

X AND Y'S EQUALITY

14-18 November 2019

Şanlıurfa, Turkey

ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE

2019-1-TR01-KA105-069072



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Participating Organizations



The AJD was formally founded on 19 April 1997 and aims to create and develop social, cultural, sports and artistic activities for the youth, particularly in the area of leisure time, volunteering, cooperation and training, promoting and improving their access to information, their social integration, civic participation and equality between men and women. With regard to its scope of intervention, the association has been working mainly with children and young people from the rural areas of Viana do Castelo.



Horizon Humanitarian, A Syrian NGO based in Sanliurfa Turkey, non-political, and non-profit organization established by a youth people who believe in Syria's future. The vision of Horizon is to enhance the role of the civil society, develop it and rise it to make it practical to build the future of Syria. Our values are Credibility - Honesty - Integrity - Feeling of others. Our goals are Endeavor to build a strong Syrian society with all its members to be able to confront all risks.



NGO „Veikiam.Lt“ is a limited civil liability public body – Association. Our mission is to raise public awareness in character development, moral culture, national identity and openness to the World through non-formal education, based on joint cultural - educational activities, learning by doing. Therefore it is very important for our society to improve the quality of training and to ensure an opportunity for our local youth to have social and cultural life, to encourage the international collaboration, and move from the national to a wider – European context.



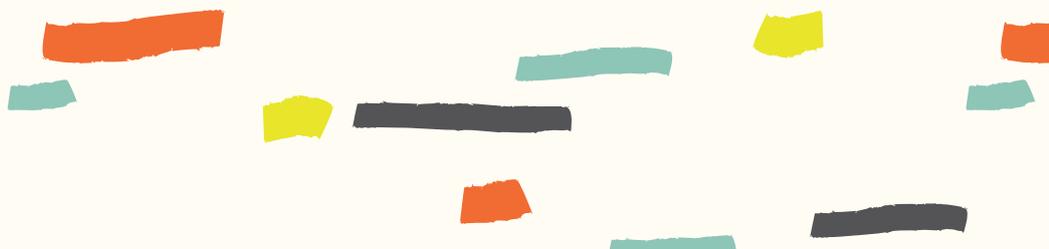
Future and Children Youth Group is a group of young people who are active in several youth activities such as supporting migrant children, women and young people in Sanliurfa in Turkey. We organize several activities with non formal learning methods. Our mission is to create awareness about the basic rights of children with fewer opportunities. To implement Erasmus+ Youth Exchange programmes. To implement capacity building projects. To get to know different cultures and share our own culture with people from different countries.

I hear and I forget I see and I remember I do and I learn

Dear Friends, Today I am very happy to state that a humble step was taken for a better world via an important and valuable Erasmus+ Youth Exchange project entitled "X and Y's Equality" by Future and Children Youth Group in Sanliurfa in Turkey. It is obvious that we need this topic in our lives more than ever in order to build a peaceful future together in this world where children can access the opportunities equally. First of all, on behalf of Future and Children Youth Group, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the partner organizations of the project; NGO "Veikiam.Lt" of Lithuania, Associacao Juvenil De Deao of Portugal and Horizon Humanitarian of Turkey. Also special thanks go to all of the young participants and group leaders who contributed to making the project a success! I am quite certain that all of the individuals who participated have not only walked away with better insight into our project theme, but have also become part of a network of colleagues from different cultures with the intent to keep the conversation going.

In recent years, humanity has witnessed huge numbers of people forced to leave their homes due to war, conflict, poverty and destruction. We have witnessed the dislocation and displacement of individuals, families and children; the power of governments to shut borders; and people bravely making life threatening journeys across land and sea in search of safety and the possibility of a better future. 2019 shows a spiraling of tensions, violence shattering cities, increased visibility of hate groups, and attacks on civilians.

As a youth group we run this project to create awareness on the importance equality of the children with fewer opportunities. There were many activities on the theme using non-formal learning methods. We also visited Syrian refugee families with children and listened to their stories. In our activities we wanted to look from same window and draw attention to inequalities of opportunity in the societies that we live in.



We had many activities about mutual trust to improve the role of empathy in different roles by changing the roles between children and participants. These activities broke up the judgements of the society provide us to look from different point of view. So in sum this project helped us to realize the children exposed to inequality of opportunity. However our project was more meaningful with the activities of trips, the enjoyable activities and promotion of cultural events. We also visited many associations that are both our project partners and others. However, I am also hopeful, as many people are speaking out and standing up against these attacks, violence and hate. This project is a very important initiative to stand against such hate and aggression at least at the level of focusing on children who are the victims of the events. For this purpose, to strengthen communication between cultures and each other, and to increase understanding and respect by focusing on the issues which children face we met in the beautiful city of Sanliurfa.





