**Youth Centers in Erzurum and Turkiye**

Teens who live in a rapidly developing technologic, demographic, economic and social enviroment has its both positive and negative effects such seen as technology addiction. This situation observed especially as; low self confidence, not being able to focus, insufficient pyhsical activities, inactivitiy, unhealthy nutrition, problems of seeing and hearing, musculoskeletal problems, depression, agression and rage. These negativities are becoming widespread fastly and going in dangerous dimensions. Every community who wants to prevent this situation and open to social, societal and personal improvement is well known the importance of the young populations and wants them to grow up in the best way possible, Every person and institution has their own responsibility to their social development. In this phase, the teens who had the opportunity to gain an advantage towards the other segments of the society and continue their education at the universities, ıt is very important that these teens taking responsibilities.

University teens within the learning process, focusing themselves only to achieve academic success and getting bachelor’s degree is not enough for them. Starting a profession, most of the employers cares about, as well as academic performance and success, what teens have done during their university process. Projects they made, responsibilities they have taken, work of volunteering for social sensivity they shown. Also again as much as teens, the existence of institutions and organizations and responsibilities they have taken are also important.

These organizations in Turkiye operating under the Ministry of Youth and Sports called ‘Youth Centers’. Currently in Turkiye’s 81 provinces got over 400 Youth Centers are operating, doing social activities. ‘Youth Offices’ are being opened connected to Youth Centers at the sports centers, dormitories at university buildings available in order to organize and disseminate to services. As of 2022 the number of ‘Youth Offices in our country is over 300. Youth Centers are providing free cources and workshop activities to the teens and children who are in the ages between 7-29. These are sports cources, cultural trips, social responsibility projects, fine arts, science, rapidly developing technology, innovation, healty living, personal development, volunteering and workshop activities for similiar fields.

1. **What is the vision of the ‘Youth Centers’ are affiliated to the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Türkiye?**

• The teen generation is being healthy, happy, productive and prepared and equipped to the future, not rejecting their culture, foresighted, innovative and competitive, and from sportive perspective; Ensuring that raising ındividuals who are successful and capable of representing Turkiye in international arena.

1. **What is the mission of the ‘Youth Centers’ are affiliated to the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Turkiye?**

• Supporting the teens educational and Professional development , maintain and improve the physical and mental health, enhance their lives socially and culturally, in their choosing profession, ensure that they have sufficiant information while looking for a job and recruitment process, and improve their social awareness to social responsibilities.

1. **What are the duties of ‘Youth Centers’?**

• Contributing that the teens raised to have moral and human values, high social responsibility awarness.

• Contributing that teens maintain a healthy life towards mentally, emotionally, socially, spiritually, pyhsically.

• Providing support to the teens development to a self condifident, participatory, original, productive and socially skilled individuals.

• To ensure that teens using information, skill, experience and time with a social responsibility awarness and voluntary basis and making it a part of their lives.

• To ensure that teens doing guidance and orientation activities in accoordance with the needs and expectations.

• To ensure that teens regulating activities aimed to reveal thier potential that they have and carry out projects for disadvantaged teens.

• To ensure that teens participating national and international events.

1. **What are the activities of Youth Centers?**

**• Sportive Activities:** Various programs are regularly planned and applied for teens to teens must see that, living the life actively passes from physical and spiritual health, they must put activities in the center of their live as much as health eating and they must be sensitive to the enviroment which we live in.

* Orienteering**,** Parkour of advanture
* Archery, cycling, trekking
* Basketball**,** Volleyball, Football, Tennis
* Horse riding, canoe, paintball
* Rafting, mini golf, Matrak
* Climbing wall, High rope course

**• Workshop Activities:** Teens are given a series of schooling both a specific curriculum is beinng processed and also theorical schoolings where common education techniques are being used which they can use in their lives. In this context;

1. **Workshop of Personal Development**
2. **Workshop of Innovation**
3. **Workshop of Fine Arts**
4. **Workshop of Common Values**
5. **Workshop of Social Sciences**
6. **Workshop of Language Learning**
7. **Workshop of Healthy Living and Sport**
8. **Workshop of Small Talks Around Campfire**
9. **Workshop of Empathy**

is established. The works have being done in the workshops can be titled as follows:

