

2019

**RURAL
COMMUNITIES:
FROM ZERO TO
HERO**

Srebrenica

E-MANUAL

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This publication was jointly prepared by:



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Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.

Helen Keller



INTRODUCTION

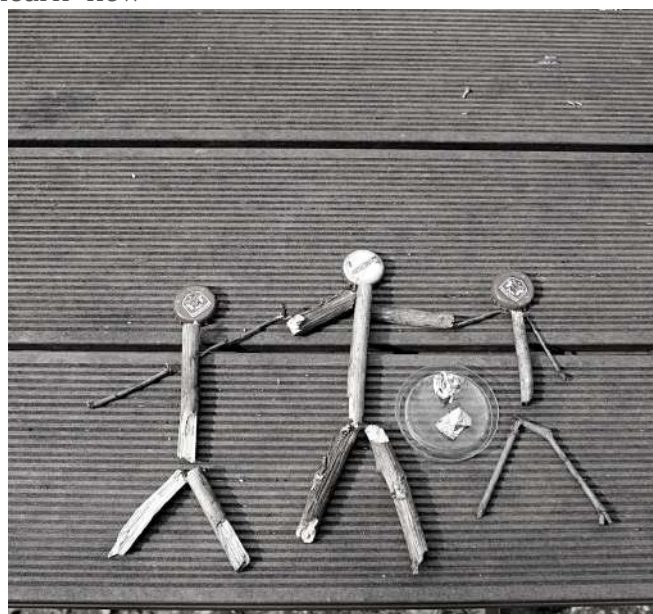
Rural communities: from zero to hero was a training course aimed at developing the skills of young people from rural and less populated areas to empower them to become community leaders. The activity took place between 18-31 of August 2019 in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This e-manual was designed by young people with experience in non-formal education and youth work, bringing in their knowledge and practices in community & volunteering development and local action.

INTENTIONS

Each person who came to this project had different individual intentions. Some of them were in this project to get to know new people, some wanted to see the world from different angles, some wanted to understand and learn how they can help their own community better, but the most important goal was to learn new things both from the trainers and other participants.

At the beginning of the activity, the group agreed to make the environment friendly, be an active participant during the activity, motivate and inspire each other, be patient and trust each other, so we altogether could make great memories, help local community, learn new things and gain experience to bring back to our projects and ideas.





HISTORY OF SREBRENICA

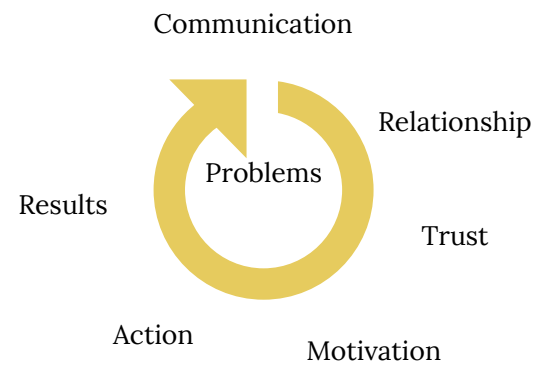
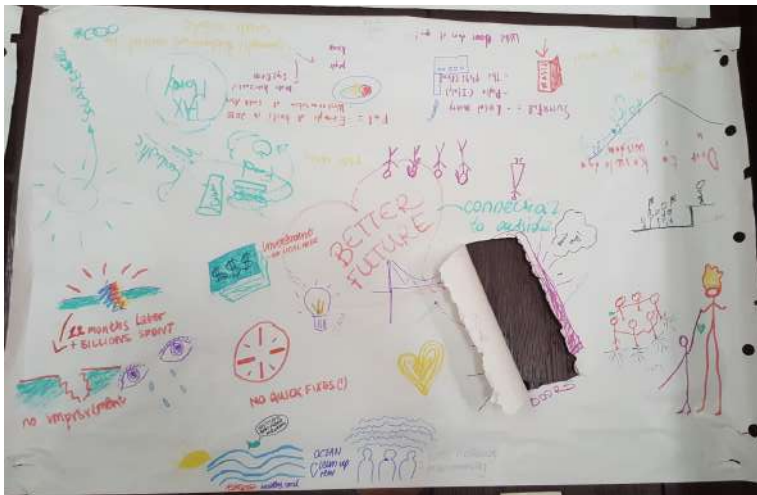
Brief history of
Srebrenica

The name has its origin in the word 'Srebre' which means silver in an old Bosnian language. That is for a silver ore, which was the reason that the city used to be wealthy and prosperous. Since the antique times, people in the region of Srebrenica were known as 'Bogomils' and lived in the woods of Srebrenica as some kind of aboriginal community. In modern times, the town was always a place of different cultures and religions. There used to be communities of Catholics, Orthodox, and Muslims. But the story of Srebrenica took a dramatic turn when the Bosnian war broke out. The people of Srebrenica were forced to flee, mosques were burned down and thousands of people were killed in a massacre, even though the town was proclaimed as a safe zone of the UN. Some people came back in 2002 after the war was over and the government slowly tried to rebuild the region, but of the former population of 70.000 the region nowadays counts about 12.000 people.

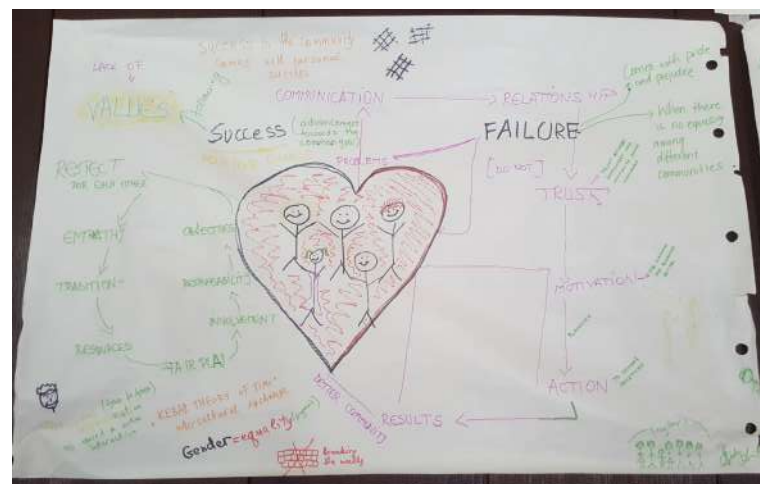
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development, for people with people.

Before approaching the sessions of volunteering development and project management, a group session about the community development was provided to introduce the topic. The aim of this session was to share and increase the knowledge of the participants about community development and create a common understanding.