We believe this project made a significant contribution to the socialization and integration that we need the most. This will help us to cultivate the culture of living together. We believe we can benefit each other and contribute a lot as a result of our differing experiences as countries. By strengthening the connection between us, we will be able to have a more detailed and intimate understanding of the problems affecting our countries. We also believe we can develop and increase the level of cross-cultural communication to live in a better world for the honour of humanity.

Finally, there are some attitudes and skills to make cultural adjustments and cultural interactions that we have applied in the project. These attitudes have three dimensions, which are **openness, acceptance, and trust**. Practicing these attitudes gave us a big advantage in building wonderful relationships in one's new cultural venture and enriched our lives. These are the attitudes that we need to adopt as we approach another culture. They get us started in the right direction and help us stay on the right track towards building positive connections with people who are different. So, in short, I say, "**Engage, Learn, Love**"... As seen at the topic of this article, a Chinese proverb, with this project we did and we understood. In this special magazine we will witness the success of the project. I hope this kind of projects will continue and foster greater future improvements on strengthening cross-cultural connections, embracing the differences, living in peace with social inclusion and solidarity in the countries involved in this project in particular and the globe in general.

Hakan Gülerce / Project Coordinator / Turkey



Non Formal Learning

I do and I learn...

During all your life you learn in formal (like school, university), non-formal (courses, sports club) and informal (from parents and friends) settings. But what does this mean? What is behind this terms? We want to present you definitions of formal, non-formal and informal learning are based on Lynne Chisholm, who is a professor in Innsbruck/Austria and who has a lot of experience in the youth field.

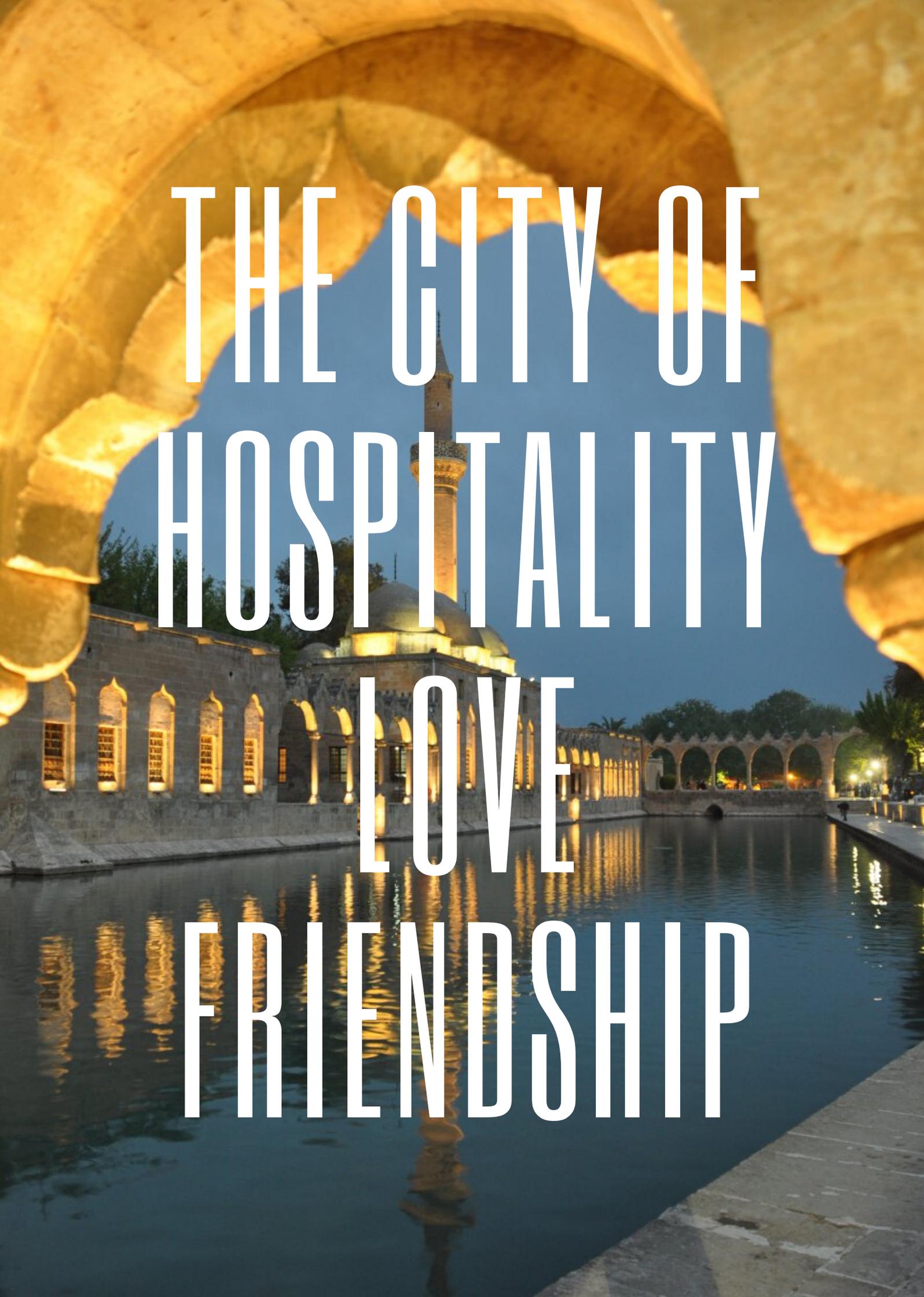
Non formal learning is purposive but voluntary learning that takes place in a diverse range of environments and situations for which teaching/training and learning is not necessarily their sole or main activity. These environments and situations may be temporarily, and the activities or courses that take place may be staffed by professional learning facilitators (such as youth trainers) or by volunteers (such as youth leaders). The activities and courses are planned, but are seldomly structured by conventional rhythms or curriculum subjects. They usually address specific target groups, but rarely document or assess learning outcomes or achievements in conventionally visible ways.



