

# YouTHelegraph

April-June 2015

**TIME TO:  
DISCOVER TURKEY**

**ITALY and ALBANIA  
Project's Experience**

**Volunteers'  
Experience**

**On-Arrival  
Training**

#eycb20



NO HATE  
SPEECH  
MOVEMENT



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**VOLUNTEERS**



## TIME TO: DISCOVER TURKEY

**ISTANBUL**

**Travel:**  
By plane ~140 TL (Pegasus airlines)  
By bus ~70 TL (SES)  
By train ~70 TL  
**To stay:**  
Chillout Hostel ~10EUR  
**To see:**  
Hagia Sophia, Taksim Square, Yeni Cami, The Grand Bazaar, Old town

**ESKIŞEHİR**

**Travel:**  
By bus ~48 TL (Metro)  
By train ~50 TL  
**To see:**  
The Kurşunlu Cami Mosque.  
The archaeological site of the ancient Phrygian city of Dorylaeum

**ANKARA**

**CAPPADOCIA (Göreme)**

**Travel:**  
By bus ~80 TL (Most of companies)  
**To stay:**  
Feel Cappadocia Hostel, Valleypark Hotel, Emre's Stone House ~7 EUR  
**To see:**  
Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites

**KONYA**

**Travel:**  
By bus ~52 TL (Metro)  
By train ~25 TL  
**To see:**  
Ince Minaret Medrese, Mevlana Museum, Alaeddin Mosque

**ANTALYA**

**Travel:**  
By plane ~140 TL (Pegasus airlines).  
By bus ~70 TL (Mis Amasya)  
**To stay:**  
Ersoy Hotel, Saray Lara Hotel ~10 EUR  
**To see:**  
Düden Waterfalls, Yivliminare Mosque, Konyaaltı, Hıdırlık Tower, Hadrian's Gate and Falez Park at night.

**İZMİR**

**Travel:**  
By plane ~100 TL (Pegasus airlines)  
By bus ~70 TL (Mis Amasya)  
**To stay:**  
Shantihome, In House Hostel ~12EUR  
**To see:**  
Old Smyrna, Agora of Smyrna, Konak, Gündoğdu Square, İzmir Clock Tower

### Couchsurfing

Couch surfing has also evolved into an international community, where people provide their couches to travelers for free.

It's a great way to meet new people and get in touch with different cultures

- Be informed about the culture you are traveling to
- Look for hosts or surfers whose profiles are complete with a real name, clear photos, and detailed descriptions of themselves and, if applicable, their "couches".
- Read reviews of hosts or travelers to get a sense of their experiences.
- Women travelers may prefer to book with female hosts, and vice versa.
- Make sure you make a plan to stay in touch with friends, family and additional accommodation options once you arrive.
- Ask questions! Have conversations!
- Get to know the "rules" of the house – are there certain hours when suppose to be quiet? How will y in and out if you and your Host/Surfer have different schedules?
- In any situation where you feel unsafe, threatened or in immediate danger, get out and contact the local authorities – such as police or emergency services – right away. When you're in a safe location, report the incident to our Trust and Safety team.

[www.couchsurfing.com](http://www.couchsurfing.com)

### Hitchhiking

- Be prepared to walk all day. This is the most unanticipated problem of most hitchhikers today.
- Buy a map of the area, so you can determine whether a ride will actually bring you closer to your destination.
- Learn the language, at least a little. Hitchhiking can be a good way to improve your conversation skills. Often drivers pick up hikers to have some conversation on an otherwise long and lonely trip.
- Make sure to carry enough food and drink if you're going for a long trip.
- Arrange sleeping places in case you do it at night.
- Remember, hitchhiking may be illegal in some areas or on certain types of roads. Ask locals. It is usually a bad idea to hitchhike if an encounter with the police would create additional problems.
- Dress in layers if the weather is uncertain.
- Wear bright clothing so that drivers can see you.
- A big cardboard sign with an indication of where you want to go can help.
- Bring a black marker, a hat, a flashlight, a pocketknife, sunscreen, etc... it is best to be prepared and these items do not weigh much.
- Note the vehicle registration, and its make, model, and color *before* you take a ride. If you have a cellphone, text this information to a friend.
- Choose a car with a single occupant or a couple rather than the last seat in a car full of people.
- Keep your bag or backpack in easy reach, so you can grab it if you need to bail out.