During the “world cafe” the trainers asked the participants to reflect on the needs of the community, possible ways to help the community and to experience what is the role of the leader in it.



During the theatrical workshop the participants got the chance to reflect upon cooperation, communication, leadership and community development. They learned how to cooperate with each other in verbal and non-verbal ways.



The participants got to know various social issues that can or are occurring in their local living realities. The non-formal education method "the theater of the oppressed" was used as a non-formal education method to exchange ideas about how to solve a social issue and how to draw back to the "audience" to find possible solutions.



VOLUNTEERING MANAGEMENT

Further, we approached more and more the concept of local community development and project management. The session was introduced based on the needs of volunteers in NGOs and in different project management approaches.



Discussion on this topic has evolved in further elements to be added on the list, such as attention to realistic goals for volunteers, time frame for volunteering period, a clear plan and clear tasks, training on different topics that might increase the knowledge of the volunteer, providing equal benefits to volunteers and organizers and having constant and collective feedback.

Basically, the core of volunteering needs are divided into different topics such as:

- Appropriate resources
- Rights and responsibilities
- Setting clear goals for volunteers
- Evaluation, tracking, measuring, reporting and impact

Secondary topics to be considered for a better environment for volunteers are listed as:

- Support and supervision
- Recognition
- Risk management



The subject was followed by more sophisticated theories on different aspects of human needs in order to have a better working space, such as “[Herzberg’s theory of motivation](#)” and “[the iceberg concept of culture](#)” by T-Kit 3: Project Management.

On both subjects it was clear to participants that there is high motivation regarding satisfaction of one self with a strong commitment and the sense of community.

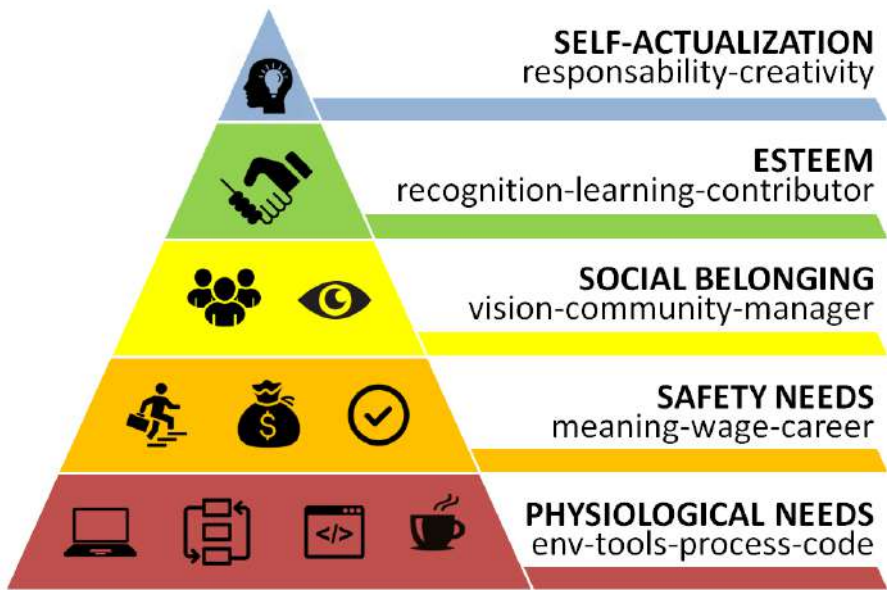
On the other hand, the introduction to “[Maslow’s hierarchy of needs](#)” had a good impact on understanding of different levels of human nature and how to approach them level by level.

Herzberg’s theory of motivation

Two Factor Theory of Motivation

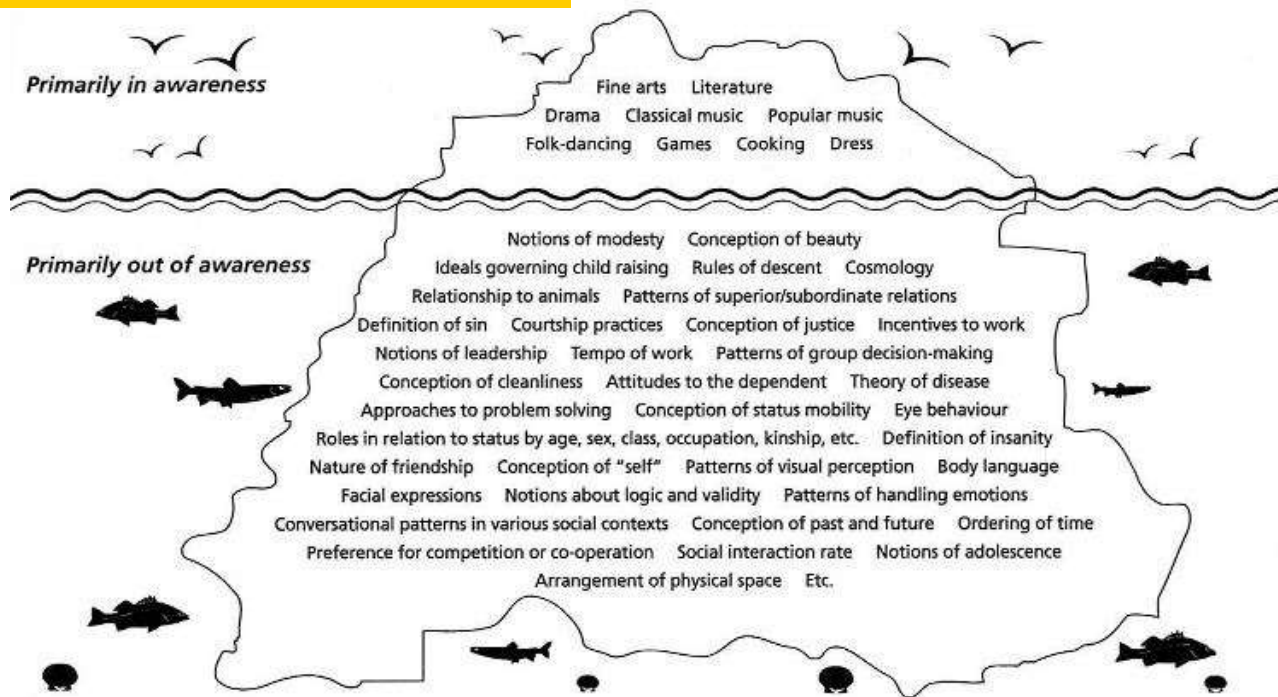


Maslow’s hierarchy of needs



It is to be mentioned that the updated version of this hierarchy has an element supreme and parallel to other needs, and it is self-transcendence: The individual's own needs are put aside, to a great extent, *in favour of service to others*.