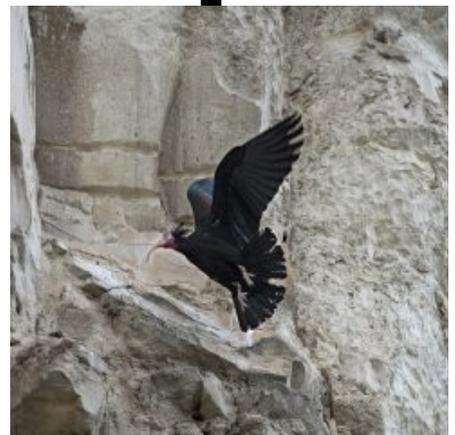
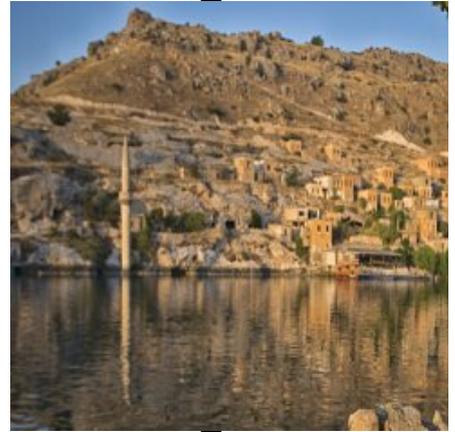
Do you participate voluntary? Is this an temporarily environment? Did you structure your process and plan the activity? Then you are in a non-forma learning process!

In our project we used different ways of our activities, including team-building, icebreakers, energizers, interactive role-play games, introduction games, simulations, city field visits, brain stormings and station methods.



A night photograph of a mosque, likely the Great Mosque of Samarra in Iraq. The scene is dominated by a large, illuminated stone archway in the foreground, which frames the view. In the background, a minaret with a spiral pattern and a dome are visible, all illuminated with warm, golden light. A reflecting pool in the foreground captures the lights and the architecture, creating a clear reflection. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

THE CITY OF
HOSPITALITY
LOVE
FRIENDSHIP



The beautiful city of Şanlıurfa

Şanlıurfa today is a significant tourism destination, offering to its guests a wide range of experiences with its noticeable tourist attractions such as: the Şanlıurfa Archaeology Museum Complex (the Archaeological Museum and the Haleplibahçe Mosaic Museum), Balıklı Lake, Göbeklitepe, Harran and the Tek Tek Mountains National Park, Birecik and Halfeti, the traditional music and costumes, the rich faith background (from polytheistic to monotheistic religions) and its delightful cuisine. (visiturfa.com)

