

MORE THAN A REFUGEE



*Erasmus+ Training
Course
12-19 April Istanbul,
Turkey*

ANGELS EXIST IN THE WORLD

BETWEEN 12TH 19TH APRIL 28 PARTICIPANTS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE PROJECT "MORE THAN A REFUGEE" IN İSTANBUL/MALTEPE. AFTER HAVING DEEP DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS THE PARTICIPANTS BROADENED THEIR MINDS WITH IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT REFUGEE ISSUES. COMPARING AND SHARING THE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE GAVE THEM A BIGGER PICTURE OF THE ISSUE IN GENERAL.

FOCUSING ESPECIALLY ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THEIR FUTURE OR EDUCATION SHOWED THEM THE DIFFICULT CHALLENGES THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH EVERYDAY. THE ORGANIZORS GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THESE SPECIAL PEOPLE AND TALKING TO THEM. GIVING US THIS REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE WE ARE NOW ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND HANDLE IN A PROPER WAY. PARTICIPANTS NOW GAINED THE EXPERIENCE WITH A FIRST REAL CONTACT WITH REFUGEES.

GLOSSARY

Refugee
Asylum Seeker
Borders
Awareness
Racism
Foreigner
Illegal
Children
Women
Humanity
Empathy
NGO
Immigrant Influx
Safety
European Union
Forced Migration
War
Creativity
Prejudice
Rights
Migrant Labor
Shelter
Camp
Funding
Help
Applicant
Flee
Crisis
Policy
Syria
Family
Culture

Education
Inclusion
Religion
Discrimination
Acceptance
Understanding
Merhaba
Community
Change
Explore
Love
Respect
Equality
Tesekkür Ederim
Hope
Hey! Ho!
Society
Training Course
Initiative
Cooperation
Sharing
Erasmus+
TOGEL
Intercultural
Mobility
Youth Worker
Learning
Experience
Expectations
Stereotypes
Istanbul
Friendships

WHAT ARE YOUR FEARS?



Most of the participants had information about refugees just from their national media, thus participants didn't know the reality of what is happening in the world. So many fears and prejudices were created before arriving to Turkey. Participants were afraid of terrorist attacks, discrimination of women and their safety. During the project, these fears disappeared, people got to see the reality in Turkey and realize that situation there is not so harsh as they thought.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?



People expected to know more about refugee situation in Turkey and their expectations were completely fulfilled.

We got the possibility to meet with Syrian family on one day. We were discussing about their situation, about their background, about their reasons why they left their country.



Another day, we visited a local school where children refugees have opportunity to continue the studies. We could see that they are settled, they are happy and they are integrated. We got to see the big frame about the reality what's happening with refugees in Turkey.



We were able to comprehend a lot of knowledge about refugees in ways we didn't expect to.



Participants expected to know more about the refugee situation in the project countries.

It was also fulfilled as people showed their point of view about the issue in their countries. We could compare policies and discuss refugee situation all over the world.

Participants have also been passionate about the topic and were active in discussions.

TO BE CONTRIBUTED...

It was really useful to have people with refugee families and young social workers among us. We were able to have fruitful debates; one of the best non-formal ways of learning.

We should not forget about these principles of Erasmus+ projects. They are important for personal development and for intercultural connections. We had a lot of cultural evenings and opportunities to speak to each other in English which became our common language.



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



GREECE - AID

ALTERNATIVE INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT

"Alternative Innovative Development" is a Civil Non-profit organisation, based in Larissa, Greece. A.I.D is the only representative of all Ngos in Greece to the Advisory Council of Youth in the Council of Europe. (2018-2019)



Members of A.I.D, are scientists and people with experience and creativity in creating /managing innovative initiatives, programs and research projects for improving the living conditions of people from vulnerable social groups.



AID was established in order to provide support to individuals, mainly adolescents and women, and groups who are in need of support and living in poverty or exclusion conditions.

AID focuses on actions related to human rights, combating racism and marginalization of vulnerable social groups by providing educational and consulting support services.



Creativity, team spirit and networking is the slogan of the organization. Target groups of the organization are people from vulnerable social groups such as Roma, unemployed youth, disabled, refugees.

