



GSM-Gençlik Servisleri Merkezi-GSM – Youth Services Centre

www.gsm.org.tr

ASSOCIATION:

GSM – Youth Services Centre is a non-governmental and non-profit youth organisation that has been founded by a group of young people in 1985 in Ankara, Turkey.

Since its first day, GSM has actively worked in youth field and until today it has created and successfully implemented many national and international youth projects. GSM is a pioneer organisation in the field of youth-work in Turkey.

Our main aim is to support common understanding, peace, friendship and intercultural learning among young people coming from different cultural backgrounds by organising international youth activities. We believe that these intercultural activities give a space to young people to share their experiences and own cultural richness, which could help young people to break down any barriers and prejudice.

Main Activities;

International Voluntary Workcamps

We, as one of the active members of ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service Organisations, have been organising International Voluntary Workcamps in Turkey in cooperation with municipalities, universities, institutions and other NGOs.

International Youth Projects under European Programs

Our another major activity is the youth projects such as *youth exchanges, training courses, seminars* and *youth gathering* under **Euro-Mediterranean Youth Action Program**, occurred after the 1995 Barcelona Declaration and since 2004 under **YOUTH program**. We organise youth projects in Turkey with

the financial support of **European Commission and Council of Europe** as well as enable the active participation of Turkish young people in these youth projects in Europe organised by our worldwide partners.

Youth Information

Turkish youth have the difficulty of reaching informatin because of not having a proper youth information structure on either local or national level. We believe that reaching information and expressing one's self are the major principles of human rights and that's why we feel the responsibility to meet the expectations on youth information. Keeping these in mind, we created a website, www.youthpost.org in partnership with UNDP Turkey and British Council – Ankara, win which the links, documents, reports and information regarding youth issues that may interest young people. Besides this, another website www.gencavrupa.info was shaped and it is a key for youth to reach the information that they can need for their personal or professional life.

NGO Capacity Building Seminars

For many years we have been organising various national and international youth activities from which we gained quite some important experience and knowledge. Sharing these experiences and knowledge with other youth organisations is one of our main principles. In order to enable the youth empowerment into civil society more, we organise NGO Capacity Building Seminars from time to time due to the expectations and needs of the national grass-root level youth organisations.



Summary of the EVS hosting project:

Duration: The service will start the 1st October 2013 for 12 months.

Number of volunteers: 1 volunteers

Location: Ankara

DESCRIPTION:

Our project Source of Information will be hosting 2 volunteers, one from Italy for *12 months in Ankara.* The aim of the project is to provide information for the young people in order to enable them to develop socially, personally and occupationally as well as to transfer the information to the different youth groups by using various communication channels. During the projects the volunteers will be responsible of preparing an e-bulletin, organizing information meetings with the high schools and universities as well as updating web sites and social media tools in order to inform the Turkish young people about the opportunities and services that EU provides. In order to reach the information the volunteers will be using different means, such as the data base of the host organizations, national data bases and European Youth Portal.

During the project the volunteers will be given an orientation about living in Ankara by the members of the association, who are former EVS volunteers. Turkish language course will be part of orientation and will be organized by a professional teacher or a young person who can speak English fluently. In addition, the volunteers will have the opportunity of taking part in the social and cultural activities as well as international project organized by GSM-Youth Services Center. Beside the defined project for the volunteers, they will have the opportunity to participate in the ongoing projects of GSM. In addition, the volunteers will have the chance of experiencing the implementation of the youth work in Turkey, specifically preparation of a youth project, working with young people, defining needs and expectations of young people as well as technical preparations of a project, such as funding opportunities, project cycle

management, organization skills.

The volunteers will have 2 days off per week and 2 extra days off for a month. The extra 2 days of each month cannot be transferred or saved to another month. Volunteers can not use their monthly free days all together.

Each volunteer should be in the association during the working hours which is between 10:00 and 17:00; except the external responsibilities like field work or if the volunteer make extra hours, she/he can use these hours as free hours later.