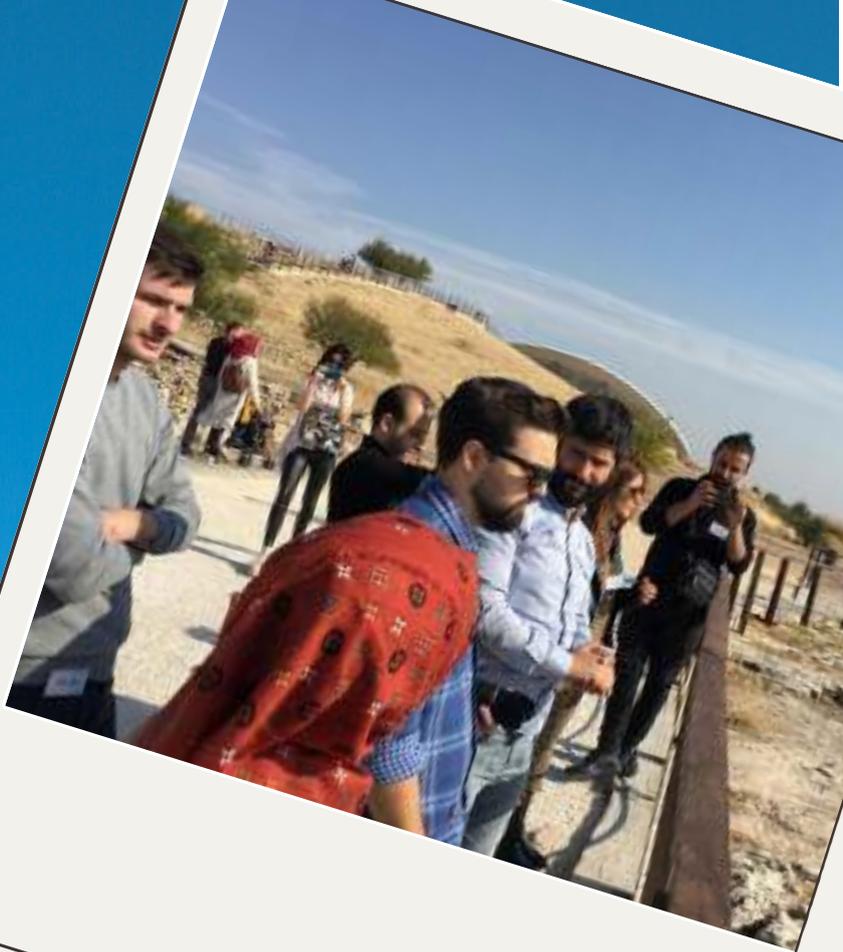
Göbeklitepe is located on the edge of the Fertile Crescent, 12 km northeast of Şanlıurfa in the Tek Mountains. While Göbeklitepe preserves its mystery as one of the most important discoveries in the history of archaeology, our impressions of the emergence of human settlement and civilisation are perpetually changing. There is no doubt that all kinds of data and scientific conclusions to be made concerning prehistoric life are of great importance for the history of humanity.



GÖBEKLİTEPE

ZERO POINT IN TIME





My Travel to Turkey

My name is Natasha Oswald and I was fortunate to be part of the Portuguese team that attended the youth exchange held in Sanliurfa in November 2019. During this program, we had the opportunity to learn, share and understand more the situation that our brothers in Syria suffer. Using the non-formal education activities developed for the Turkish team, we had the opportunity to get in touch with this, a reality that many of us do not know. During these days we had the opportunity to have a view of the city, discover the tradition, develop artistic activities, listen to local music, visit local houses and eat traditional food. We visited the University of Harran and different nonprofit organizations that are doing everything possible to help the community.



Fortunately, we also visited historical places like Balıklıgöl and Göbekli Tepe, the world's first temple. This experience allows us to learn more about the cultural wealth of Turkey. But the focus of this youth exchange always seated on refugees living in Turkey. The program was created to connect the participants of the exchange with the problem and try to understand the challenges they are facing for the future and the objectives they already reach to help Syrian refugees. Sharing a little time with families and children, we could have a better understanding of what they went through, the needs they have now and the concern and expectations they have for the future. Now the challenge is to think of a way to help our suffering brothers. No one chooses to be in the middle of a war and it is our responsibility as humans to recognize ourselves as equals and help them overcome the difficulties they face in obtaining a better future. A small change makes a big difference when we act together!

Natasha Oswald, Portugal



WE VISITED HORIZON HUMANITARIAN





X=Y Youth Exchange

Before attending the project, I had a lot of expectations such as:

- 1- Exchange of experiences.
- 2- New friendships.
- 3- Knowledge of the cultures of other communities and countries.
- 4- Increase knowledge of some areas in Şanlıurfa.
- 5- Breaking stereotypes in working life and sharing experiences.

After attending the program, many experiences and knowledge of the cultures of other communities, countries and the formation of new friendships have been acquired, because of the process of planning and good implementation of the program as it was based on the method of scientific trips and not lectures, integration, entertainment to exchange experiences and break the lifestyle and cultural stereotypes.