Specific objectives are the exchange of good practices and knowledge between European countries, intercultural contact, the promotion of volunteering and the implementation of original and innovative social-educational and cultural programs.

CONTACTS

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AKTO - PORTUGAL

DIREITOS HUMANOS E DEMOCRACIA

Akto is a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Organization committed to cooperating and structuring a positive change to build a more just and equitable world. Akto works to promote gender equality and to combat human trafficking.



In Portugal, Akto makes courses about gender equality, democracy and human traffic to children, youth and adults Internationally, Akto promotes Erasmus+ projects (youth exchanges and training courses) about different issues..



Our mission is to enhance Education, Promotion and Intervention in Human Rights and Democracy as structuring elements of a positive change to build a fairer and more equitable world.



We intervene to support, enable, defend the interests and empower people affected by socio-economic inequalities, natural catastrophes, wars and conflicts or structural crisis with neutrality, impartiality, independence and non-discrimination.

We are a young and multidisciplinary team and we share a strong set of values

AKTO AND THE REFUGEE ISSUES

Partnerships Refugees Support Plataform (PAR) which is a Portuguese civil society organizations to support refugees in the present humanitarian crisis; Refugees Welcome in Coimbra • High Commissioner for Migration and Akto: protocol establishing the Mentoring Program for Migrants in Coimbra



CONTACTS

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YOUTH FOR EQUALITY - SLOVAKIA

Founded in Slovakia as a local youth initiative with the aim to realise positive changes and develop activities on local but also international level in the field of education, labour market, protection of human rights and environment for personal and professional development of youth and their integration into society.

Our members have work experiences in international companies in the field of law, international relations, project management. We have developed wide international network and we have sent more than 100 young people for the various projects abroad in 2016 (KA1, KA2, other international projects).



Youth for Equality

LOCAL LEVEL

Organising local events for youth in order to provide them information and get them know fundamental rights and different opportunities during their life, studies and career to raise employability



Organizing events in universities about Erasmus+ programmes, providing opportunities in EVS, Erasmus+ for young entrepreneurs, internships raising awareness campaigns including promotion of entrepreneurship issue in local schools

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

With collaborations of the European associations we organise voluntary events about refugee issues. We have organised international project with the cooperation of Italian and Turkish organisation for support of refugee children. Crossing through 13 European countries, visits of refugee camps, organised public raising awareness meetings increased the interest and our partnerships in the current topic of help to refugees.



CONTACTS

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www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/organisation/youth-for-equality.11705/



AMIGOS DE EUROPA - SPAIN

ADE was founded in Lucena-Cordoba. It works directly with numerous municipalities of Andalusia sending people to European countries for the training of young people with ERASMUS+ and EVS. It has sent more than 300 young abroad and cooperates with 15 countries. Also the association is involved in more than 50 associated projects.

The founding partner of this association also works as a lawyer and cooperate directly providing legal assistance to an association Red Lucena Acoge.

AMIGOS DE EUROPA

ACTIVITIES THAT WE CARRY OUT

- Temporary Accommodation for Immigrant Men& Women
- Access to Housing. Support for decent accommodation
- Information and Social Orientation for Immigrants



Work Insertion Itineraries

- Help for Access to Employment
- Pre-training and Labor Training for Immigrants
- Playroom for children
- Language and Spanish Culture Classes
- Accessibility to the Health System
- Sensitization



"We created this organization in 2014 after some youngsters who have been taking part in the Youth in Action program and Erasmus+ program decided to share our experience with the rest of local young people.

We have given speech for more than hundred people in order to explain to them the opportunities that Erasmus+ program gives, we have sent more than 100 participants to Training Courses, Youth Exchanges.. and we have signed a deal with the cityhall from Lucena to manage the info service about Erasmus+."



CONTACTS

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YOUTH SPIRIT CENTER - JORDAN

Youth Spirit Center , non-profit Jordanian organization since January 2007 and work regularly on hosting, co-organizing, and participating in different local and international youth exchanges, seminars, training's, and non-formal education programs.

