



**CONTACT US**



@GROUPENVIRONMENTALIST

ig: @groupenvironmentalist

groupenvironmentalistanbul@gmail.com



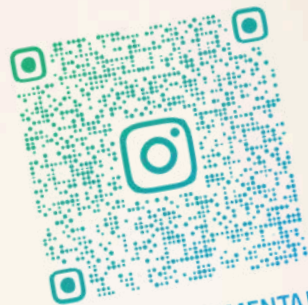
**WATER IS LIFE,  
TREAT IT RIGHT!**



**İstanbul/ Türkiye  
14-21 November**



# CONTENTS



@GROUPEENVIRONMENTALIST

- ABOUT US
- OUR PARTNERS
- ERASMUS+
- ABOUT OUR PROJECT
- KEY CONCEPTS RELATED TO WATER SCARCITY
- GLOBAL WATER SCARCITY
- WATER SCARCITY IN EU COUNTRIES
- EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
- WATER SCARCITY IN TÜRKİYE AND İSTANBUL
- ISKI
- POLICIES RELATED TO WATER SCARCITY
- PREVENTION (INDIVIDUALS, NGOS, DECISIONMAKERS)
- WATER WALKERS
- MEMORIES





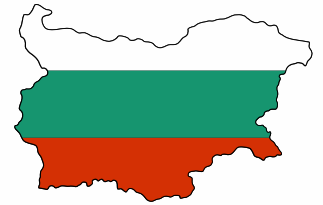
## ABOUT US

Group Environmentalist is a youth community founded with the vision of promoting environmental awareness and taking action to protect our planet both locally and internationally. We are passionate about addressing ecological challenges and actively participate in Erasmus+ youth exchange projects focused on environmental sustainability.

Our group believes in empowering young people to be change-makers in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.

In this project, we focused on the pressing issues of water crisis and water scarcity, especially highlighting the growing risks faced by Istanbul. Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable water management, we came together to raise awareness, exchange ideas, and develop solutions. Group Environmentalist continues to work towards a greener future, driven by collaboration, education, and action.

# ABOUT OUR PARTNERS





# ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme for education, training, youth, and sport, running from 2021 to 2027.

- Main Goals:

It aims to boost skills and employability, modernize education and training systems, and promote social inclusion and youth participation.

- Target Groups:

The programme is open to students, teachers, youth workers, trainers, volunteers, schools, NGOs, higher education institutions, and public bodies.





# ERASMUS+

- **Key Actions:**

- **Key Action 1 (KA1):**

Learning mobility of individuals (e.g., youth exchanges, training courses, volunteering).

- **Key Action 2 (KA2):**

Cooperation among organizations and institutions (e.g., strategic partnerships, capacity-building).

- **Key Action 3 (KA3):**

Support for policy development and cooperation.

- **Youth Projects:**

Erasmus+ supports youth exchanges, mobility of youth workers, and participation projects that encourage active citizenship and non-formal education.





# ERASMUS+

- **Funding:**

Erasmus+ is funded by the European Commission and provides grants to support travel, accommodation, and activity costs.

- **Inclusiveness:**

The programme promotes inclusion by prioritizing participants with fewer opportunities (economic, geographic, cultural, or health-related barriers).

- **International Dimension:**

Although it primarily focuses on EU member states, Erasmus+ also includes partner countries from around the world, enabling global cooperation.

- **Green Erasmus:**

The programme encourages environmentally sustainable practices during projects, such as using eco-friendly transport and reducing waste.

- **Digital Erasmus:**

Emphasizes digital learning tools, virtual exchanges, and the use of platforms like Erasmus+ App and EU Academy.

- **Recognition:**

Learning outcomes gained through Erasmus+ activities are often recognized by tools like Youthpass and Europass, supporting personal and professional development.



# ABOUT OUR PROJECT

This youth exchange project aimed to draw young people's attention to the global issue of water scarcity. Participants from different cultural backgrounds came together to share knowledge, engage in collaborative learning, and develop solutions. Throughout the project, activities such as workshops, educational sessions, and fieldwork were organized, focusing on water conservation, sustainable usage, and the impacts of climate change.

The participants realized that water is not just a resource but a fundamental human right. Participants actively contributed to the project through group works, creative presentations, social media campaigns, and water-saving themed activities. They developed not only environmental awareness but also teamwork, communication, and intercultural understanding skills. The dissemination of the project's results aims to raise water awareness within local communities as well.