This program had the greatest impact by changing the ideas that some people had about the Syrian reality, the Syrian refugees and the Turkish reality.

I would like to thank all participants for this useful program and I hope to do it again and add more countries also do it in other countries or cities.

Rami Hatib / CEO of Horizon Humanitarian, Turkey



tezhip art



**Rızvaniye
Madrasah**



THE THINGS I PUT IN MY BAG AT THE JOURNEY OF ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE

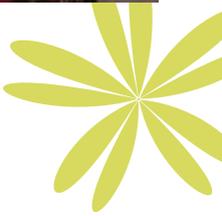
Throughout the project, as a host and coordinator of the Future and Children youth group, I learned a lot and had fun. Even though I lived in Urfa myself, I saw many new places. I made a lot of new friends. The activities that impressed me the most were the visit of an orphanage where Syrian children lived and the art of Tezhip in Rızvaniye Madrasah. During the visit to the Orphanage, we met 30 children and saw the classrooms and where they lived. We didn't give them too much material, maybe a few toys and clothes. But we hugged, laughed, played with children. We asked the children what their dreams were. Because we live up to our dreams. We were there that day to make the dreams of those innocent children come true. After the Tezhip Art, exhibiting our own paintings was a first for me and it was very meaningful. We had the pleasure of presenting our own products to everyone. We experienced patiently painting, sharing and teamwork. Each table we paint by one Portuguese, one Syrian, one Lithuanian and one Turkish friend. Thus, we realized the motto "art unites us". So I can say that we filled our saddles with beauty. I feel really lucky to be a participant in this project. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

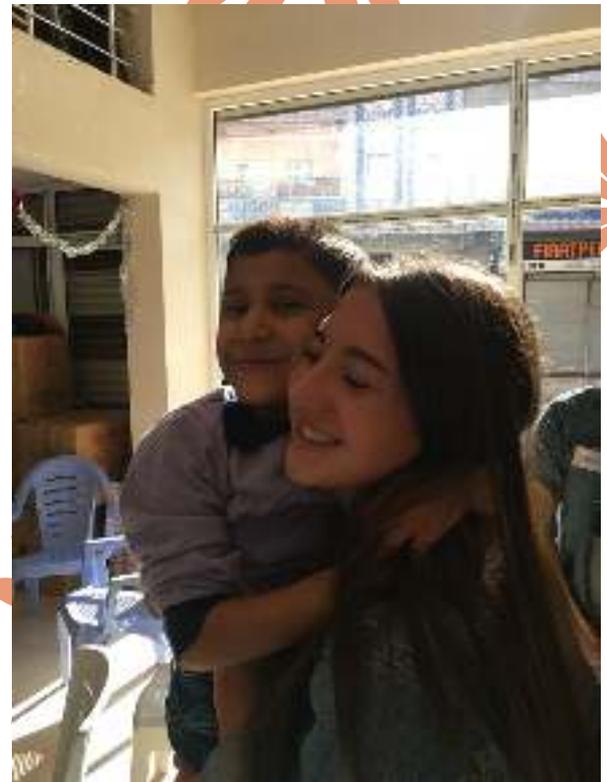
Rukiye Gülerce, Turkey



**VISITING SYRIAN
FAMILIES & CHILDREN**









ERASMUS + : X AND Y'S EQUALITY

life changing experience

I used to think that some countries and cultures still have very sensitive problems about gender equality. I didn't know what kind of situations they had been to & how they were dealing with it. I had nothing in common with it because all my life I lived in Europe in Baltic region and here we didn't have big problem with equality. We believe that the equality of women and men is a facet of human reality.

The project which was implemented in Turkey, in the beautiful city of Sanliurfa with an old architecture and history was organized very well. The participants from Turkey, Syria, Portugal and Lithuania were really friendly, interesting and communicative. From the first day we learned new things about cultures, organizations and thing about each participant individually.



The biggest lesson that I learned by participating in this Erasmus + project about X and Y equality was that we are equal but not the same. Every country has faced different problems talking not only about the equality but in general about society things.

Every morning we started with energizers let us became more and more closer to each other and during the days we got more information about refugees and what a great job Turkey and Sanliurfa government is doing for people. Spending time with people from different countries made me realize how much we need to listen to each other and try to understand and help. The activities that we had during these days in the project from visiting NGO organizations to learning how to paint changed my thinking about cultures radically. We made so many things in such a short time.