1. **Workshop of Personel Development**

* Drama
* Communication
* Diction and Declamation
* Debate Trainings(Turkish Debate League)
* Leadership
* Etiquette
* Mind and Intelligence games
* Interview Techniques
* Social Participation Skills
* Project Implementation and Development

1. **Workshop of Innovation**

* Ability of ınnovative thinking
* Social Media
* Media
* Software coding- robotic coding
* Try-Do technology Workshops (There are 36 different Try-Do technology workshops in 27 different provinces)
* Design
* Basic Computer Education
* Applied Entrepreneurship Education

1. **Workshop of Fine Arts**

* Photographing
* Painting
* Music
* Local Folk Dances
* Theater Plays
* Caricature and Humor
* Cinema
* Architecture

1. **Workshop of Common Values**

* Anatolian Culture and Civilization
* Culture of Life

1. **Workshop of Social Sciences**

* History
* Literature
* Goals of 2023
* History of Türkiye
* Rights and Responsibilities
* International Relations
* Geography
* Philosophy and Logical Thinking
* Law

1. **Workshop of Language Learning**

* English
* German
* French
* Russian
* Korean
* Chinese
* Japanese
* Spanish
* Ottoman
* Arabic
* Persian
* Sign Language

1. **Workshop of Healthy Living and Sport**

* Life style Development
* Nutrition
* Sport
* Fighting Addictions
* First Aid Training
* Disaster Managment Training

• Club Activities; These activities are teens are able to design, plan and perform all the details about activities and express themselves accourding to the field they are interested in.

In these clubs teen are desinging, planning and performing activities such as; Concerts, exhibitions, shows, games, competitions, debates, hiking, volunteering activities, book reading criticism, conference, symposium etc.

**In Youth Center Clubs;**

1. Social and Cultural activities Club
2. Fine Arts Clıb
3. Healthy Living and Sport Club
4. Science and Technology Club
5. Volunteering Clıub is available for teens.

The activities in the Club can be titled as;

1. **Social and Cultural Activities Club**

* Local Projects
* Book Reading Circles ( To contribute teens getting a habit, in these book reading critics it is targetedto improve that teens are able to express themselves and ability to speak in front of crowds .
* Presentation Practice
* Realities that we lost in Virtual Life
* Add Significance to Life
* We are Coming to Tea ( It is targeted that the staff of Youth Center are going to the houses to the Youth member teens homes to visit accompanied with a small talk with tea to strengthening the bounds).
* Social Media to Social Square ( It is targeted that reducing the teens usage of social media and making them one with the community, socializing them with our national and spiritual values, making them active in daily life with activities like sport and culture.)
* My Center is Everywhere ( In the villages, schools, downtown, malls cut the short story long every place where teens are is a chance to sustain equality for those who do not have the recources).

1. **Fine Arts Club**

* Photography
* Caricature and Humor
* Cinema
* Music
* Theater Plays
* Painting
* Handwork Arts

1. **Healthy Living and Sport Club**

* Sportive Activities
* Healthy Living Activities
* Nature walking in Forests Mountains
* Cycling Activities races etc.
* Fighting Addictions

1. **Science and Technology Club**

* Application of Projects
* Application of Debates
* Kod Name: 2023
* Desinging
* Social Media
* Media
* Robotic Coding and Building
* World of Science and Technology
* Innovative Applications
* Applications of Applied Enterpreneurship
* Try Do Product Applications

1. **Volunteering Club**

* Tree of Goodness of Teens
* Every Youth Center Should Have a Orphan Brother/Sister
* Teen Recycle ( Zero Waste)
* Enviroment
* Civil Defence and Security
* Applications of First Aid
* Applications of Disaster Managment
* Social Life
* Educaton
* Culture and Art

• **Sea Camps**: There are Swimming, badminton, yacht trips, Street games, social and culturel trips, theater, music, volleyball, basketball, football, reading events, folk games, handcraft activities, education and personel development seminars.

