MOBILITY PROJECTS PARTNER DETAILS – PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM

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| PICOID | 898145990 **E10001046** |
| Legal name of the organisation | Istanbul Youth Network |
| Legal name of the organisation in Latincharacters (if applicable) | Istanbul Youth Network |
| Acronym/Organisation’s short name | IYN |
| National ID (if applicable) | 25124283962 |
| Department (if applicable) |  |
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**Profile**

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| --- | --- |
| Legal form | Informal Group |
| Registration Number | 25124283962 |
| Registration Date | 11-09-2019 |

**Background and Experience**

**Please briefly present the partner organization.**

Istanbul Youth Network (IYN) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Istanbul, Turkey working in the field of youth mobility, participation, and facilitating youth awareness about social issues.

IYN was founded in 2019 by the inception of a group of active young university students who wanted to expand their network in Istanbul and all over Europe, through social commitment and participation. The aim of the organization is to awaken critical thinking among the youth, to reflect and act collectively towards common goals, and to fight against prejudice. IYN also encourages youth mobility, youth involvement, voluntarism, and human rights. Our group members are mostly consisting of university students because we believe they have a huge potential for education.

We are working in various fields, like cultural diversity, entrepreneurship, protection of the environment, volunteering, active citizenship, intercultural learning, social inclusion, and others.

We strongly believe that lifelong learning enhances active citizenship, social inclusion, personal development, and European diversity in our society.

We organize projects that tend to promote the integration of socially excluded groups. Also, we have activities that prevent violence and intolerance.

The overall vision of the group is to empower the youth by giving them the possibility to acknowledge, gather information and improve their skills in the following areas:

* Social inclusion
* Intercultural education
* Human rights
* Sustainable development

Our main objectives are;

* Prepare students and youth to their future life and help them to unleash their full potential in the field.
* To create a space for dialogue, to make a bridge between cultures and generations.
* To promote and develop of democratic values, supporting young leaders and youth initiatives

What are the activities and experience of the organization in the areas relevant for this application?

IYN members have implemented many local and international activities, trying to underline the important role of experiential learning and non-formal education and to include those tools and methods to mainstream education.

IYN members have experience in:

* Organizing presentations in schools, universities, and local events in disadvantaged areas, collaborating with municipalities from rural areas.
* Writing and implementing international projects, that give the opportunity to local youngsters to meet and interact with other youngsters from Europe.
* We participated in many Erasmus plus youth exchange and training course projects in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, UK, Poland, Greece, Italy and Turkey.
* We made a campaign for disadvantaged students and collect books for them from all over the country and made a library for their school

The organization’s target group is youth between 16 to 40 years old, regardless of their educational, cultural, and ethnic background, and its activities are always based on the needs and interests of them and society. Therefore, it has developed a very diverse and rich experience in youth education, having worked on different topics that have advanced its expertise in social inclusion, intercultural learning, and human rights. It always tries to give priority to youngsters with fewer opportunities, such as youth with disability, immigrants, youngsters living in rural areas, from broken families, etc.

**Istanbul Youth Network (IYN)** has participated in projects and was a partner in 2022 in the following:

‘‘HOPP Into Child Welfare’’ Training Course in Poland

‘‘Youth@Work Bridges Youth Work and Volunteering Flagship’’ Conference in Ankara, Türkiye by Turkish National Agency

‘‘One Step Beyond’’ Training Course in Spain

‘‘European Year of Youth’’ #EYE2022 Forum in Antalya, Türkiye by Eurodesk Türkiye

**Istanbul Youth Network (IYN)** has participated in projects and was a partner in 2023 in the following:

‘‘LSNR – Learn Share Network Repeat’’ Training Course in Poland

‘‘Re-Think’’ Seminar by the Council of Europe and Y-E-N Youth Express Network in Strasbourg, France

‘‘Learn to grow grow to Lead!’’ Training Course in Poland

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

IYN has a strong team, its staff members come from very diverse backgrounds and educational paths such as psychology, law, economy, cinematography, IT, and social work. All the members have experience with non-formal education, mentorship, social sciences, project management, and finances and can assist in all phases of a project.