Of course visiting refugee families was **life changing experience** for everybody. Seeing how little people have and how they appreciate everything changed not only my point of view but of all. The best and most valuable things in life is love and communication, understanding and respect. I could see myself using this knowledge in an interaction with others back home. After this project I became curious about the roots of equality of gender and started exploring different countries histories. I even signed up for volunteering worldwide. I would recommend not only to participate in this kind of projects for everybody, but also try to create some by yourselves, because it's an experience you don't want to miss in your life.

Fausta Simaite, Lithuania





WE VISITED

KADEM
WOMEN AND DEMOCRACY ASSOCIATION



KADEM (Women and Democracy Association) is an NGO aims to encourage, to conduct and to disseminate research, analysis and publication in women's issues by supporting women's active participation in socio-cultural, economic and political arenas, by developing projects and activities targeting professional development of women and supporting development of awareness among women on their democratic rights.

Good Ideas Unites the World Project

Project "X and Y Equality" was a perfect chance to look through the same window to a very different cultural environment, to meet orphan children, living without parents, but still having a dream to go back to their homeland – Syria, or to meet their parents lost in the war.



"Will always stay in my heart"

„We really have so much, and we do not always appreciate it. After seeing Turkey and seeing the life of Syrian refugee children, I have realized that even in our poorest villages, socially excluded Lithuanian families have a chance for a better life and more opportunities to build their well being. Sadly, but they tend to choose alcohol and unemployment“, – shares her first impressions after coming back to Lithuania, one of the project participants Gražina.

It is always disappointing to see single mothers trying to raise their children, people recovering from the depression caused by war, children growing without parents, because their relatives died. „ I saw two Syrian children playing outdoors. They will always stay in my heart. One of them was sitting on a plastic box and the other pulled the box by the rope. That was their toy! I have never thought a little kid could ask for a bike just to help his family run vegetables to the market, it shocked me. I was excited seeing even youngest children working to support their families. The children I have met had a very different outlook. They were mature, thinking like grown-ups, some of them have lost their childhood because they were left alone without parents! Poverty, only 4 walls, and a carpet, people could not even use the stove because they just can't afford buying fuel, but even having nothing, they remain very nice, friendly and supportive for the strangers. Attention, compassion and warmth were core values shared with Syrian refugee children during these project activities, “ – says Gražina.



I saw two Syrian children playing outdoors. They will always stay in my heart. One of them was sitting on a plastic box and the other pulled the box by the rope. That was their toy!





Chance to compare

Project gave us a chance to compare poor and rich cultures in the same society. Turkish hospitality, nice hotel environment where all project participants stayed in, was like a contrast to the environment where Syrian refugees live. Cultural program took us to the very beginning of civilizations. Visit to „Gobeklitepe“ let us to stop for a moment near the zero point of the flying time. Museums, cultural program, national dances, community palace, showed us how time is flying, and life is changing. Sharing our cultural background during whole project activities let us to know better different cultures, identify the best ideas, which unite the world. This youth exchange project helps all of us to open our eyes, to see how migrant communities live and that they really need our help! „Erasmus+“ program gives us a chance to learn by travelling, trying and seeing the things that we can never see or learn at home, though we may read about them in books and newspapers, and see pictures of them on TV. Later, perhaps years later, we will be reminded by the photos of the happy time meeting all project participants, and memorizing unique experience we have had.



**NGO „Veikiam.Lt“
Dana Lukauskienė
Lithuania**



ART STREET OF SANLIURFA





Seminar by Prof. Dr. Faris Kaya



ON THE CHILDREN GROW UP

- Children are gift, bounty and presents of GOD given to us.
- Children are innocent, sinless and very sincere that is why we love them no matter what nationality they belong to, even we may dispute with their parents but we love them, because they are lovable and worth loving.
- Children are trust for us and we are responsible about their health, their education and their future, because the future of humanity and the world are in their hand.
- We are trust holders of children, children are the trust holder of humanity and the world.

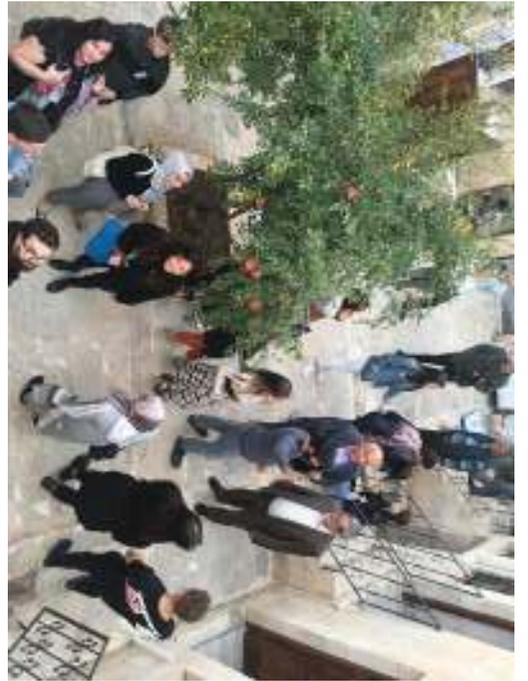
HOW TO TEACH GOOD CHARACTER AND MORAL VALUES