[www.hitchhikers.org](http://www.hitchhikers.org)



couchsurfing



## Our Volunteers in Romania

### Gözde Bayar

**E**VS can change your life forever... How? Here is my experience about EVS so far: Before deciding to do an EVS project, I was living a monotone life as most of the people. I worked for a company for 10 months after graduating from the university, and then got bored and quit. Started looking for another job, and it lasted about 4 months. It was no result, because I never wanted to get another boring job and waste some more of my life in there. I was always looking for something bring me satisficing me while I'm doing it. Then, I decided to check for EVS projects. I knew some information about it but I hadn't thought about it seriously until then. After a short research on the projects I found my current project, which is about doing outdoor sports activities with children, taking place in Oradea, Romania for a 7-month period. I applied, got accepted, and I'm here right now.

Since the very beginning of the project,



everything was new, different, and exciting for me. Knowing new people from many different countries, spending time with them, and getting to know them makes me feel amazing. It is something that I was looking for for a long time.

**A b o u t**  
**'c h a n g i n g**  
your lives', the whole process is doing whether even if you realize or not. But it is always up to you. Deciding to live in a new country, even if it is for a temporary time, is a quite hard decision for everyone. But the thing is, once you leave your fears aside and do it, you will see the difference in your life and also yourselves. It is something that you will never experience by doing any other thing.

Mysuggestionabouttheoneswhoareconsidering doing an EVS is, have the courage and do it, and if you don't like it, you can always come back. But I bet you'll love it. Just be open to new things .

**Gözde Bayar**



*"I could have never imagined how amazing stories can come up while travelling by hitchhiking. This guy, named Cladiu, is taking us from Oradea to Cluj, and just a few minutes ago, his wife gave birth for their second child. His face is the portrait of happiness right now, amazing.."*

**Gözde Bayar**





## Once upon a time...

There was a Finnish young woman, who was just going to graduate from her University. She had a big dream for a long time: she wanted to go abroad and discover the world by herself. She found the opportunity to make this dream come true with EVS and so she started to prepare motivation letters and CV's and sending them all around the Turkey. She wanted to go only to Turkey, because she had gone there many times for holidays and she really loved the country and the culture.

As the time passed, finally this crazy woman got the information that her application was approved and she would go to Ankara for one year. You can only imagine how happy she was! After this she started to prepare all documents, visa applications etc. with her sending, coordinating and hosting organisation and finally in the beginning of

February 2015 she came to Turkey.

This crazy woman studied Social services in Finland and that's why she was very interested to work in this project in Ankara. The project is called "Meeting of Generations 2015" and the main purpose of the project is to work with disabled and elderly people in Saray Rehabilitation center, CafeDOWN (cafe where the workers are disabled) and elderly houses in Ankara region.

The main interest of this woman was to work

with disabled people and after first visits to the centers this motivation of hers just became stronger and stronger. She started to work two days in a week in Saray, one day in CafeDOWN and one day in the office. All the Fridays she spent in the office learning Turkish language because she was very motivated and interested and it was also part of the EVS programme.

This crazy woman loves all kind of sports and because of this, in the rehabilitation center she started to work in the sport saloon. She takes part in the daily activities in the saloon and also



she introduced some special Finnish sports (for example Mölkky and Floorball) to Turkey and this rehabilitation center. In Turkey there were a lot of special sport competitions in different sport branches, so with the Sport Club of Saray she also had opportunities

to travel around Turkey with the disabled competitors and workers of Saray.

With the Finnish mentality of working, soon this woman realized that she wants to work more. She wants to do different kind of things in Saray, so besides working in the sport saloon, she started to visit units, handicraft workshops and greenhouses. She started to go to there 3 days per week and one day per week

she visits the elderly houses as well. This energetic young woman really wants to develop herself and the work, and thanks to EVS she has a chance to do it.

But EVS for this woman is, of course, much more than just a volunteer work. In her leisure time she hangs around with her local friends, travels around the Turkey and tries to discover the country and the culture as much as possible. And luckily these 'Friday Turkish lessons' also showed results, because she started to learn Turkish really fast. The differences between Turkey and Finland are huge and that's why this

woman sometimes had challenges to understand the culture and habits, but on the other hand she really discovered more about herself which was a very huge and important process for her. She is really pleased that she came to Turkey and exactly this project.

Unfortunately that's all there is to tell for now, because this story is yet to be finished. Actually, sometimes this crazy Finnish woman stops and thinks that this adventure hasn't even started, because it is soooooo amazing! And who knows what is going to happen in the future!

**Viivi Setälä**

**The end**



**The beginning**



**And by the way this crazy Finnish woman is me, Viivi.**



(Click here)

**Know more about Viivi**



## Karina's Experience

**M**y name is Karina and I am from northern part of Europe, country called Estonia. Right now, I am working as a short term volunteer at the NGO "System and Generation". I have arrived just three weeks ago, but already have learnt a lot of new things related to my work experiences and a completely different culture.