# KEY CONCEPTS RELATED TO WATER SCARCITY

## 1. Water Stress:

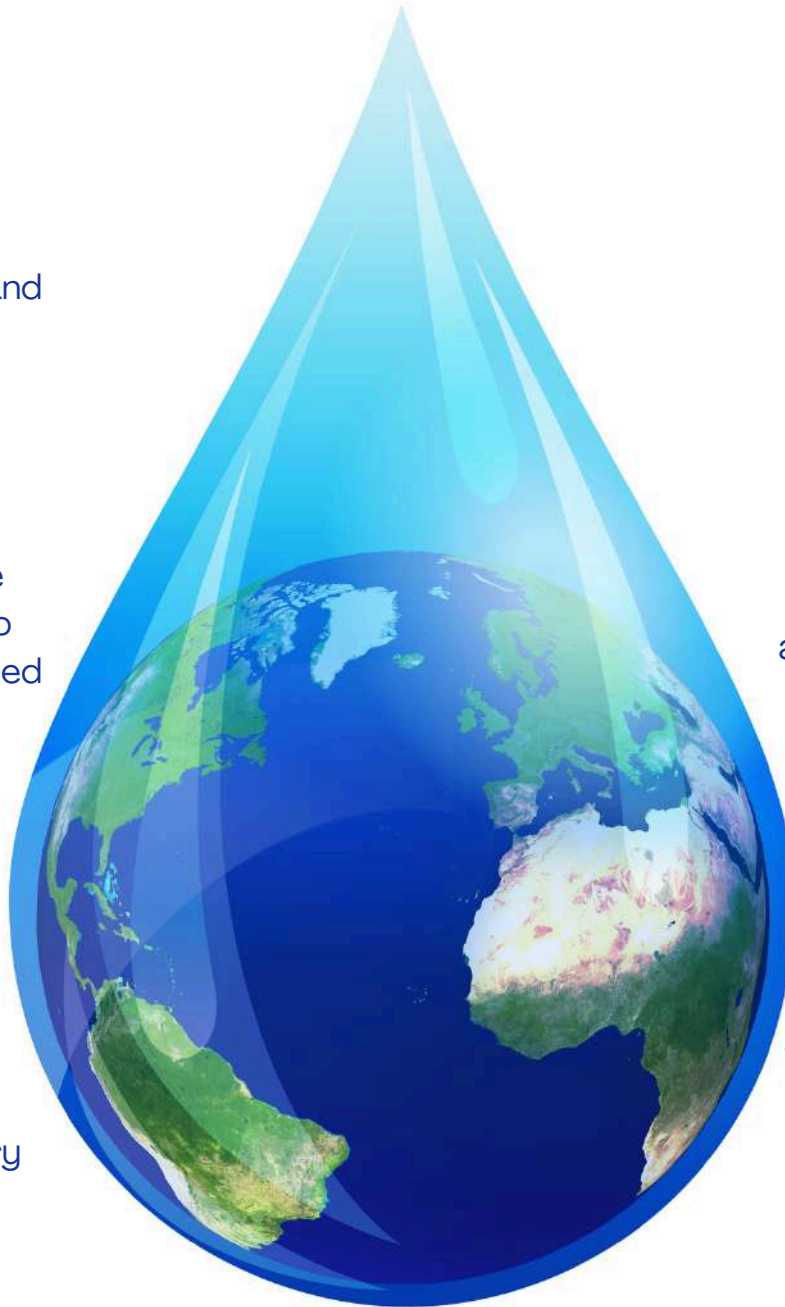
Water stress occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period, leading to water shortages and restrictions.

## 2. Water Footprint:

The water footprint measures the total volume of freshwater used to produce goods and services consumed by an individual, community, or business.

## 3. Drought:

Drought is an extended period of deficient rainfall relative to the statistical multi-year average, resulting in water shortages and dry conditions.



## 4. Groundwater Depletion:


Groundwater depletion happens when water is withdrawn from underground aquifers faster than it can naturally be replenished.

## 5. Water Security:

Water security refers to the reliable availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, and production, coupled with acceptable water-related risks.

## 6. Virtual Water:

Virtual water is the hidden flow of water used to produce food and goods that are traded from one place to another.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON GLOBAL WATER SCARCITY**

According to the United Nations, approximately 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity at least one month each year. Areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and parts of Latin America are particularly affected, facing limited access to safe drinking water. This issue has direct negative impacts on public health, food security, and economic development.