The iceberg concept of culture



Source: p.14 AFS Orientation Handbook Vol.4, New York: AFS Intercultural Programs Inc., 1984

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

How do you start your project? What are the aspects you have to consider?
NAOMIE (is SMART) and the W-questions.

N- A project usually starts with an idea. This idea can develop out of a need that arises worldwide, within the organisation, in a specific group of people or *in the local community*. But it can also be an idea that comes out of personal interest, because you read about something interesting or while talking to friends. In this case however you should find out whether there is actually a **Need** for the project.

A- The second step is to find out and to define clearly what your overall **Aim** is. The aim is your final goal that you want to achieve. It should regard the benefits for the participants and all other parties involved.

O- Additionally the aim you define the **Objectives** of the project. They are not the same as the aim but together they should all lead to your final goal. So sometimes it can be easier to first write down all the objectives and then summarize them to your aim.

M- Another very important part of a project is the **Methods**. How do you want to reach your aim and objectives? Non-formal, informal and experiential learning methods. The exact definitions of these terms can be found in the second chapter Implementation.

I- When you have made all the decisions about aim, objectives and methods, it will finally come to the **Implementation**. It is very important to define in advance roles and responsibilities, the concrete programme, material needed and any other practical arrangements including food and accommodation.

E- After the project you will have to evaluate the process and the outcomes. In order to do that you should already beforehand decide how you want to do the **Evaluation**.

Why is NAOMIE “SMART”?



The goal should target a specific area of improvement or answer a specific need.

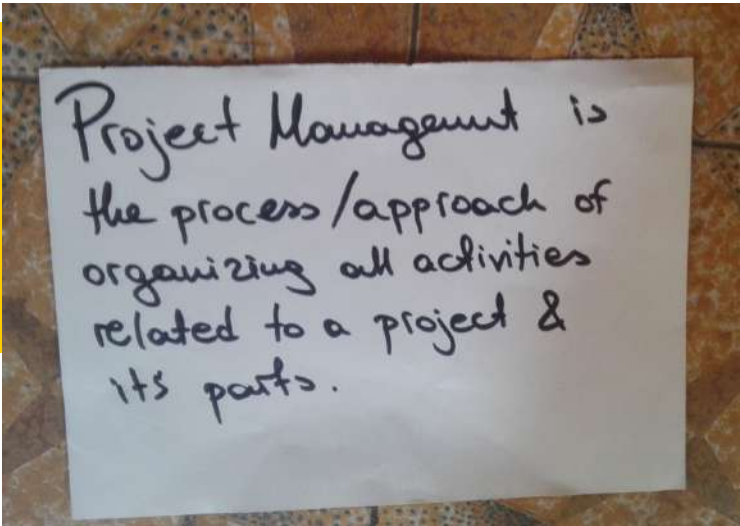
The goal must be quantifiable, or at least allow for measurable progress.

The goal should be realistic, based on available resources and existing constraints.

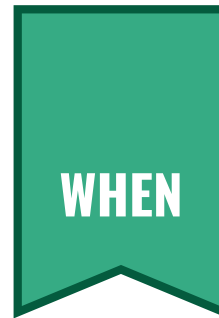
The goal should align with other business objectives to be considered worthwhile.

The goal must have a deadline or defined end.

Another method that can help you through the process of project planning can be answering the so-called **W-Questions** (inspired by Laswell):



W=QUESTIONS



FOR WHOM? - WITH WHOM?
 Identification of project partners or target groups, their roles and relationships in the project, their views on the project, strengths and weaknesses rooted in these relationship and views

The main project activities, spontaneous, organised and institutional, social, economic, cultural, political and educational dimensions, the project's impact on these dimensions

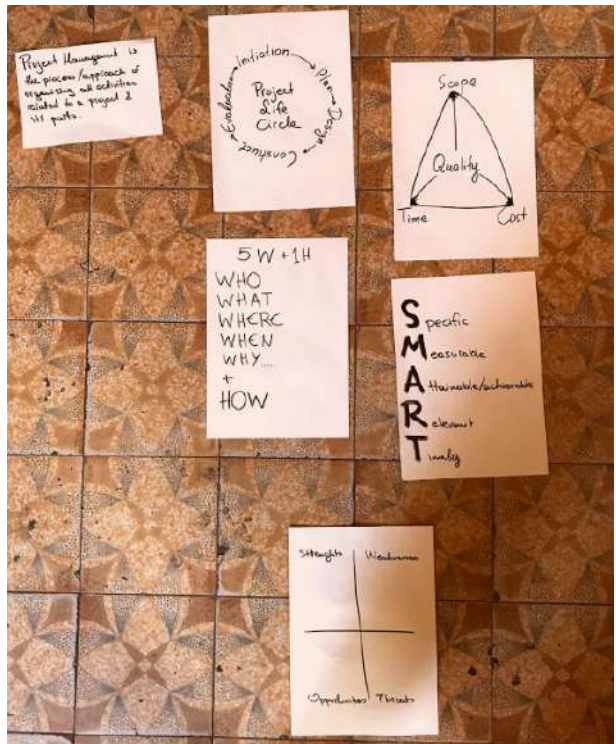
Needs and wishes satisfied by the project, motivation and interests of participants, main objectives of the project, project funding options, relationship between participants' objectives and institutional objectives

Social context of the project and situation of participants

What period is being focused on (past, present, future)? – short, medium or long-term? – background of participants as it affects the project



How is it done? Organisation and participation process; techniques and instruments used; input of participants' experience, theories, other projects, etc.



The two methods are leading to the same point and you may choose the way you prefer. However it is essential for a successful project to keep all these aspects in mind!



LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We had the chance to contribute to the local community with a day long local community projects. It was our opportunity to do something for the community and the people of Srebrenica and give something in exchange of their amazing hospitality. We separated the team in 3 different local community actions:

Group 1 : Cleaning-up action of Srebrenica

Group 2 : Mother's help group that will follow the NGO EMMAUS

Group 3 : Creating activities for local children



Cleaning-up Action of Srebrenica

The action of this group was to do a clean-up of the city. At the beginning of the camp everybody realised the park and a lot of places in Srebrenica were dirty and had a lot of trash everywhere. The team was composed of 8 people and 3 locals (2 adults, 1 kid) that joined the act due to a Facebook event shared among the local community Srebrenica. The event took around 1h30/2h and consisted of a cleaning of the central park and collected trash along our way back to the pension. There was another clean-up action planned in the afternoon but it got cancelled due to rain.