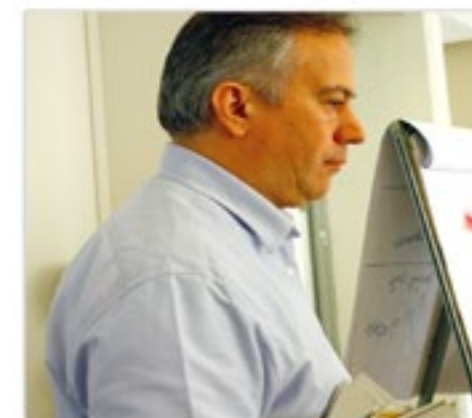
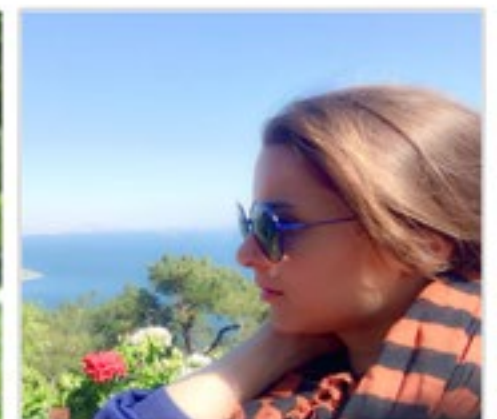
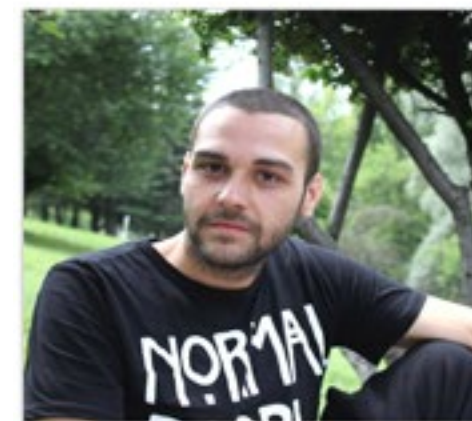
I enjoy working in a team in cross-cultural environment, however sometimes it can be a bit difficult as I come from another background. But I like it, it is like a small challenge for me, to change land, working team, boss, to be away from my family, friends and interests in a eastern country with other traditions and religion. I like

to learn new things so I am satisfied with my choice of EVS.

It be more specific, I am working here with social networks, promoting EVS possibilities among youngsters, assisting at English language classes and teaching Russian language. Here I am able to train my skills in records management and human resources management, obtaining new competences in project management.

One thing I know for sure – I will never be the same person after EVS. And I am really glad and thankful for that opportunity to change my life for the benefit of me and people who are around me.

**Karine  
Oganesjan**





# PROJECTS



## Youth Caravan with Green Color



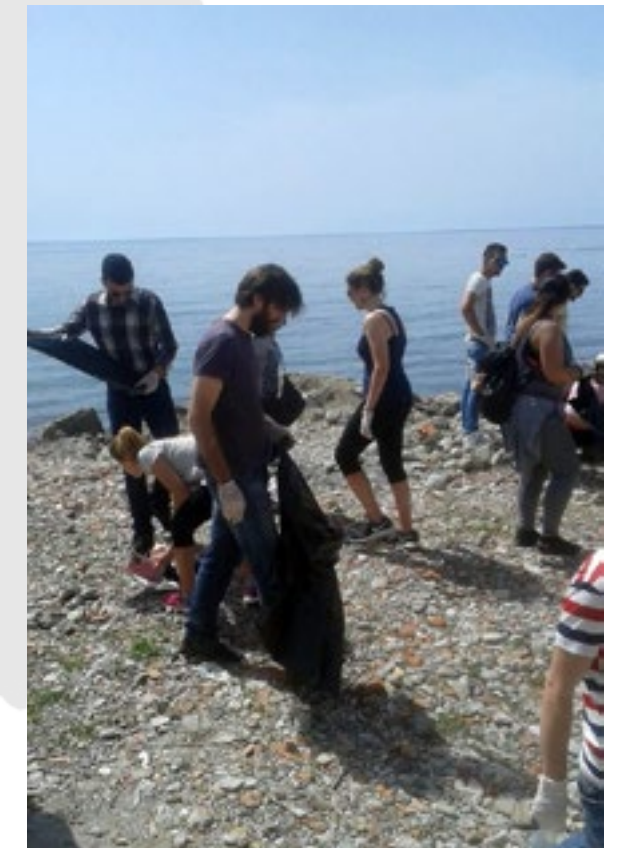
We prepared our exhibition by putting all taken photos on a tree by means of pegs. In addition we hung the three flags of Albania, Italy and Turkey. People who were passing by them observed, enjoyed and asked many question about the pictures - where they have been taken, by whom and what is the purpose of the exhibition. That attention and interest for the photos exhibition made us very happy and proud of our work. Besides, our participants spread brochures about JumpIN organization