Climate change, population growth, urbanization, and industrial activities are increasing the pressure on global water resources. Droughts are becoming more frequent and prolonged, while inefficient and wasteful water use worsens the situation. Sustainable water management practices, technological innovations, and public awareness are crucial in addressing the global water scarcity challenge.

## **WATER SCARCITY RISK AND STATISTICS IN EU COUNTRIES**

Water scarcity is a significant environmental concern in Europe, particularly in Southern European countries during the summer months. Countries like Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Greece are experiencing increasing water stress due to rising temperatures and declining rainfall. According to the European Environment Agency, around 20% of European territory is under medium or high water stress.

High water consumption in agriculture, industrial activities, and urban areas is pushing EU countries to take stronger measures for sustainable water management. Water scarcity has encouraged the development of EU-wide policies aimed at improving water efficiency, reducing waste, and promoting water conservation practices. Sustainable planning and collaboration across borders are key to ensuring Europe's water future.



# EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

## • Adoption:

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) was adopted by the European Union in 2000 to protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems.

## • Main Goal:

Achieve “good ecological and chemical status” for all EU waters (rivers, lakes, groundwater, and coastal waters) by setting clear environmental objectives.

## • River Basin Management:

Water management must be organized at the level of river basins, promoting integrated and coordinated efforts across regions and countries.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), adopted in 2000, is a landmark piece of legislation aimed at protecting and enhancing the quality and quantity of water resources across Europe. The directive requires member states to develop comprehensive river basin management plans, promote public participation, and protect aquatic ecosystems.

## • Monitoring and Assessment:

Member states are required to regularly monitor water quality and publish river basin management plans every six years.

## • Public Participation:

The WFD emphasizes the importance of involving the public, stakeholders, and local communities in water management decisions.

The WFD covers all types of waters, including rivers, lakes, groundwater, and coastal waters, with the goal of achieving “good” ecological and chemical status for all water bodies. It promotes a basin-wide management approach, encouraging transboundary cooperation between countries sharing water resources. The directive has played a crucial role in advancing sustainable water management in the EU.

## • Prevent and Reduce Pollution:

The directive seeks to prevent further deterioration of water bodies and reduce pollution from agriculture, industry, and households.

## • Cost Recovery Principle:

It introduces the “polluter pays” principle, meaning the costs of water services should be covered by users and polluters, encouraging more responsible water use.

## • Coordination with Other Directives:

The WFD works alongside other EU laws like the Drinking Water Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and the Nitrates Directive to ensure holistic water protection.





## **WATER SCARCITY IN TÜRKİYE AND İSTANBUL: GENERAL INFORMATION AND STATISTICS**

Türkiye is considered a water-stressed country, with an annual per capita water availability of approximately 1300 m<sup>3</sup>. A significant portion of the water used in agriculture is lost due to inefficient irrigation methods. Additionally, limited water recovery practices in industrial zones and infrastructural deficiencies contribute to water loss.

In Istanbul, one of the largest cities in the world, decreasing rainfall and increasing population pressure have placed the city's water supply at risk. Water must sometimes be transferred from surrounding regions, increasing costs and impacting natural water systems. Raising public awareness and promoting individual water-saving practices are becoming increasingly important in Istanbul's efforts to secure its water future.