The key staff has or studying at least a bachelor’s degree in communication, education, and psychology. So, they are going to include their formal knowledge in the non-formal approach to reach the best possible result. As they have already leaded previous projects and various activities, they can help in constructing and creating programs, as well as implementing them and disseminating project results.

**Ufuk Koç,** 31 years old is the ‘‘President and the Educator’’ of Istanbul Youth Network. Ufuk graduated from computer education bachelor’s degree from Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University. Besides, Ufuk studied overseas as a part of the Erasmus study exchange program in Ostrava, Czech Republic in 2012. Ufuk started to participate as a youth worker in the European Union projects in 2014. The first training course that he was a part of Sustainable Development in Sweden. After that, Ufuk kept his volunteering activities in various organizations and non-formal education as a participant, group leader, and trainer. Ufuk is a digital designer and shares his knowledge with the youth people in organizations by giving digital skills pieces of training. Ufuk runs his own business and his brand currently which is called ‘‘Horizon’’, Ufuk is a serial entrepreneur and advisor at crowdfunding platforms. Ufuk believes a network is an essential system to build strong values in society. Therefore, wanted to build Istanbul Youth Network to bring young people together and let them create their social environment and business.

**Toprak Firat Kaya**, 25 years old is ‘‘Co-Founder and Communication Executive’’ of Istanbul Youth Network. Toprak graduated from Istanbul Gelisim University, the department of Cinematography. Toprak is a professional Social Media Marketing Specialist currently working in this field, and an assistant of EVS operator at Mediapro Turkey -which broadcasts several sports events live- at the same time. Studied Spanish for one year at UNAPEC in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He participated in several youth projects around Europe, sometimes helped with the organization, and sometimes lead other participants, always hungry to learn. Projects that he joined as below:

2014 Get your own picture -Turkey

2014 Sustainable development -Sweden

2015 Join the others - Denmark

2015 Unemployment training course - Romania

2015 Get your own picture part II Turkey

2016 Get your own picture part III Turkey

2017 Power abuse - Spain

2018 Film time - Sweden

2019 We for she – Denmark

2021 Young Entrepreneurs – Denmark

**Enes Akif Acar**, 23 years old is ‘‘Co-Founder and Project Manager’’ of Istanbul Youth Network. Enes is studying at Hacettepe University, the department of Business Administration. Enes did various internships and traineeships in the field of digital marketing and finance at leading companies. Moreover, Enes was the coordinator of the branding division of the entrepreneurship and investment community at the university. Enes is a youth worker and highly experienced in non-formal educational methods, he coordinates and facilitates projects by Erasmus+. He was also an ex-long-term ESC volunteer of an eco-community in Finland. Enes participated in numerous Erasmus+ projects abroad such as youth exchanges and training courses as a group leader, final evaluations by various national agencies, and was a part of the DiscoverEU meet-up, including virtual events by different organizations.

**Şule Dinç,** is a 21 years old Economics student at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. She currently works as an intern at HSBC Head Office of Turkey at the same time. She supports several nonprofit organizations such as (TurkishWIN, Simurg, Tema, Erasmus+) as a volunteer and also leads a student project that provides a platform on which next-generation women leaders prepare themselves for their career lives.

**Begum Ela Sevim,** is a 22-year-old bachelor’s student. She is double majoring in International Relations and Law at Istanbul Bilgi University. She is a YES Alumni, so she is a part of the U.S.-Turkey Exchange Alumni Network. She is the mentor of the Project called your time to pay which is organized by the US Consulate General. Moreover, she is the Youth Ambassador of Germany-Turkey Youth Bridge (DTJB) and board member&trainer of the AFS Volunteer Association. In addition to that, she has studied in Rome as an Erasmus student and she did her Erasmus+ internship in an NGO about Erasmus+ projects. Therefore, she has many experiences with Erasmus+ both as a participant and facilitator.

**Legal Representative**

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