- A life concept built on love, trustability, honesty, learned values, sharing with others, having the pleasure of sharing with others, enjoying to help, elderly and needy people.
- The character of animal when is harmed feels pain and the character of human is, feels pain when others are harmed.
- To be more other concerned and less personal concerned.
- Common values that we are created by the same One God that created this universe including all within it.
- This world for us, a place of enjoyment, a place where to gain the next world's eternal life.
- Children should have two wings: One is the moral values inherited from the past, from the tradition and the second wing to carry these values for the future generations.
- To resist against all adventures that probably include wars, tragedy and sorrow. To live this life will require faith, love and courage.
- They should know that all men are not just and true.
- They should know that earned 10 cent of hard working is more valuable than that of finding 10 Euros.



Children are our future. Those who have concern for their future should have concern for how to bring up young generations.





SAKIB'S MANSION

Being in a multicultural environment added many things to me. new people, friends, activities and experiences. If I will go back with my memory to the period before starting such a multicultural programs I wouldn't be able to expect how others live, how they think, how they live in their countries that I haven't visited before, and also how they think about the other's life and cultures. In this kind of programs we didn't feel any separation factors like (colour, nationality, or religion...).

It gave me a chance to express my culture, and religion to the others, and learn more and more about their cultures and lifestyles. We were perfect multicultures team. Each of us shared his/her unique experiences with others, and integrated them with each other to make a beautiful Multicultural mosaic painting. Being in a multicultural environment expanded my view to life as it showed me the others view and their lifestyle.

My First Erasmus+ Experience



That's why now I become able to understand the same issue from different sides and perspectives. As a migrant in a hosting community I got a chance to make more friends, doing activities which I wasn't able to do it long ago because of the life stress and running the whole day to cover the life's needs. In addition to that, when we visited the Syrian families before the last day I had two feelings; the first one is too sad to see their living conditions and how they don't have the minimum needs to be able to survive, to save their children from the cold, to treat their sick kids... As I saw that they don't have a couches or even mattresses to sleep. All of these reasons and more made me feel too bad about them especially because I don't have a lot to do for them.



But at the same time I felt happy when I saw the whole participants sharing their love, emotions, and mercy with those refugees. All of us wanted to do something for them even if that was just sharing the love, or hugs. When I went back to my warm house and slept on my comfortable bed after I had a nice dinner I started to think again about the several blessings that we have and don't think about it, most of us think about what we need and what is the missing things that we don't have but too little of us enjoying the things we have.

Abdulhadi Hanifeh, Turkey

OUR VISIT TO

HARRAN UNIVERSITY



Harran University comprises 14 Faculties, 4 Colleges, a State Conservatory, 13 Vocational Schools, 3 Graduate Schools, and 15 Research and Application Centres with about 30,000 students.

The vision of Harran University is to establish strong relationships with society via its educational and training services as well as scientific studies, take appropriate steps to gain a leading position in higher education, and become a world-renowned university that has embraced universal values. Harran University is an institution that questions, investigates, carries out research studies aimed for continuous improvements, contributes to on-going scientific studies, educates and brings about individuals as productive members of society and plays an effective and determining role in the sustainability of social development by introducing information and technology on a global scale.





Prof. Dr. M. Sabri Çelik, Rector of Harran University and Prof. Dr. Şevket Ökten, Head of the Department of Sociology welcomed the participants of the project. We had a very nice conversation about the theme of the project.