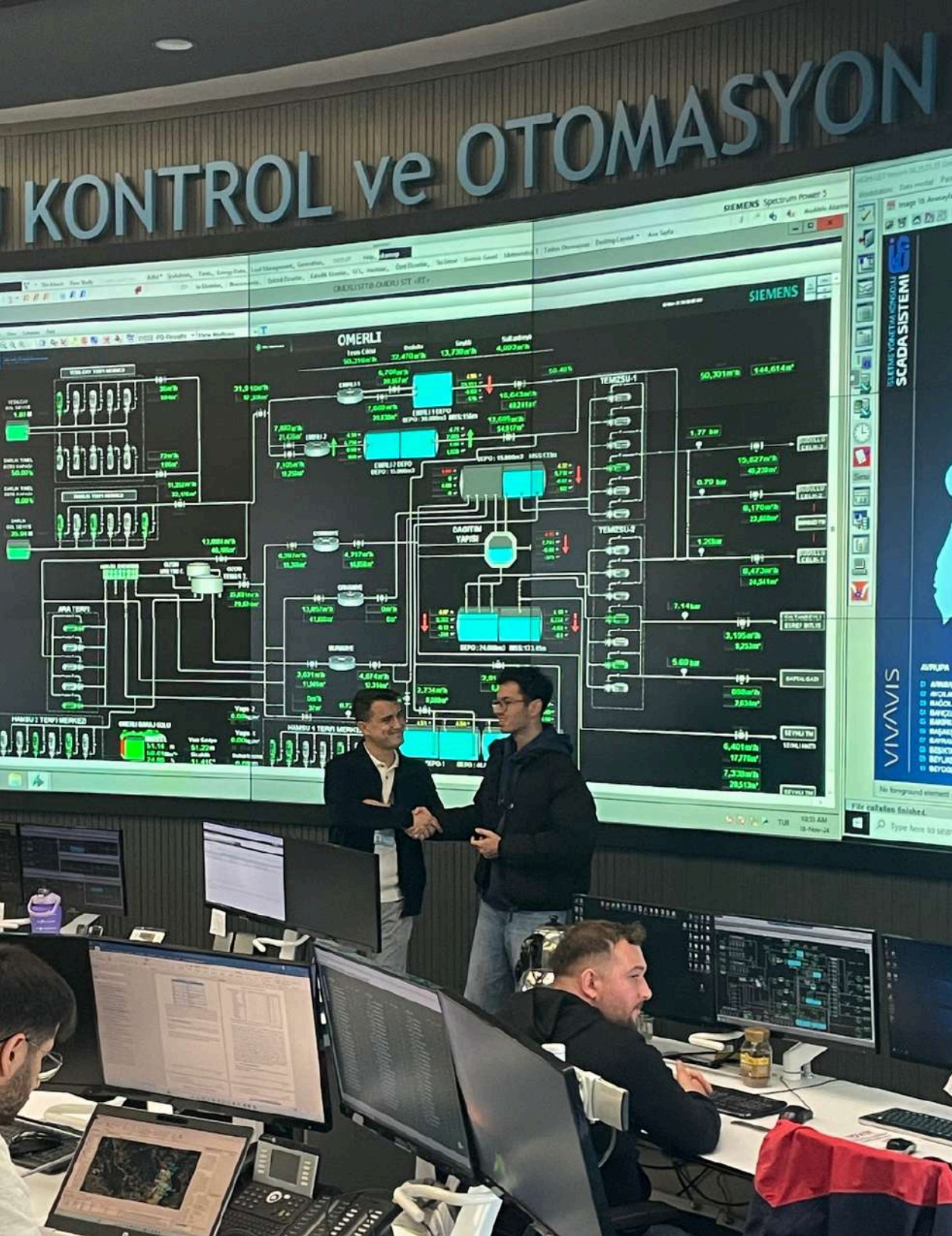
# WATER SCARCITY IN TÜRKİYE AND ISTANBUL: GENERAL INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

- **High Water Stress Status:** Turkey is classified as a country experiencing high water stress, utilizing between 40% and 80% of its available freshwater resources.
- **Declining Per Capita Water Availability:** Turkey's per capita renewable water availability has decreased from 4,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year in 2000 to approximately 1,400 m<sup>3</sup>/year, with projections indicating a further decline to 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year by 2030 due to population growth and climate change.
- **Agricultural Water Consumption:** Agriculture accounts for about 73% of Turkey's water usage, with inefficient irrigation methods leading to significant water losses.
- **Drought Frequency:** Droughts are expected to occur on average every five years in Turkey, particularly affecting the southern and central regions.

ig: @groupeenvironmentalist



- **Growing Demand and Urbanization:** Istanbul faces increasing water demand due to rapid urbanization and a growing population, leading to stress on existing water resources.
- **Reservoir Dependence:** Approximately 97% of Istanbul's drinking water comes from surface water collected in reservoirs, which are vulnerable to pollution and overuse.
- **Climate Change Impact:** Climate change has led to more frequent and severe droughts in Istanbul, exacerbating water scarcity issues.



We visited ISKI with our participants to learn about water management in İstanbul. İstanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (İSKİ) is an independent budget public institution established in 1981 under the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality. The purpose of the organization is to supply drinking water to İstanbul, collect, purify and dispose of wastewater, protect water basins and rehabilitate streams.





# POLICIES RELATED TO WATER SCARCITY (EU AND TÜRKİYE)

## • EU Approach:

The European Union guides its member states in sustainable water management through the Water Framework Directive and related environmental policies. Each country must develop and implement river basin management plans, monitor water quality, and engage the public in water governance. EU policies emphasize long-term, integrated approaches to protect and restore water resources.

