greece.

I met with European Opportunities when I was 21 through EVS European Voluntary Service and did my EVS Volunteering in Mladinski center Krško, in Slovenia. I stayed there for 51 days and my project was about shooting short movie. Project was about record a short movie with 10 people who is coming from Turkey.

Initially I had no idea about recording video on the professional camera, making a story for the movie that you purposing to create. How to edit videos in the high capacity computers merge them and arrange the sound, create a short movie.



Basically I have learned how to record video on the professional camera and how to use camera holder on your shoulder with out and vibrations and moving on at the correct position. I learned how to work as a team and been organise with my team members due to project scope. After my Evs adventure, I was a different person because I have seen the differences between the people. I had a words when somebody start talking about What is European voluntary service, when somebody talking about editing movie, how to filtering them. During my staying I have visited 12 countries. I have a lot of memories in the countries where I visited. I changed my manner against people, understood world is not only your town where you grew up. I start to learn English after my university while my English was not enough even explain my thought or to introduce myself when I started that project. Seems there is no my weakness side, these were my beginning steps to gear up. I used that project to gear up my self my skills. I start dealing with foreign people, asked them when I need something, I was trying to discuss any topic as much as I can improve my English skill.

Mustafa Öztürk

Krško, Slovenia

Short Term International Volunteering

Success Stories...

After the project of course there were some differences in my life; I was having courage to talk people in English. I have noticed my level I see more clear how to force myself and go further.

Also honestly to improve my English skill is only one benefit of the projects. It brings you many things to improve yourself. Those are experience changing your life, offering you unforgettable memories. I start make future plans, targets to reach in 1 year, 5 years. Short and long term targets.

That project made me how to been more organise after all. I kept going to improve my language level. I have found a long term project in Romania I was teaching English to the kids at the primary school I was doing social activity with elder people I completed my long term EVS project After long term Evs I decided to move France I lived there one and half year- I worked there. Currently I am living in Greece since 2017.



I gathered a lot of experience and memories with Evs. I have a lot of friends around the world. During EVS i really improved my communication skill, foreign language skill, find a best solution when I was facing with the crisis. I'm following my dreams and Evs helped me to have my dreams in my life. I would like to share a link from my short term Evs project what we have done in the project. When I was working as Electric technician I was thinking just in local mind. But when I participated in Volunteering project I improved my English and started to think international mind instead of local mind. I applied customer service for a big international technology company. Firstly I was giving solutions in call centers. Then I became company's service team leader. Now I am in good position and creating solutions for my team.


Mustafa Öztürk

Craiova, Romania

Long Term International Volunteering

NATIONAL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Solidarity

 It is a domestic solidarity activity, and it is a project that at least five young people who want to create positive change in their own local start, develop and implement between 2 and 12 months. The project should have a clear topic that the group of young people would like to explore together and that the project could include daily activities and should involve all participants. Solidarity Projects should address the main challenges within communities, but also clearly highlight the European added value.

It is one of the volunteering programs in which at least 5 young people come together to take responsibility, take initiative, develop their projects and find the opportunity to implement these projects they have written in order to create positive changes for the society and environment they live in. Groups of at least 5 young people between the ages of 18-30 who are legally residing in the program country and registered on the European Solidarity Program Portal can participate in solidarity projects. There is no maximum number of participants. The group that will carry out the project can apply. One of the young people in the group takes on the role of the legal representative and takes responsibility for submitting the application. Any public or private institution can apply for a project on behalf of the group that will carry out the project.

As a youth group applying within the scope of the project, you can receive grant support for project management, coach costs and other exceptional costs.

The youth group that will apply can apply for projects on the 2 semester application dates determined by the European Commission every year.

Before applying, you need to log in to some registration system. The first system is the European commission's ECAS system. You must introduce your youth group you have created to this system and have an organization identification number.

These registration procedures are as follows:

OID PROCESS: Those who want to apply for country-based projects of the European Solidarity Program must have an Organization ID (OID). OID will be used instead of the Participant Identification Code (PIC). However, those who have applied to the Erasmus+ Program before and have a PIC code are automatically assigned an OID. The assigned OID, institution/organization name or PIC code, tax number, etc. information is entered. Those who have received more than one PIC code in the previous periods should contact the department responsible for the program to be applied for. Those who have not received a PIC code before can get an OID by registering on the "Register my organisation" tab on The Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps page. On the page opened in the "Register my organisation" tab, it is necessary to log in with the EU Login user information. Those who have an EU Login account (formerly ECAS account) can log in to the system with their existing account. Those who do not have an EU Login account can log in to the system by obtaining an EU Login account by clicking the "Create an account" tab.