We host and participate regularly in regional and international youth programs more than 300 young people have participated in our programs abroad - 75 Euro-Mediterranean projects.



We give priorities for youngsters with fewer opportunities specially those concerning social exclusion situation due to sexual or religious orientation or lack of self-esteem due to unemployment school/university drop-out school, we also We participated in several local and international programs focusing on developing healthy habits to promote the attitudes for sustainable self-development of young people



Our mission is to increase the quality of youth active participation in the society through local action and international experience; and to focus on youth initiatives as a base for development; and to promote our visions of coexistence, diversity, social inclusion and pluralism.



We are targeting Youth from Syrian refugees and youth from Jordanian host communities by involving them in several confidence and trust building activities.

We encourage active participation in society of youth through awareness of the role they play and facilitate the integration of the participants in society.

We help eliminating discriminatory attitudes and promote equality and respect for human rights.

CONTACTS

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[//www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/organisation/youth-spirit-center.5960/](http://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/organisation/youth-spirit-center.5960/)



ASSOCIATION PAVEL SATEV - MACEDONIA

PAVEL SATEV KOCANI is active in any field that affirms similar aims and objectives. For example: giving protection to kids without parents, to develop young people's sports spirit, education and rising the degree of the ecological awareness, developing and promoting multi-ethnic and cultural development. Main purpose is to promote, develop and establish mutual understanding, cooperation and personal contacts between the young people. We have experience about in using different methods in non-formal education



WE AIM...

To promote, to establish and develop mutual respect and personal contacts between youngsters from Macedonia and youngsters from other countries.

To contribute in realization of vision for fair world with respect for human dignity and culture difference.

To contribute in developing of education, to encourage mutual understanding and respect and to promote social responsibility for youngsters.

To help to the young people to be international orientated and professionally qualified.

To develop contacts with organizations from this kind from Macedonia and outside in the world.

The objective of projects are to promote and implement youth inclusion and European citizenship among the young people of the town of 50 000 inhabitants named Kocani and situated in the east Macedonia.



To achieve this objective volunteers are engaged in different activities of the organization throughout their EVS covering the spectrum of short and long-term projects.

CONTACTS

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LOESJE BERLIN - GERMANY



The central theme of Loesje combating discrimination and social exclusion through creative means. Themes include the positions of women, ethnic minorities and religious groups. Respect for human rights, and engaging with civil society in new and exciting ways are considered as answers to social exclusion and discrimination in countries.

Loesje in Berlin is active since 2005.

Every year we do many activities in Berlin as well as international activities and projects, like training courses, to boost creativity, strengthen human rights and connect people over borders.

The key values of Loesje are: Showing solidarity, being Anti-authoritarian, being Sexually free, Showing Initiative, being Decisive, being A-religious and being Independent.

Loesje

The local Loesje groups write and spread posters signed by the girl Loesje, with texts about everything that happens in society. Loesje texts are mostly positive and funny, and at the same time critical, wanting to stimulate the viewers to see things from new perspectives, and take action in their own lives. Loesje texts are not trying to tell you what to think; instead they often invite to many different interpretations. Loesje is organizing Erasmus+ projects on the topics of refugee and migrant rights, inclusion of individuals and humanity.



CONTACTS

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CULTUREL CLUB ALI BELHOUANE - TUNISIA

Cultural Club Ali Belhouane (CCAB) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit youth association, based in Tunis since 1977. The main aim of CCAB is to promote civil commitment among young people, help them to build strong character and attain their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. By organizing and participating in cultural exchanges, volunteer services and cooperation with other foreign partners, CCAB aims to attain its main goals



- To cultivate a generation who promotes respect, understanding and cooperation while working to eradicate all forms of discrimination.
- To encourage youth initiative and participation in decision-making.
- To encouraging entrepreneurship and self employment initiative.
- To encourage cross-cultural dialogue.
- represent and promote the Tunisian culture, customs and traditions.