Positive Sides

- The achievement of this event was successful. The central park of Srebrenica was finally clean as some streets around.
- We collected 6/7 full bags of trash.
- We managed to involve the local community with us.
- A random person gave us 20 KM (*Bosnia and Herzegovina Convertible Mark*) to thank us for the clean-up action.
- We felt we had a good impact on the community overall.
- We saw a kid in the park helping collecting trash even though he wasn't a participant.



Negative Sides

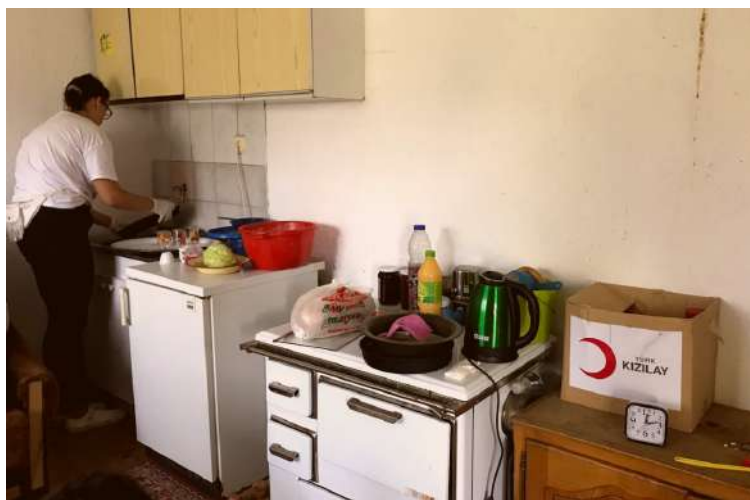
- The attitude of some people in the community was not so positive.
- We needed more time to promote the event and make it on a bigger scale.
- There is no recycling here in Srebrenica which is a problem that should be addressed to the municipality.

Mother's Help Group by Following EMMAUS

This action was done with the help of EMMAUS which proposed to follow them in their action of bringing food and helping lonely mothers living in the countryside of Srebrenica. The action was separated in two parts:

1. Collecting and sharing the story of one mother. With the help of video and audio, she did not allow to publish these materials.
2. Helping her by cleaning her room, keeping her company and give her some positive energy.

Most of the story turn around the war and the genocide. You will find it in the manual at [page 31](#).



Creating activities for local children

The project idea of this group was to organise a recycling event with the kids from a summer school. The group had a varied program including yoga and arts and crafts workshops. Unfortunately, they had a miscommunication with the teacher from the summer camp which led to the confusion of the time and no possibility to implement the event. Through their failure to complete their task, the participants learned how important it is to have concrete and clear goals, work together as a team, make agreements among themselves and with other relevant stakeholders and to keep updated.

"The purpose of this project was less direct than the previous one but was important in our quest here to know the living environment of the people in Srebrenica.

To conclude I would like to say that this activity was very rewarding and interesting for us. It helps us to get more in touch with the community in Srebrenica and know their culture and history better. The organisation of these three projects in such a short time was also a challenge that pushed us to do effective teamwork. Also it is our humble way to pay back all the attention, hospitality and love we got here during our stay."

William

FUTURE PROJECTS

This Training Course aimed that the participants would come with their project ideas to implement it when they went back after taking all details of the writing project and working with local people from the training. The participants used W-QUESTIONS as a tool when they were preparing their project ideas to present it. It involves this part of the booklet the ideas of the participants' projects.

Sound Ecology

The project is about sensitise people and in particular young people to sound ecology through the microphone perception of the world. It consists of the two day workshop containing one day of collective and individual sound recording in nature and one day of listening and audio post-production.

The goal of this project is to make people more aware of sound ecology and soundscape, it also helps people to pay more attention to the everyday sound that surrounds them. I also believe that this workshop will also sensitise the participant to ecology and the importance of preserving our natural spaces. Sound is one of the best mediums to perceive the human impact on nature and biodiversity.

WHO

William and Paria will conduct this project. The target group of the project will be young people aged 10-16/18 years old.

WHERE

The activity will be outside, in nature without any human activity.

WHEN

Summer 2020- Summer is the best season because nature is the most awake.

WHY/WHAT

- Open people to sound ecology
- Elevate and enhance sound perception
- Being more careful of everyday sounds
- Helps creativity and abstraction

HOW

DAY 1

1st phase: A collective session with William of sound recording, having a little explanation of field recording and soundscape

2nd phase: Individual recording of the participant



DAY 2

3rd phase: Listening session of all the recording + introduction to sound editing

4th phase: Listening of the editing done by the perception, analyses, and reflection of the workshop

Support Your Children

WHO

Students (5th graders)

Parents (has full-time or part-time job: unemployed one or both parents)

Teachers (Primary)

WHERE

School Lab, Tirana

WHEN

Starting Mid November and mid-December with giving information about the project and then monthly meetings for a school year

WHY

Workshop (monthly)

WHAT

Educating parents in being active in their children's lives

HOW

Research first (what do they need, how do they organise their children's day, how are they involved in their children's education and their self-esteem) and then each month will be about a specific topic that we will be discussed based on the needs of the students and parents too.



MetaForm_Social Empowerment Activity

WHO

High Zabaleen workers (informal waste collectors)

WHERE

Cairo (Egypt)

WHEN

October 2019

WHY

Poor working conditions and informal economy

WHAT

Social empowerment

HOW

Organizing a community forum meeting with key stakeholders: Zabaleen workers, strategic partners (Climate KIC, Youthinkgreen, Falak startups, Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation), Meta form a team and other partners.



Nature Connection Project



WHO

The target group is the university students and alumni age between 18-30 studying in Istanbul, Turkey.

WHERE

In companies of selected universities and in the area close to Istanbul and Ankara.

WHEN

Beginning of fall and end of spring semester 2020

WHY

In Turkey, youngsters need to learn how to respect and be friend with nature and change the notion that humans are superior to nature.

WHAT

The aim is creating a connection between nature and youngsters through mentioned activities to create a new calm traditions touched nature by respecting ,accepting and caring about it.

HOW

Preparing the following up activities in nature:
Companies
Nature fest

Preparing the following activities in companies:
Nature orienting
Mindful hunt in nature

Around Harvest Festival

WHO

Back to Nature Association

WHERE

Kirklareli, Old Town Central Park

WHEN

Harvest time mid September

WHY

Bringing awareness zero-waste life style, reconnecting with nature

WHAT

Organising activities around harvest festival

HOW

While offering workshops for grown-ups we also take care of the children at the same time so that they can participate in the activities



Opportunity for All

WHO

The target group is transgender group

WHERE

In India and Pakistan

WHEN

After, I finish my studies

WHY

I feel like this community is not accepted and integrated. They are not given their identity and jobs. Then, they live below poverty line.