## • Türkiye's National and Local Initiatives:

Türkiye has launched several national strategies like the National Water Plan and Water Efficiency Strategy Document to promote better water use and reduce losses. Moreover, some municipalities have initiated local water-saving campaigns and investments in water recycling and rainwater harvesting projects to strengthen urban water resilience.



PROCEDURE

POLICY

## • Türkiye's Water Management:

In Türkiye, multiple institutions such as the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change are responsible for water management. Although many projects have been initiated, there is still a need for comprehensive legal frameworks like a dedicated Water Law to ensure more effective and sustainable water resource management.

## • EU's Additional Strategies:

Besides the Water Framework Directive, the EU also implements other key policies such as the Floods Directive and the Drinking Water Directive to address water scarcity, protect water quality, and adapt to climate change impacts on water resources. These frameworks encourage innovation, cross-border cooperation, and funding opportunities for sustainable water infrastructure.

# MEASURES TO PREVENT WATER SCARCITY

## • Community-Level Measures:

Awareness campaigns, school-based environmental education, water-saving legislation, and investment in infrastructure are important measures to prevent water scarcity. Municipalities can set an example by implementing rainwater harvesting systems, greywater recycling projects, and installing water-saving devices in public buildings.

## • For Individuals:

- Collect rainwater for gardening and cleaning purposes.
- Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or washing dishes.
- Landscape gardens with drought-resistant native plants.
- Support businesses and brands that prioritize sustainable water practices.
- Educate family and friends about the importance of water conservation.



## • For NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations):

- Organize local and national water conservation awareness campaigns.
- Promote community-based water monitoring and citizen science projects.
- Collaborate with schools to integrate water sustainability topics into curricula.
- Advocate for stronger water protection policies at local, national, and international levels.
- Support research and innovation projects on sustainable water management technologies.

## • For Decision-Makers (Government and Policy Leaders):

- Develop and enforce comprehensive water management and protection laws.
  - Invest in modernizing water infrastructure to reduce losses and leaks.
- Promote integrated water resource management (IWRM) strategies.
- Provide incentives for industries and agriculture to adopt water-efficient technologies.
- Support cross-sector and international cooperation on water resource issues.
- Integrate climate change adaptation measures into water planning and management.



# WATER WALK/SU SAVAŞÇILARI

Water Warriors is a project of IDEA Universal Association founded under the leadership of Hayri Dağlı. Some of the stories of tens of thousands of people whose lives we have transformed together were featured in the documentary Water Wars broadcast on TRT. Hayri, the founder of IDEA Universal Association, visited the village of Mta Kwa Mtu on his African journey that he had been dreaming of since his childhood.

Fatime, who lives in the same village, had to walk 6 hours a day to reach water. Deeply affected by this fact, Hayri bought a one-way ticket to Africa in 2014 and experienced living under one dollar to understand the stories of people living in poor and forgotten geographies. Later, he solved the water problem in the village with his own means and started a sustainable agriculture project.

Hayri founded IDEA Universal Association in 2016 with the principles of impartiality, transparency, independence, accountability and sustainable development goals in order to convey the impact he created together with his friends who are dedicated to solving the problem of poverty and inequality to wider geographies.



ig: @groupenvironmentalist





## HAKAN GIRGINER

Hakan Girginer added value to our project with his visit. He is a huge part of Water Walk project with Mr Dağlı and IDEA Universal Association. He shared their work and experiences with the Water Walk Project and the IDEA Universal Association, down to the smallest detail, with our participants. IDEA has permanently transformed the lives of tens of thousands of people in 7 countries in Africa and Asia with its innovative and sustainable development projects in the fields of water, agriculture, energy and education.

The 'Smart Villages Model' developed by IDEA Universal Association has received an award from the United Nations. With the support of our donors and volunteers, IDEA Universal has provided permanent water, food, energy and education opportunities to tens of thousands of people in 6 countries (Tanzania, Madagascar, Uganda, Gambia, Senegal, Nepal and Turkey). When choosing a water solution, we take into account the existing water resources, land and population.

They ensure that they implement the most appropriate solution for each community, from smart pipe systems that extend for kilometers.





## MEMORIES FROM US

ig: @groupenvironmentalist





**THIS ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND TURKISH NATIONAL AGENCY.**

**"THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S SUPPORT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF  
THIS PUBLICATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT OF  
THE CONTENTS, WHICH REFLECT THE VIEWS ONLY OF THE  
AUTHORS, AND THE COMMISSION CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE  
FOR ANY USE WHICH MAY BE MADE OF THE INFORMATION  
CONTAINED THEREIN."**