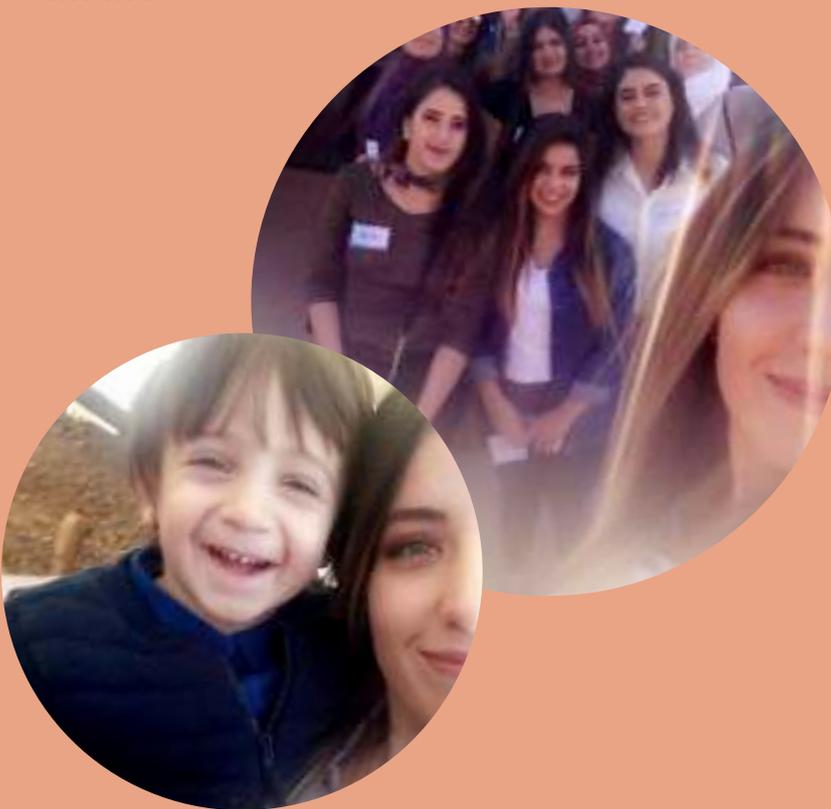




" We made small touches to the Big hearts with all our team mates "

First of all, it was a pleasure to be involved in such a beautiful project. It was very meaningful to recognize different tastes of different languages different beliefs. We made small touches to the Big hearts with all our team mates. Improved communication between countries and broken prejudices. We learned mutual innovations during those beautiful times. The sincerity and sincerity of young people with children was excellent. Hope to see you again in such a meaningful and beautiful project.

Sümeýra Bozan, Turkey



**The thing most deserving of love is love,
and that most deserving of enmity is enmity**

It is in human nature to hate the unknown. Many psychologists today agree that human beings are quick to judge, fear and even hate the unknown. If we do not know something, we feel afraid of it. Once we get to know something, if we encounter the good names and attributes of that thing then we can embark on the path towards loving it. The more we learn about it, the more we love it. This analogy may also work for human beings. If we do not know someone we may simply choose to not love him/her or sometimes even hate him/her. Sometimes we know someone or something in a wrong way, which also can lead us into hatred. Usually, when people get confused they look for someone or something to blame. This damaging attitude is base pride and puts up enormous barriers in relationships. So even if it is just a matter of confusion, such confusion creates barriers in cross cultural connections. We can say that to have peace and reconciliation in the world, we must love each other; to be able to love we must know each other; to know we must have the willingness to engage different cultures. What I believe is that The thing most deserving of love is love, and that most deserving of enmity is enmity. It is love and loving others that make a person's social life secure and lead to happiness.



Yp



Youthpass is a tool to document and recognise learning outcomes from youth work and solidarity activities. It is available for projects funded by Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes.



Very nice project, I met other people. When I went to a Syrian family, I thank God when I saw the situation. First time I go through a different education, normally they always talk but this time they come from different countries and different activities.

**BARAAH ALKHALIL
TURKEY**



First of all, I would like to thanks our teacher Hakan Gülerce who helped us in this project. With this project, we joined the group participants without any discrimination on the basis of religion, language and race. I have had an idea about the traditions and customs of our guests coming from different cultures. they also learned about our culture, our traditions and customs. I hope this project was very nice, see you in different project.

Gülcan Yelmer, Turkey





When we were writing the youth exchange project, it was the project we wrote in a lesson. We didn't think it would be such a beautiful project. But it was very nice indeed. It was our first youth exchange project and we were very happy to realize this project. It was a great lack of knowledge of English, yes, but we could understand in a way that was very nice. New lives familiar new people. At first we were a bit shy about how different cultures would be different languages but in fact it was much more beautiful than we had hoped. Hakan, thank you very much for being in such a beautiful project. We had five beautiful days together. It was a project where prejudices were broken and added a lot to us. Labour would like to thank everyone who contributed.



Mihriban Tusun, Turkey

Erasmus+ dezavantajlı kesimlerin sosyal hayata katılımını desteklemektedir.

Translate Tweet

Balıkligöl'de çocuklar ve gençler için sergi

Sankurfa'da Erasmus+ Plus Projesi kapsamında sergi düzenlendi.

Sankurfa'da Erasmus+ Plus Projesi kapsamında sergi düzenlendi.
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SPECIAL THANKS GO TO



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