• **Nature Camps**: There are Climbing wall, canoe, mountain cycling, orienteering, archery, horse riding, mini golf, paintball, water rafting, football, volleyball, basketball, street games, social and cultural trips, theater, folk games, handcraft activitities and personel development seminars.

• **Science Camps**: In order to the importance of science and technologies demonstrate the days 8-14th of March is organized as Science and Technology Week.

• **Volunteering Activities**: In order to develope a volunteering culture across the nation, with the slogan of ‘You too set your heart!’ the Platform of Teen Volunteers started to serve depending to the Ministry are bringing those who want to volunteer with the organizations that have been looking for volunteers with the website called [www.gencgonulluler.gov.tr](http://www.gencgonulluler.gov.tr) more than over five yeras now. Every year tens of thousands of teens are participating to the volunteering activities organized by our Ministry. Also, 13.000 student had volunteering cource In the 2021-2022 education year in 76 different university.

• **Volunteering Paw Project**: ‘Volunteer Paw’ Project has been brought to life aiming to the teens are taking responsibility and caring of the animals who live in Street or abandoned to the animal shelters and making these animals a member of our Youth Center. The Project is been borught to life in 126 different Youth Center and total of 213 animal; 111 cat, 99 dog, 1 sheep, 2 rabbit are adopted.

• As of ‘December 2021’ we have 3.850 volunteer in our camp leader pool.

• Voluntary Disaster Support Activities

• **ERZURUM and ERZURUM YOUTH CENTERS**

• In our town Erzurum, is the third biggest county of the Eastern Anatolian Region with 758.279 population. Turkiye’s one of the most cold and high altitude county Erzurum known with; historical artifacts, winter tourism, and winter sport facilities.

• This volunteering and all the activities we mentioned before is actively resuming with 62.594 university student teens coming from 2 major universities called ‘Atatürk University’ and ‘Erzurum Teknik University’.

• In our county, there are 7 Youth Centers, 5 Youth Offices which 2 of them is located at university and 3 of them in highschools who are dependant to National Education Ministry are being actively operating.

-**What We Did as ERZURUM YOUTH CENTERS?**

**-** We celebrated the World Enviroment Day with the slogan **‘**Love the Nature, Protect the Green’.

**-** We prepared and implemented theaters andn music shows for the kids who are in the villages.

**-** We did ıce skating with teens and children.

**-** We visited Art Exhibitions.

**-** We organized Exposition trips.

**-** We brought to life the ‘ Teen Recycling Project’.

**-** We sended teens to camps with ‘Youth Camps’ to all across Türkiye.

**-** We give children to camping training.

**-** We organized a ‘Sky Observation Event’ with 600 teens participation.

**-** We read books and translated them to each other using sign language.

**-** We delivered assistance to the families in need with our ‘Kindness Teams’.

- We planted sapling and greened our city.

- We implemented ‘Smile We Are Coming’ Project to 262 village school and 100 downtown school in 5 years. And placed a smile to the cilhdren face approximately30.000 child.

- We participated the World Nature Walk Day with our ‘We Are Walking to Health’ slogan.

- We aided teens to take their first step towards their career in Academic Youth Camps.

- We tried to find solutions to enviromental problems and climate change with Ecological Literacy trainings.

- We did nature walks with our Teen Climate Envoys. We awarded ourselves by picking rosehips and mountain plums instead of packaged products.

- We send special children with autism to camp with their families.

- We organized theater competitions.

- We established teams of Media and Information Technology.

- We ensured teens come together by organizing cinema events.

- We celebrated World Cake Day by baking cakes together.

- We made possible that children from every age both having fun and make a good use of their time in Summer Sport Activities organized by our Youth Centers.

- We organized Youth Banquets.

And hosted just like these countless projects, events. And we will countinue to do many more projects, events both in the borders of Erzurum and whole Türkiye.

Just like our great leader Mustafa Kemal ATATÜRK said; ‘ Cultivate the youth, teens. Give them the positive ideas of culture and science. You will reach the brightness of the future with them. When the free ideas are put into practice, Nation of Türkiye will rise.’ With this thought we will walk with teens, youth, and they will walk with us.