The following points should be noted while registering:

- 1) The relevant system must be registered with up-to-date information.
- 2) OID must be obtained once to be used in all country-based project applications of the Erasmus+ program.
- 3) When creating a registration for OID, a user name and password that can always be remembered should be preferred instead of user names and passwords specific to the person who registered. This information should be kept in such a way that it can be accessed by the relevant persons to be used in the applications for the next term.
- 4) After all the information in the registration form is entered and the registration is completed, the system automatically generates the OID.
- 5) OID is a number that starts with the letter "E" and continues with 8 digits (For example: E12345678). Detailed information about the OID registration process can be found on the page prepared by the European Commission.

NATIONAL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Solidarity

After the registration to the ECAS system, the volunteers from the project management group must complete their registration to the European Youth Portal and have the Participant Reference Number.

You can follow the following ways for registration:

For all activities of the European Solidarity Program young people are required to register on the European Youth Portal. Young people can search for volunteering opportunities suitable for them on the portal. Young people can register on the portal at the age of 17, but cannot start any project until the age of 18. The projects of the European Solidarity Program cover the 18-30 age group. Young people who are members of the European Youth Portal will be given a 10-digit Participant Reference Number (PRN) code through the system. This code will be used by the applicant in the European Solidarity Program projects that young people want to take part in, at the stage of filling out the application form, during the selection of participants and at the final report stage. Youth; After registering on the European Solidarity Program Portal, they can take part in a project, if deemed appropriate by the organizations, by sending their CV and motivation letters to the organizations. The list of organizations with a Quality Certificate (Accredited) can be accessed with certain filtering methods on the relevant page.

Applications are made through e-forms published on the official website of the European Commission. The necessary information about the application forms and the application process can be found on the official website of the National Agency in your country of residence.

CLICK ON LOGO TO ENTER THE WEBSITE



Success Stories...

My name is Cemre KOÇAK. I was born in Adana in 1996 and I am 25 years old. I graduated from Erzurum Atatürk University, Physical Education and Sports Teaching Department in 2019. Currently, I am working as a youth worker in a non-governmental organization.

I met the first non-governmental organization that I joined voluntarily with Erasmus+ projects. I have voluntarily participated in many domestic and international projects. It is a really nice feeling to do something voluntarily and not be insensitive to the problems around us. After a while, as a teacher, I thought about how I can contribute to our youth by not being insensitive to the education problems around us and by drawing attention to our education problems. Thanks to the employees of the institution I volunteered for, I was introduced to the ESC30 solidarity projects. After doing a lot of research on this subject, we decided to write the “ESC30 Solidarity Project” by getting together with my five friends who share the same thoughts and are aware of and sensitive to the problems around us.

During the writing phase of this project, each of us improved ourselves by working collaboratively and doing a lot of research. As a result, we have written our project called “Classrooms of the Future”. We were all very happy when we learned that our project had a positive outcome. Now was the time to bring our ideas to life and for a year we held various workshops and trainings on our education problems with our youth. Thanks to this project, I held workshops as a trainer for the first time, and it was a very proud experience for me, and it was an experience that contributed a lot to my personal development.

I can say that my life has completely changed with the European Union Youth Mobility projects and the ESC30 Solidarity Project I wrote. While I was an unappointed Physical Education and Sports teacher, I am currently working as a youth worker in a non-governmental organization that I joined voluntarily thanks to this project, and I am very happy with what I do. I improve myself by learning something new every day. If you notice a problem and try to find solutions without being insensitive to it, if you think about the people around you as well as yourself, you will always be the winner.



Cemre Koçak

Gaziantep, Türkiye
Solidarity Project

NATIONAL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Participation

Youth Participation projects are projects aimed at solving the problems of young people by taking into account democratic values. Finding solutions to problems through local, national and transnational activities based on non-formal learning with the participation of young people and presenting them to politicians and decision makers. However, it aims to contribute to the objectives of the 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy.

You can participate in the following activities in Youth Participation Projects.

ACTIVITIES


- Workshops
- Meetings
- Seminars
- Outdoor activities
- Drama, Theater
- Artistic events

What Benefits Do Young People Participate in Volunteering Programs Achieve?