The project for the volunteers: Youth information helps young people improve their skills and abilities, use the services, resources and opportunities readily available, develop solutions to problems and play active roles at local, national, and international levels. According to the "European Youth Information Charter", the youth's access to either information they need or the unbiased, complete, clear and trustworthy answers to their questions is handled within the framework of democracy, human rights and respect to fundamental rights and freedom. This right is also fundamental for the youth information activities of the European Union.

Integrated approach in youth information encompasses any topic that the youth is interested in and includes the series of services including informing, consulting, recommendation, counseling, support, and assistance, education, networking, and directing them to an expert. Such services are delivered to young people by service groups established under youth information centers or different organizations, by internet and by media.

The aim of this project is to provide youth with necessary information for their social, personal and occupational improvement and to deliver this information, by using all possible channels, to different youth groups in a way they can easily understand and reach.

The project will host 2 volunteers at the same time. The project will have 3 phases; preparation, implementation and evaluation phases. It will consist of office and field work and last for 12 months. During the project the volunteers

will be hosted in the office of GSM-Youth Services Centre but after the preparation phase until the evaluation phase the volunteers will be on the field twice in a month in order to reach to the young people of Ankara.

The preparation phase will last for 3 months and it will be in door. Throughout the preparation phase the volunteers will not only be given training on youth information (8 hours per week), social media (4 hours per week) but also will be trained on communication and communication skills (8 hours per week) as well as youth work (6 hours per week).

Implementation phase of the project will be 8 months. It will consist of field work and it will be an experimental phase for the volunteers who will enable them to implement what they have learned on youth information, social media and communication skills as well as basic Turkish. In this phase the volunteers will be asked;

- To prepare weekly online bullet in about EU opportunities for Turkish young people by using the tools of Eurodesk Turkey
- * To organize one information meeting with a group of young people of high school between the age of 15 and 18 once in a month
- * To organize one information meeting with a group of young people of university between the age of 18 and 30 once in a month
- * To update the youth information web sites of GSM
- * To use social media tools (face book, twitter, linked in, second life, etc) effectively to distribute the opportunities of EU for the young people to a vast majority
- The information meetings with the young people will be the main tools that the volunteers will be using during their projects. These face to face and peer to peer techniques are the basis of youth work and youth information work therefore it is important that the volunteers are ready to work in various environments and with different cultures. In addition, the volunteers will be responsible of the technical and logistical preparation of each meeting with the support of professionals of GSM. In

addition the volunteers will be talk about their experiences in EVS during the meetings as a good and living example for the European opportunities of young people.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

be between age of 18 to 30

be able to communicate in English

be interested in media and youth information

be open minded

be ready to work with different cultures

be ready to travel and participate in outdoor activities

be motivated to work with young people

ACCOMODATION

Volunteers will be staying in a flat with fully equipped (furniture, refrigerator, washing machine etc) including internet. Other EVS volunteers are now staying in the flat and for 1-2 month your volunteers will be sharing the flat with them. The volunteers will receive a total budget to do shopping for food. All other expenditure concerning rent of flat, bills etc will be covered from project budget. The volunteers will be responsible for their breakfast and dinner. During the week days lunch will be covered but at the weekends they will be responsible of their lunch additionally

Turkey in Short

Republic of Turkey is a Eurasian country that stretches across the Anatolian peninsula in western Asia and Thrace in the Balkan region of southeastern Europe. Bridging Europe and Asia, Turkey is bordered to eight countries: Greece and Bulgaria to the northwest; Georgia to the northeast; Armenia, Azerbaijan (the exclave of Nakhichevan) and Iran to the east and Iraq and Syria to the south and southeast. The Mediterranean Sea and Cyprus are to the south, the Aegean Sea and Archipelago to the west and Black Sea to the north. Separating Anatolia and Thrace are the Sea of Marmara and the Turkish Straits (the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles) which are commonly reckoned to delineate the border between Asia and Europe, making Turkey transcontinental.