and their activities. Immediately after it, we started cleaning the beach of Otranto, we collected a lot of trash and showed the locals how important is to keep Otranto clean.

## Italy

After the successful activity in Didim from the youth exchange we moved to Italy, to a small town near the Adriatic Sea. We were hosted in the town of Poggiardo where our Partner organization JumpIN is located. We started by introducing our activities, hopes, fears and expectations. We started by playing different name games, warm ups and energizers and in that way the participants had the chance to get to know each other better. In the late afternoon, after our siesta time, we continued with more name and trust games, energizers in order to remember our names more efficiently. We also started a game called 'A secret friend'. We provided envelopes for each of the participants in which the names of their secret friends was written and they had to come up with a way of surprising their 'secret friend' during the activities of recycling and presentations about their environmental projects in their countries. After our long and pleasant walk, our participants from Albania, Italy and Turkey presented their organizations in different ways like PowerPoint, videos, pictures and brochures. Photo exhibition was the last activity for our participants which was held on the road to Otranto - a small peaceful and beautiful place in Italy near to Poggiardo.





# Albania

The third activity of the Green Society in Action project started in Durres Albania after we were finished with the activity in Italy. Participants from three countries arrived in Albania where we started gathering and the official opening of the project was made on Tuesday - they got familiar with the agenda and the objectives of the project and played getting to know each other and name games. After that, they shared their fears, expectations and contributions for the project. They had team building and played the secret friend game (by writing their names on a piece of paper, mixing them and picking up one name, each participant had a secret friend to whom during the whole week they should behave nice, leave notes, make some presents and buy candies). After lunch participants had a "Kavaleshenca Coffee" - where they were separated in 4 groups and each group was supposed to answer all questions, write it on a piece of paper, after answering all of them each group presented their answers. Our participants also presented the ecological problems from their own countries. The following day, we all together had a treasure hunt and met the mayor of Durres and during



in Action project to him and he shared some ecological issues of Durres and how they treat the environment there. In the late afternoon participants headed to the beach where they did a



cleaning activity - they cleaned the beach in Durres and threw away all trash they collected. Additionally, participants had workshops like coming up with slogans and ideas about the environment, planting flowers in rubbers, painting, creating posters related to the nature ( Youth goes green, Let's keep it clean etc). Immediately after that we had a NGO gallery - presentations of partner organizations. We learnt a lot and exchanged our experiences

and opinions. Besides that we had a cultural trip to Kruje where we visited the Kruja Castle and the old bazaar where our participants bought a lot of souvenirs and enjoyed the ancient atmosphere of Kruje. After that we had an Erasmus + presentation which provided more information about the program, EVS, youth exchanges and training courses. In the late afternoon we did the creative exhibition and of course we awarded our participants with their Youthpass certificates. In the evening we had a farewell party and in this way the 3rd activity of The Green Society in Action Project was implemented.

**Bledi Cami**

For a more descriptive and fun information



(Click here)



## 6 th European Platform of Youth Centres

### Ecocenter Radulovacki, Sremski Karlovci

On the dates of 12-15.05.2015 the 6th European Platform of Youth Centers was organized at Ecocenter Radulovacki in Serbia.

The Youth Center's managers and officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports were invited to the 6th European Platform of Youth Centers.

Gürkan AKÇAER, Board Member representing the European Youth Centres Network and Vice President of System and Generation Association participated in this Platform Meeting..

The main points of this conference was the presentation of participants, a conversation about managing a youth center and examples

of good practice from the participating centers, presentation of the Council of Europe priorities and tools in the field of youth policy and a presentation about the future development of these programs.



Various countries participated in the Conference (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, etc.) The main idea of the 6th European Platform of Youth Centers was the exchanges of opinions, the Council of Europe Youth Centres Certificates and information about Youth Centers.