WHAT

I would like to create work places and jobs for this community

HOW

I would like to make an organisation that would employ them and give them opportunity to live a common life .



The Land Beyond the Stairs

WHO

Through this project there will be three categories of people who are benefiting: the volunteers will gain new skills and information during these activities, the local community through the help received from the volunteers and the tourists who have an easy access to these isolated villages.

WHEN

October-november 2019

WHAT

The purpose of this project is to create a new way of access into the isolated villages in order to make these places easier to be reached by the tourists who can contribute to the development of the local community through ecotourism. The first approach of this project is to form a group of volunteers willing to help the isolated villages. We approximate around 20 volunteers are needed in order to create a new marked trail for people who want to reach the villages. We are expecting to have more than 200 tourists per year who will bring a real contribution to improve and to support their community. For this activity we will have the support of the Mountain Rescue Team. The second step after creating the access is to involve volunteers in different activities with the villagers regarding the improvement of their lifestyle thus the tourist have better condition to live in during their visit.

HOW

Regarding the current described situation, one of the solutions is to create a relation between the local community from the villages and the outsiders who can sustain the development by using their local products, sleeping into their houses and later promote those places in order to make the concept known by the others.

WHERE

This project will be implemented in isolated villages from Cernei mountains. There are 3 villages: Prisacina, Inelet and(cat dureaza, care ii cel mi aproape oras, cat dureaza si cati km)

WHY

Romania is known for its beautiful traditions that keep alive the romanian spirit and maintain the identity of our lands. In the Carpathians, the shepherds are still living with their sheep between the peaks of the mountains which show their mystery and imposing to its believers. At the base of the mountains, we can find the traditional little houses where the people are still living with a strong connection with nature, far away from the shadows of the crowded cities. Due to the fact that younger generations prefer the comfort of the cities, the older villagers are facing issues and difficulties with maintaining the tradition alive, sometimes being degraded by the time. Being blinded by the modern world, most people are not aware of the existence of these mystical places. The purpose of this volunteer project is to support in a sustainable way the community from those villages by bringing the people into the nature and give them the chance to experience the simple and healthy lifestyle.

School of Life

To create a place, sort of like an atelier or a community room, called "School of life" where people from my community can go and learn about different matters. At first, we would provide classes focused on sustainability and material modification (so we could recycle trash and give it a chance) but if the project was to be successful, "School of life" would provide classes on the most random and interesting matters like how social security and IRS work, sign language, permaculture, knitting, nutrition and diet, soap making, and so on. Like this, we could educate and bring up a more autonomous and independent community, anybody from any social class or age would be welcome. This would help the community's critical thinking grow. Giving away the fabric bags would be an amazing kind of advertisement for this project. That would be an amazing way to inform people and let them know this project would be about to come in my hometown.

So, you can understand I still haven't gone through with my idea. I'm working on it as I want to apply for european funds. Also, if possible, this School of life would grow as an association so we could have members, provide cheap fares for each class and have some money to pay for specialized people to give classes on specific matters.



Nyasha Duri

I will work on helping disadvantaged young people with their employability, either through civil society or educational establishments. Currently, I am in the process of assessing the viability of arranging avenues for this through EVS or ESC. As well as giving support in person within local settings, I will also be providing resources for this social impact initiative remotely through a comprehensive global digital platform: yourcareer.site - foresight for the 4th industrial revolution. I want to implement this as a social cohesion and youth capacity building focused programme to equip young people with professional skills and attitudes of social tolerance to feel more prepared for our fast changing world. The wider goal is to encourage a feeling of togetherness to understand that we can work together toward a common future for a sustainable world with sustainable livelihoods in terms of our careers.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

*"Yesterday I was clever, so I changed the world.
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."*

Rumi

As we have approached the end of this exchange program, we want to present some benefits and insights about the development of local activities and projects, dividing them into some specific categories, here's what we've learnt in this two-week process:

Community Development

- Importance of setting the example (be an inspiration for the community)
- Finding ways to involve communities using different means of communication, taking into consideration language barriers.
- The advantages of working with some specific elements within the community. (In our case, a lot in this exchange program couldn't have been done without the help of locals Irwin, Arijan, Edha, Meri, Hasan, Ismeta, among others)
- The application of a small idea can lead to a long term project - or more (Exp. EMMAUS association and its evolution throughout the years)

Project and Volunteering Management

- Volunteers and coordination motivation (providing a structure, a work plan, recognition, conditions, opportunity for growth, good relationships, responsibility, group cohesion, security, supervision, overall satisfaction in order to improve commitment)
- Constructive critics (opportunity to be heard and to speak our minds)
- Using theoretical and experimental strategies and techniques to structure a project (having a theoretical foundation to back planning and execution)
- Exploring methods of evaluation (measuring impact)
- Importance of training background (learnt and applied by coordinators during the project activities)
- Importance of group reflection (understanding limitations and opportunities to improve)
- Advantages of group rotation (working with different people within the participants group)
- Relying and considering different funding possibilities
- Infographic explanations can bring more clarity of thought and understanding

Local Activities and Workcamp

- Local-Community Involvement (Importance of children education in the community makes people more aware of their problems.)
- Storytelling (Understanding and respecting the history, tradition and needs of the population.)
- Diversity of local projects within the same organization - or not (ie. EMMAUS Association there's always something to improve. Exp mother's one meal a day project, elderly house project, sport complex project and etc...)
- Spontaneous collaboration and cooperation (Interconnection of activities within a project or between different projects, this means that one project outcome can be the means for another one. Exp. Materials from a clean-up can be upcycled during an educational activity with kids)
- Independence and autonomy of activity building (Empowering volunteers and participants to come up with their own ideas and apply them accordingly)
- Importance of workcamp and practical activities - theory isn't everything!
- Activities do not only promote social change, but also environmental and spatial (Building of roads, horse stables, water channels etc.) and they can advocate for animal welfare too.

Future Projects

Sharing our project ideas with the group can be an inspiring process and something we can gain a lot from as individuals. By using methods, such as storytelling, we can improve our projects back home and develop networking connections that can open doors for collaborations to happen between the participants and coordinators, but also people from the local community.