- Through the projects in which they take the initiative, young people:
- At the end of the project they volunteered, they get a Youthpass certificate that certifies their participation.
- They get the opportunity to live in another country and develop their language and cultural skills.
- Gains the ability to overcome difficulties and work in a team.
- Stay in touch with a wider community of former volunteers as part of the European Solidarity Corps community,
- It can also inspire other young people through the sharing of experiences.
- They can improve their personal, educational, social and professional skills by increasing their self-confidence and learning motivation.
- They can bring their ideas to the organizations they volunteer with or to local communities and contribute to the multicultural identity of the organizations.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Jean Monnet Scholarship Opportunity

 Jean Monnet activities aim to improve research and teaching in European Union studies worldwide. These are projects that can be prepared to enable university students and young professionals to have information on European Union issues and to strengthen the dialogue between the academic community and policy makers.

The duration of the project is 3 years for all types of activities under Jean Monnet.

Scholarship amounts to be supported under the Jean Monnet program:

- School Fees
- Living Expenses (Food & Beverage, Accommodation, Local Transportation, etc.)
- Fixed Allowances (Visa, study materials, travel, study visits, insurance etc.)

You can apply for these opportunities as an individual working in the following fields without any age limit.
public sector employees

- Senior undergraduate and graduate (master's or doctoral) students of universities
- Academic and administrative staff of universities
- Private sector and NGO workers


For detailed information about the scholarship program, you can visit the European Commission's page.

CLICK ON LOGO TO ENTER THE WEBSITE



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Sport

 The general purpose of Sports Supports; To contribute to the systematic development of the European sport dimension.

The objectives of activities in the field of sports are:

- Fighting doping, match-fixing, violence, discrimination and racism at an international level.
- Promoting good governance of sports, with career opportunities (double-sided careers) for athletes in other fields as well as sports.
- Increasing participation in voluntary activities and sports activities, raising awareness about the importance of social inclusion.
- Equal opportunity and physical education, and increasing the opportunity to do sports.
- Developing and transferring activities nationally, regionally and locally, and finalizing them with innovative practices.

Within the scope of European Union Opportunities, 2 types of activities are supported in the field of Sports

- ‘Collaboration Partnerships’ in sports-related fields
- Non-profit ‘Sports Events’

Project durations are between 1 and 3 years for Collaborative Partnerships. Project duration for Sports Events is up to 1 year.

Applications must be submitted directly to the Education, Audio-Visual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels:

HERE

For all kinds of information about Sports Support, you can visit the website:

HERE

Success Stories...

Can you briefly introduce yourself? Who are you?

My name is Cengizhan Çelik and I am 25 years old. I finished my university. My department was sport management. I met Erasmus+ at 2017 and after that my life has changed. I learned a lot of things and also I learned English with project. I went abroad two times. And now I am in working on project sometimes.

As a success story, Which Program Did You Benefit/Participate in?

I have participated in Erasmus+ Sport Programme.

Which country did you participate in this program? What is the subject of the program?

Slovenia and it was about cultural childhoods.

How would you describe yourself before the project and after the project?

I was so excited before the project because I was going to a different country and I was studying in university at the same time and children's games intrigued me. After the project I was sad because four days finished really fast and I had to go back but I knew it educated myself in four days.

Which features/qualifications did you gain within the scope of the Program you benefited/participated?

Team work, strategy, knowledge, new games. My awareness of healthy living has increased.




Cengizhan Çelik

Ljubljana, Slovenia
Sport Project



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Türkiye-Germany Youth Bridge

 Youth Bridge Türkiye-Germany is the main consultancy and financing institution for school and youth exchanges between Türkiye and Germany. Our goals are the meeting, empowerment and social participation of young people from Türkiye and Germany.

Small Project Financing

Youth Bridge easily and flexibly supports small-scale projects in the Türkiye-Germany exchange area up to 5,000 Euros. Cooperation projects between organizations from Türkiye and Germany are financed.

A prerequisite for funding is the involvement of young people (14-30 years old) or teachers and professionals from both countries in the exchange, physically or digitally, in school or out of school. Small Project Finance can be used for partial or full financing of personnel or material resources.

Private law-based non-profit institutions (e.g. associations or gGmbHs) and legal entities under public law (e.g. schools, colleges and municipalities) based in Germany are funded.

Major Project Financing

Physical encounters between young people as well as teachers and experts are funded. School, non-school and professional institutions can apply all year round. The amount of funding depends on the number of participants. The prerequisite for financing is that the projects are carried out jointly by Turkish and German institutions. Priority is given to projects that enable mutual encounters and are jointly designed by the participants.