We have study visits that bring together youth workers, youth leaders, peer-to-peer educators and active members of youth organizations from different European and Southern Mediterranean countries in order to develop their understanding, skills and attitudes towards diversity, inclusion and intercultural learning within EuroMed and Sharing realities from our countries when it comes to dealing with growing hate and living together in diversity, Exploring the phenomena of diversity, changes, radicalization, hate, oppression and how it affects people and societies



CONTACTS

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TOGEL - TURKEY

TOGEL (Social Culture and Development Organization) is non-profitable nongovernmental organization founded by 22 well-qualified charter members in 2007 in Istanbul. It is one of the most popular social organizations in İstanbul, Turkey. Our vision is "The realization of the targeted idea in the future". We contribute to awareness of urban development and enhance intercultural dialogue in the community .



- Our main aims are to cooperate with the relevant public entities and institutions in Turkey and abroad with a view to helping young individuals in need of social protection to participate in social life and protecting them from discrimination, to inform and encourage the private sector in respect of employment of the young people, and to help young people become self-sufficient individuals socially and economically, to create proactive partnerships between public entities and institutions, NGOs and the private sector as regards employment of young people, to review international projects carried out in regard to young people.

TOGEL is working with public bodies, local institutions, municipalities, media and international partners to carry out social inclusion work in order to enhance the policies that are created for individuals with needs, refugees, immigrants, children, women and people with disadvantages.



TOGEL has a powerful and experienced group of trainers, members working in the field of youth, inclusion, Erasmus+ projects and European Citizenship.

CONTACTS

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BITTERSWEET ACTIVITIES

PRESENTATIONS

"Each country took their turn to present and inform others about the current situation in their countries on this topics. The presentations were mainly about conditions of refugees in the world, especially women and children and policies of countries to improve their conditions. According to their data and the countries approaches to refugees the presentations lasted longer than some others.."

"Turkey , having the highest number of Syrian refugees , presented first to acknowledge other participants about the situation in the hosting country. Other countries followed Turkey with their presentations. Participants discussed and commented , compared and contrasted among differences to have a further understanding of the topic"



"Presentations were long, educative and facilitating for the next sessions; in order to get information about the current refugee issues in the participating countries. In this way, we had the chance to talk about how to improve the situation of women and children, and could relate to the topic better".

MORE BITTERSWEET ACTIVITIES

DRAMA SESSIONS

"We all had the opportunity to empathize and to be "in the shoes" of the refugees for some time. We divided into five groups we were given five different photos of refugees to work on. We were supposed to create a story and act it out accordingly to match with the photos . It was an emotional and interesting process. "



"We had an activity called "take a step forward". In this activity all of us picked a paper which our roles were written. We read our roles and closed our eyes. We were directed questions by our trainer to think and develop our characters more. After the questions we opened our eyes, stood up and stand on a line. Our trainer started giving us statements. If the statements were possible for us to make them happen, we were supposed to take a step forward. As the session ended, we sat down and shared our characters and how we felt during the activity."

"In another drama activity, we were given a situation. We were refugees who were seeking asylum. we were in the headquarters of unhcr in Switzerland. Our aim was to create an interview to interrogate refugees and decide on either giving asylum or not. Again, we were divided into groups. We created some backgrounds for our stories. We created possible questions to ask to the asylum seekers. We shoot a video of the interview. It was an important activity in terms of helping us understand vthe pressure on the refugees and the fears that followed them in their big journey."



SWEETEST ACTIVITIES

VISITS & MEETINGS

"The Syrian family visited us before dinner time . They shared their stories and feelings, what they have been through, their conditions, their psychological situation , etc. It was one of the most significant and life-changing activity for all of the participants because through this meeting we had a chance to actually meet with them . It was really important the sense of breaking our prejudices."



"A lot of us had a chance to ask a question and they answered willingly . In this way we could actually practice what we learned int the presentations . We learned about their journey and integration process from first experience. The family stayed for dinner. This way we had some more chance to to talk with them."



We visited a local public primary school where the students and teachers welcomed us in a warm way. The school prepared a presentation for us to learn about refugee students in it. There are 52 refugee students.



They are separated into different classes to help them integrate. Also in the classes they sit with other turkish students to make them feel they are not pushed aside and they are valued. Turkish and Syrian students prepared a fest; school choir sang Turkish folk songs and after they danced for us . We could interact with student for a short time.