LATEST STATUS OF THE PROJECTS

Nature Connection Project

For the applicability of the project, which we developed to increase the closeness and awareness of young people with nature, the youth clubs of 3 universities in Istanbul, Eskişehir and Ankara were contacted. Negotiations were held with Istanbul Technical University Nature Sports Club in Istanbul, METU Mountaineering Club in Ankara and Osmangazi Youth Workshop Group in Eskişehir. Since the projects and plans of the clubs for the fall term are determined from the summer term, the projects we have submitted are planned to be realized in the spring term in terms of applicability. In the future, more detailed and detailed discussions were planned before the spring semester.

Opportunity for All

The project is still in the planning process. Deeper information is collecting about how to engage the organization to help and support the transgender community. A few organizations were contacted regarding this topic and the possibilities to open up job vacancies for the target group of community.

Around Harvest Festival

On Friday, September 13, Damla, Irmak, Erkam and Mert met at the Istanbul bus station and provided transportation by Kırklareli bus. Selcuk and Tugba welcomed us when we arrived in the evening and the next day we hung up to dry the fabrics we would use in the event, then went to our rooms to rest.

Event Day

After having breakfast in the morning, we started to prepare for the activities. First, we organized a cycling event with a cycling route starting and ending in the event area. The participants pedaled about 14 km with the vests of our association. While the bicycle tour was going on, we carried the materials to the activity area and completed the preparations.

LATEST STATUS OF THE PROJECTS

Workshops

First, we realized the Seed Ball Workshop. After the mud made the soil we prepared, the participants mixed it with fruit seeds and rolled it into a ball and left to dry. With the start of the rains in the spring, the balls were thrown into empty lands and gardens.



In the second activity, we worked with clay breakers in clay pots and saucers. Participants have revealed in different uses their imagination as animal figures.



As the third Printing Workshop, we've realized that it was the most interesting workshop for the participants. After scraping squirrel and deer figures on we lino printing paper, we made prints on the cloth bags we distributed to the participants. In addition to the animal figures, the Association of Nature returned the paper to the bags in linen bags.



LATEST STATUS OF THE PROJECTS



Our fourth and last action was the Improvisation Dance Workshop. We made a dance workshop with the participants by making them feel the elements. In this event, the participants danced improvised on the ground and expressed their feelings. With this event, our activities ended, and we started to gather our belongings from the place allocated to us to carry our belongings to our office.

Timo Schlingelhof

In preparation for a workshop I planned to do with a friend of mine, I took part in a two-week activity in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the IYNF in Srebrenica.

The participants were members of a young socialists movement in Germany and their goal was to think about a utopia and how we can take action to make this kind of world reality in a rural region such as Brandenburg is.



TESTIMONY



"I found this workshop really constructive, because I was not expecting to encounter the reality of Srebrenica, I learnt a lot from history and impact of war and how there is still hope in this city and I will look forward to come up with local community development in my own organisation based on the methods that we have learned here."

"These two weeks were amazing. I got to learn and experience a lot. The substance and knowledge learned from this training and workshop has given me a chance to broaden my scope and look at the bigger picture. As I embark on a higher mission of working for the environment, my learnings and insights from this training will help me to manage and make priority programs and projects for the environment and for sustainable development. Overall the learning experience was fun and energetic."

"This experience brought me a different kind of feelings. At the beginning of this project, I started with a lot of unknown, even regarding the place and I decided to be open to everything that is happening with me without having a bad attitude towards them and try to take only the positive learnings from it. For me the first interesting fact was the number of people coming from different countries who takes part in this project which already means new knowledge only by interacting and exchanging experiences between us. These 2 weeks were full of information and different activities which kept me aware of the community I was in. In this project I really felt that I had little impact on this community through the activities that took place. Before coming here I had only a vague knowledge of Srebrenica city and after almost 14 days spent here I got attached somehow on the community. For sure an unforgettable experiences and learnings to be applied back home."

"After having spent the past two weeks with IYNF I can only express gratitude and a lot of love for this network. Not only have I learnt a lot about project management, community development, social action, among so many other important concepts, as I feel my knowledge about Srebrenica and Bosnia could have never been so broad if I hadn't joined this exchange program. A big THANK YOU for all the team, coordinators and participants, for being so caring and loving. Absolutely loved my experience in Bosnia, hope we will find each other in some other beautiful location, changing the world step by step."

"These 2 weeks went by far too fast and I am sad that they are over. This project was really great, because the programme was thought through, I did learn a lot from both trainers and other participants. I will leave this project inspired by people around me and residents of Srebrenica. I have never thought that through so many creative ways we can learn a lot of important stuff about community development, project management and volunteering. Team that cared for participants did their best and no matter what tried to make our stay here as good as possible and I think that they succeeded. Experience that I have gained here is amazing. Stories about the history of local people are heartbreaking and because of that I was thinking that people will not like people from outside, yet people are so welcoming and generous. Without this project I wouldn't have known about the horrible history of Srebrenica and It is sad that things like these have not been reminded to the world more often. If I had a choice, I would live this through again without thinking twice."



"I was super excited to join the summer work camp in Srebrenica, BIH. Although my trip back there did not go as planned. It was supposed to be a 12 hours trip but it turned out to be almost one day trip, unexpected though. When I was travelling to Srebrenica, I really enjoyed the trip and it was like I completely forgot what I have been through. The nature was incredible and untouched. Something that you do not see everyday. First days were pretty fun and I needed to adopt, as well, since I wasn't in my comfort zone. Day by day we did a lot of learning activities such as working in community development, local actions, future projects, work camp etc. This work camp has made me appreciate little moments with people that matter and understand how valuable it is to take time away from the unimportant issues that bother me at home."

STORIES FROM SREBRENICA



Story of Irvin (32)

In this workcamp through the story of a person whose life started on the 5th of December 1987, in Srebrenica. His name is Irvin Mujcic. Irvin spent his first 5 years of childhood in Srebrenica without knowing that his life would completely change by the worst feelings which dehumanize people: violence and hatred.

The war in Srebrenica started in 1992 and the fate of its over 35.000 inhabitants would never be the same. With hopes and dreams still alive, he and his family moved to central Bosnia where they hoped that the situation would defuse. Irvin did not know that another 21 years would pass until the moment he could go back to the place he once called home. Contradicting their thoughts, the war spread and they had to move in a clandestine way to Croatia. From now on, his trip to the unknown was about to begin.

Irvin and his family moved to Italy on the 9th of August 1993, in a little village at the base of the Alps, in a refugee camp. The next 12 years are characterized by attempts of integration and seeking for the feeling of being home.