For detailed information, you can visit the website by touching the logo



DEUTSCH-TÜRKISCHE JUGENDBRÜCKE
GENÇLİK KÖPRÜSÜ TÜRKİYE-ALMANYA

Success Stories...

Can you briefly introduce yourself? Who are you?

I have graduated from the undergraduate program in International Relations at Ege University with magna cum laude, exchange periods in South Korea and Germany, four years of volunteer experience in a variety of NGOs particularly with vulnerable groups, several internships in administrative governmental institutions, and deep concern in immigration, human rights, and gender equality. This left me with a keen interest in a career in the humanitarian action field as well as a passionate quest to accumulate knowledge and skills to have a meaningful impact along this path.

I am currently working for Global Communities Syria Mission as Operations Asistant.

As a success story, Which Program Did You Benefit/Participate in?

Türkiye - Almanya Gençlik Köprüsü / Turkey - Germany Youth Bridge

Which country did you participate in this program? What is the subject of the program?

Germany - Hamburg, Training for Youth Ambassadors for German-Turkish Exchange

Which features/qualifications did you gain within the scope of the Program you benefited/participated?

The major soft skills can be named accordingly; intercultural competence, project management, communication skills, public relations, and conflict management.

How would you describe yourself before the project and after the project?

I could say that I was not fully aware of project writing and proposal process in terms of methodology. In the light of exchanging ideas, we learned and practiced the project creation stages from A to Z. This enabled me to think deeper the fundamental reason of "issue" and how to precisely detect it. I can wholeheartedly indicate that I came to realization of my own potential.

What are the changes that you see as successful in your life after participating in the Program/Project?

There are several alterations in positive way. If I am to give some examples, my goals in profesional way widely improved. hence, I discovered to acquire the required tools in order to reach these goals.

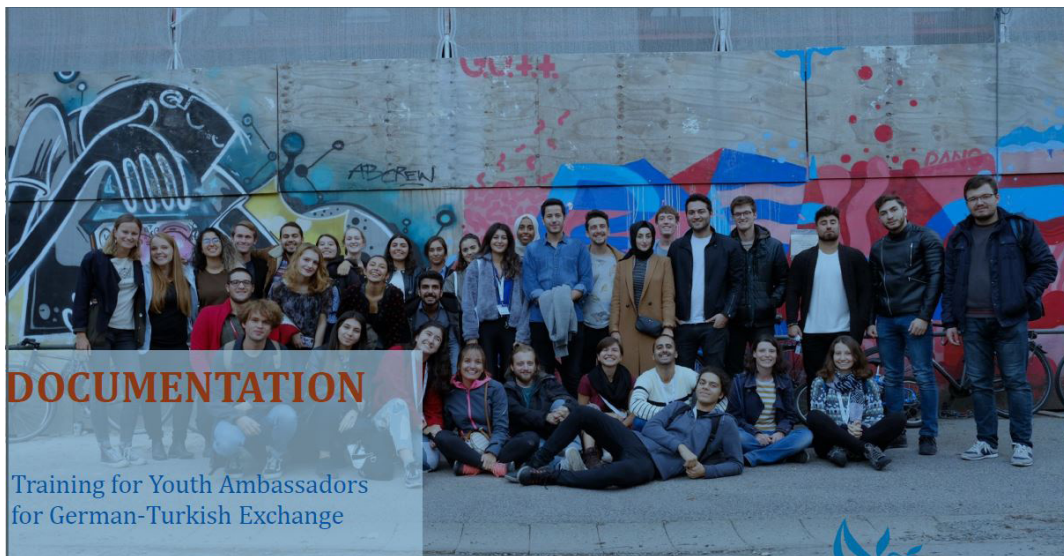
Please share with us a story that you see as successful in your life after the project.

Thanks to intercultural skills, I obtained during the project, I got a position in humanitarian relief which requires multicultural workspace. Because, I do know how to respect sensitive cultural issues and work people who has distinc backgorund

How effective was the EU project you participated in your success story?

The aforementioned EU project has ensured that there are possibilities and opportunities out there for young people to enable them to set considerable goals, gain sufficient skills and improve themselves in the life-long period. As a result of this, I have become more demanding person when it comes to exploring opportunities and research them continuesly. Thus, I do have a main goal which is constantly improve myself and to attempt to making impact on my community.

Success Stories...



DOCUMENTATION

Training for Youth Ambassadors
for German-Turkish Exchange

Hilal Apak Çakır

Hamburg, Germany
Turkey-Germany Youth Bridge