### EUROPEAN NETWORK OF YOUTH CENTRES FOR INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-CULTURAL LEARNING

A youth centre which consciously promotes intercultural and international understanding has a number of key features:

- It uses participatory methods and non-formal learning;
- It deliberately engages in international and intercultural exchange and learning;
- It promotes awareness and encourages the development of Europe's diverse cultural identities;
- It shares the Council of Europe's values of universal human rights and pluralist democracy;
- It seeks solutions to such problems as xenophobia and racism.

Members of ENYC Network consist of 15 NGO from 12 countries.

[www.eycn.org](http://www.eycn.org)







# ACTIVITIES



## Ankara's Volunteers meet Gazi University's Students

**M**e and my volunteer mates visited Gazi University. Our goal was to provide more information about European Volunteer Service, as well about the procedures for applying and our personal experiences and thoughts. There were questions prepared, which they could ask immediately. For example:

How I can start?  
What will I gain?  
What will I do?  
What can I expect?

These questions made it easier for students to start a conversation for the students. They could ask these question and we were

able to start talking about them without them asking questions. Most of them said that they want to wait with it and try to apply for it after their graduations. We got a lot of attention because we are foreingers and interesting to local people.

We wore same T-shirts and we had informative papers about our jounries and EVS experiences. The students of Gazi University could read our story from that "little book" with the volunteers profile pictures on the cover. Personally I had fun. It's always good to hear new stories and get to know more about youngsters who would like to participate, and get feel the joy on EVS.

**Samira Kebiche**



## The introduction of EVS to the students in Gazi University

**O**n the dates of 20-21-22 of May me and my volunteer friends participated at The Days of Career in Gazi University. There we made an introduction of European Voluntary Service to the students. There were many stands of different companies and a institutions. We explained what European Voluntary Service is, how students and young people can participate in this program and what they can gain from this experience. Students were so curious and excited and they wanted to get more information and to participate in those projects as soon as possible. We informed them about how they can apply for European Voluntary

Service and about the organisations which receive volunteers and what they guarantee to them. Also, we talked about the projects' that we in participate and we mentioned about every step that someone needs to take become order to volunteer in a foreign country. The atmosphere in Gazi University was really good. Also, there were different kind of facilities, for example a concert, awards ceremony, etc. It was a chance for the youngsters to learn what is European Voluntary Service and also, it was a chance for us to visit a turkish university. It is nice to share your EVS story with the other young people.

**Eftychia Stamouli**





## On-arrival training in Izmir

The On-Arrival Training for the volunteers taking part in the project “Meeting of Generations2015” under the cooperation of S&G took place in Izmir from 9th till 13th July, 2015. There were 40 volunteers which are doing their EVS in Turkey participating in this training. To guide and provide information for us were 4 trainers and 2 representatives of the Turkish National Agency.

The main goal of the on-arrival training was to make the country, culture and volunteering with EVS more familiar. Youth trainers and the workers from Turkish national agency offered a wide variety of workshops and teamwork sessions about Turkey, Turkish culture, preventing and solving problems and mainly about volunteering and the whole Erasmus+ program. The topics which were covered during the sessions were concentrated on the more detailed de-

scriptions and information about the European Voluntary Service, the Youthpass which volunteers will receive after fulfilling their EVS, the obligations and rights of volunteers as well as insights about possible problems and difficulties volunteers might encounter while fulfilling their activities as well as their life in Turkey. Besides that, we were introduced to the culture, habits and personal relations in Turkey which plays an important factor for most volunteers whose lifestyle and background are quite different from the ones they face here. What the volunteers found most interesting were the workshops dealing with topics such as “Keep yourself safe-Girl/Boy talk” and “Conflict Resolution and Communication” where they had the most input. As the saying goes “A little party never hurt nobody” so we were happy to visit some of the touristic places of Izmir and spent a quality and fun time in a relaxed environment.



One of the most important aspects of the training were the trainers which were professional, helpful and came prepared for the training. They were always ready to answer all the questions the volunteers asked and tried their best to make it easier for us. Professional youth trainers have a lot of experience about international issues and volunteering and their knowledge was very important for us as foreign people in this new culture.

One of the greatest outputs of this training was the great way of bringing together volunteers from all around the country and providing us with the opportunity to make friends from all over Europe. We are very happy for having this opportunity to meet all these great volunteers from all around Turkey and we are positive that we will meet them again.

**Edin Omerovic**



### Turkish National Agency

The task of National Agency is to announce the European educational and youth programs in the country, to coordinate participation in these programs, submit a report to the European Commission, to make the necessary negotiations and to sign the application contract task. Turkish national Agency regularly organizing education for EVS volunteers to learn more about it please visit website of NA

<http://ua.gov.tr>







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