Irvin started to work for EU in projects based on youth empowerment, emancipation, and discrimination with a break of 2 years between when he moved to Egypt and Tunisia, reiterating his projects at the EU in Bruxelles. Despite his career and stability gained through hard work and determination, Irvin felt that it was time to return to his real home, back in Srebrenica. Not knowing what was ahead of him, without a clear idea about how the future would be, he spends the first months in his grandfather's house, without the provision of a lot of necessities.

To discover his lost land and identity, he started to travel around Bosnia by walking, and he finally finds what he missed the most: humanity and solidarity. Inspired by the kindness of simple people from the countryside of his land, and together with NatureFriends from Italy, his foster land, he started to build-up his dream: to rebuild the connection between nature and the people, in particular children, who he thinks to represents the future.

The project Srebrenica – City of Hope

The project Srebrenica – City of Hope was born after the meeting between the Italian Group of NatureFriends and young returnee in Srebrenica. The original idea was to open an House of Nature in Srebrenica in order to foster sustainable tourism in the area, once upon a time known for its natural beauties, today worldwide known mainly for the Genocide occurred on 11 July 1995.



After one year of work, the youngsters of Srebrenica launched a crowdfund to renovate one house, out of the many half-destroyed from war time, in Srebrenica. Thanks to the crowdfund, the help of Italian Group of NatureFriends, as well as of many individuals and volunteers, in April 2017 they managed to fix the House of Nature in Srebrenica, with a temporary capacity to host 12 persons. The project didn't stop there but moved forward by creating a network of people working together in different villages and areas of Srebrenica: Osmace, Jezero Perucac (Perucac Lake), Ljeskovik, Jasenova, Potocari, Susnjare. Through hiking trails they linked the villages and, at the same time, they gave the possibility to enter in touch with real traditional rural way of living the life. Many of the villages are still based on old agricultural jobs and farms, in a close contact and respect with nature. They are, still today, in the era of technology capitalism and mass industrialization, living examples of sustainable development. Little oasis of peace for mankind and nature where visitors have the unique opportunity to enter in touch with the soul of real Bosnia, work the land with their hands, wet the ground with the sweat of their job, see how vegetables grow up, and taste the smell of real life, food and people!

At the moment, he owns his land in the village, up in the mountains where nature dominates every corner and he is working hard to build four houses which will teach "humanity" by using nature's tools.

There is still a lot of work to do. But he is the living proof that if you trust enough, every dream can come to be real and you will lose nothing forever if you do not give up. His dream is to lie down near the creek, relaxing onto the grass while hearing the giggles of children playing and enjoying the majesty of nature. After years of fighting, Irvin is almost there.

Story of Rahime (80)

Rahime is 80 years old lady who is living alone in Cerska . She married and after 17 years she got pregnant. Her husband died before the war at work. During the war her son was 19 years old and he went to army and he died after 7 days of war. She is saying that it was so hard not to greet her son after war when the women around her are greeting their sons and hugging them. She wanted to get to her son, but they don't let her. When Cserka was bombed she flee to the Srebrenica/Potocari, the safe zone of the UN, but when the UN just dropped the safe zone, she came to Tuzla as a refugee. After the war she came back to cserka and made a funeral for her son which was quite difficult to do. He and her husband are now at the cemetery near her house and are the reasons why she stayed in cserka after all what happened. Now she is living in a small house with three rooms, with two oven to heat in winter time. She has to live from 20 Euros each month, which is the pension of her husband and the earnings she gets from selling herbs she collects in the woods, together with 4 goats and 10 sheep.

Story of Merjam (13)

Merjam was born in tuzla but she moved to Srebrenica in 2006. She is the daughter of the family who hosted us in their home. She thinks Srebrenica is a sharing ,lovely city despite what other people think that Srebrenica is a sad place due to its history but she disagrees. In fact people are not always mentioning about sad history or events. She is a lovely girl who is learning new languages and she is pretty interested in communicating with us. We play games and having conversations together here.Even though she loves living in Srebrenica she wants to move to Paris in future.





Fun Facts

Did you know that?

Dervish house

The house of wood, that the dervish used to live, is situated right before our pension on the way up from the supermarket. Over 300 years ago the dervish used to live in peace with other religions in this house.



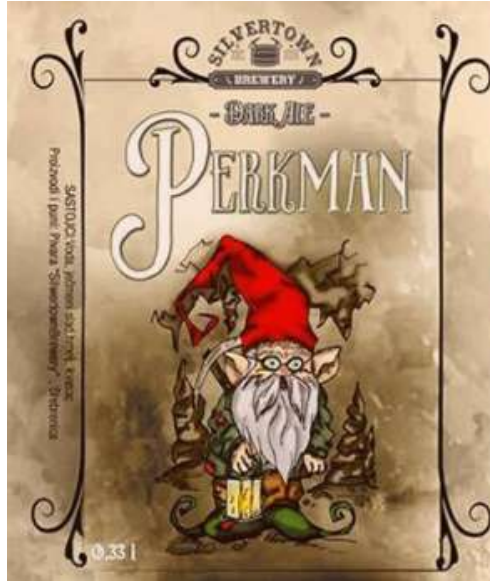
The geographical center of ex Yugoslavia

On a hill, in Srebrenica, they have installed a beautiful big white stone as a symbol of Bogomir, they have applied this stone for the exact center of the ex Yugoslavia. When we arrived the stone was fully covered by nature.



Perkman Dwarf

With the Austro Hungarian arriving in Srebrenica, they started to mine, but while they were resting they could still someone working with the hammer, when they went to check, they found this cute little dwarf helping with mining. The legend belongs to Bosnia now but they say it came from Germany.

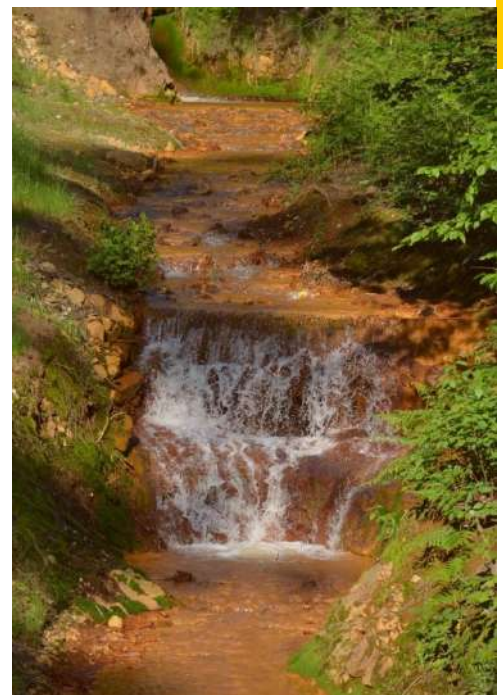


Catholic couple

Right before the war, there was a discovery of bones of the Franciscan monks' bones in an area in Srebrenica, so the community has decided to build a church on top of the old monastery. Today there is still visible the old structure of the monastery. It is estimated to go back to 1352, 14th century.