**A MOMENT
OF SILENCE,
A LIFETIME
OF MEMORIES.**



TO BERFIN,
THE LITTLE HEART WHO
CHANGED PERCEPTIONS...

Dear Berfin,

People are calling you a refugee, but we saw that you were just a kid. From the moment you walked in, we saw the smile on your face and we're glad you feel safe. We saw the hope in your eyes, they were shining so bright. You are not a victim, you are a fighter. We are older than you but you showed us what strength is. We heard the echo of your voice and it brought peace to our hearts. Everytime we see your smile, we believe that hope never dies. You know what is important to you and you are holding it tight. Even when you fall down, you stand up happy, healthy and educated. You are so lucky to have these. We barely spent an hour together and you still managed to change our lives. You gave us hope and showed us that it's possible to move forward, when a lot of us would have given up. Thank you for showing us what matters, thank you for inspiring us with your spirit. Thank you for showing us how to be strong.



With your strength and intelligence you can never do wrong. Thank you for making us realize that we need to be grateful and never take things for granted, we have a lot of privilege, and for you those things are not just handed. Keep going forward, overcome every obstacle that comes your way, keep inspiring people, and hope your spirit never dies. You are special and thank you for changing our lives.

*Written by
Youth Workers of More than a Refugee*

BRAINY ACTIVITIES

POLICY - MAKING & INCLUSION AND MULTIMEDIA

"After the theoretical learning part of the topic, we switched to putting the learning into action: creating inclusion policies for refugee women and children to the society.

Our trainer gave us different aspects of living of refugees to work on, and we have come up with creative ideas to be implemented by the help of EU.

These sessions helped us a lot to act as decision-makers, to think how to improve our youth work in local terms as well."



Suggestions for EU to benefit refugees' living :

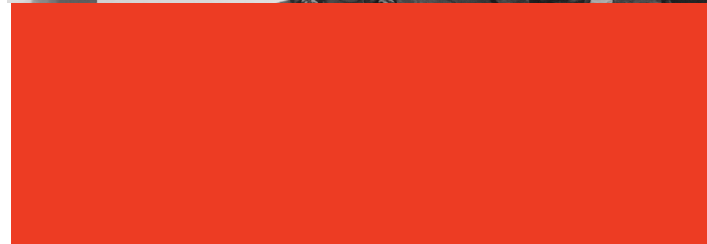
- Financial & mental support to hinder child prostitution
- Special vocational courses for mothers
- Opportunity for Syrian people to introduce their own culture for social togetherness
 - Education centers and free shelters for children living in streets
 - Giving citizenship to babies born in the asylum country
 - A general standard for all refugees to be given asylum

- Providing entrepreneurship opportunities, skill and language courses, integration projects, public organizations for civils and refugees to be integrated
- Increasing the women workers in the camps
- Creating donation events such as concerts, fairs
- Forming "Community Clubs" where refugees and civils meet



Suggestions for Youth Workers of EU:

- Arranging meetings with other youth workers, decision makers and experts to raise awareness
- Building meeting sessions with advantaged and disadvantaged people
 - Sharing information and experience in schools about refugee issues and rights
- Organizing voluntary drama, music, skill-training sessions, seminars and courses with refugees
- Organizing donation campaigns for people in the camps
 - Writing on newspapers, magazines to reach public areas
- Supporting special courses with certifications
- Training teachers about refugee children
 - Helping children and women with mental problems



IDEA: Body & Soul

For physical and psychological improvement of children, elderly, disabled refugees, a form of public organization.

Funded by EU.

Includes dancing lessons, swimming, yoga, sports, psychodrama, mentoring and consulting, musical workshops, coordination, wheelchair basketball and so on.

Supported with physical therapists, psychologists on weekly and daily basis. Sessions are handled by professional trainers in sports, music, drama, psychology, dance.



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



I WAS MADE A REFUGEE
I AM
STRONG
FOR MY CHILDREN.
I AM
STRONG
FOR MYSELF.

[#morethanarefugee](#)
[#womenandchildren](#)
[#onlylove](#)
[#togel](#)
[#erasmusplus](#)