Guber springs

When Ottomans attacked Srebrenica, they had a skin rash disease called Guber.. Both humans and horses. When they arrived to the springs they took a bath and the water of the spring healed the disease. That is why the springs are named Guber.



Info About Organisations

- **International Young NatureFriends- IYNF**



Prague, Czech Republic

[click here for the website](#)

IYNF is an international organisation bringing together Young Naturefriends and their organisations across Europe. It was established in 1975 and currently has 16 members and 10 partner organisations. With more than 120.000 young members organized in over a thousand local groups, it is one of the major European youth organisations. The fundamental reason for IYNF's existence – or what we jointly want to become – is an international network to connect and inspire Young Naturefriends for living values of respect, solidarity, equality, sustainability and love and care for nature.



Anna Mayfat

*Financial
Coordinator*



Esma Cakir

EVS Volunteer



Ana Teresa

Trainer



**Olga
Karageorgiou**

Trainer

- **Naturfreunde Jugend**



Germany

[click here for the website](#)

NFJD (Germany) is one of the oldest and most active organizations in the IYNF network. With more than 100 years of existence and division into hundreds of groups they have built a solid experience organizing activities from the local to the international level. They will bring an important contribution to our partnership by sharing skills and experiences in reaching many young people across the country and working with socially-disadvantaged youth.

- **Live with Earth Association**



Portugal

[click here for the website](#)

Organization for global sustainable development born and based in Portugal. They act on the fields of Social Innovation, Environmental Education, Projects of Sustainable Architecture and Self-Sufficient Systems (Permaculture Design), Scientific Research, Cultural, Artistic and Convergence Event Organization.

- **Gruppo Italiano Amici della Natura Giovani**



Italy

[click here for the website](#)

Gianguio “gruppo giovane amici della natura” is an organization under the umbrella organization of GIAN adults and NFI Naturefriends international. Was born in 2013 and since today is participating hand in hand with IYNF by sending participants and getting partnership for different activities. The focus on GIAN was and is to bring tourism in the areas that are difficult to reach by middle society.

- **Asociația Prietenii Naturii Banat**



Romania

[click here for the website](#)

The association was founded in March 2017, at the same time it was affiliated with the NF international movement through the national organization. The mission of the association, Romania being a category A member, is to promote nature and culture, to promote international culture and friendship, eco-education, ecotourism, social solidarity and to protect nature. In this sense, in the few years of activity the association organized over 100 events, such as: hiking trips, mountain and environmental education sessions, cultural promotion events, social solidarity events, mainly in the remote areas of the Cerna mountains. Starting with 2019, some of the activities of the association have been oriented towards the development of the youth structure of the association. International participation: NFI Hiking Europe project, IYNF project, working meetings with NGOs in Serbia. Also, the association participated in various national and local conferences on the environment, TV shows and established collaborative partnerships with various administrations of the National Parks.

- **Association of Back to Nature Youth and Sport Club**

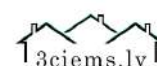


Kirklareli, Turkey

[click here for the website](#)

Association of Back to Nature is a youth organization that offers a realistic perspective over the struggling problems of environment and youth rights, which tackles ecology, human rights and livelihoods simultaneously, in order to make a sustainable life possible for all living beings. Our Organization provides support for youth initiatives in education, culture and outdoor sports, as well as to attract professionals in various fields for implementation of youth projects. To implement the aim, the Organisation organize thematic events and camps for young people, culture- and education events, after-school activities for young people, nature education and outdoor sport activities with disabled young people, tours, including the international ones, an international voluntary services, study visits and seminars, information activities and to cooperate with the other youth organizations and support and implement all these functions at the local level and internationally.

- **Trīsciema Biedrība**



Riga, Latvia

[click here for the website](#)

Trīsciema Biedrība" is a non-governmental organisation which was founded on 12th January 2015 and it focuses on upgrading the living conditions in the area of Trīsciems, educating the residents of this community and promotion of areas recognition.

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MetaForm



Cairo, Egypt

[click here for the website](#)

MetaForm is a social enterprise and an eco-startup that reforms and reuses solid metal waste to create newly designed public space furniture's by using contemporary, practical and cost effective methods. Started as a project in October 2018 after winning Falak Startups Award at EIT Climate KIC Climathon Cairo; it is planned to soon be launched in the capital city. It is currently undergoing bootcamp and training sessions organized by EIT Climate KIC ClimateLaunchpad Egypt in collaboration with Youththinkgreen to participate in the National finals in Sept 2019.

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Global Environment Organization (GEO)



Istanbul, Turkey

[click here for the website](#)

GEO Global Environment Organization (GEO) entered service in 2012 by a nature volunteer mass. This nature volunteer mass has been operation works in Turkey and different countries of Europe since 2005 and wanted to increase the effect of their works by institutionalizing and to accomplish goals which was determined firstly in Turkey and globally by reaching new volunteers. It consists of administrative body from different field of professions and volunteers and advise committee for increasing the quality of projects. It has been organizing with 16 persons and nearly 120 national and international cyclically volunteers in organization management board. There are volunteer presenters from 28 cities of Turkey.

Useful Links

Work and Travel

<https://www.workaway.info/>

<https://www.helpx.net/>

<https://hippohelp.com/>

Websites

<https://www.wix.com/>

<https://www.weebly.com/?lang=en>

<https://www.strikingly.com/>

<https://wordpress.com/create/?>

Training, Education, Seminar and Workshops

[edX](#)

[coursera](#)

[udemy](#)

[umbria acaemy](#)

[Collaboration for Environmental Evidence](#)

[European Commission events](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

[YEE](#)

Project Management Tools

[Asana](#)

[Trello](#)

[Slack](#)

Petitions

<https://www.change.org/>

<https://www.ipetitions.com/>

<https://www.causes.com/>

Charity and Funding

<https://www.globalgiving.org/>

<https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/who-we-are>

<https://www.foei.org/what-we-do>

<https://www.kickstarter.com/>

<https://gogetfunding.com/>

<https://www.indiegogo.com/>

<https://www.generosity.com/>

<https://www.gofundme.com/>

Human library

<https://humanlibrary.org/>