



Erasmus+



Forest Crafts Youth Exchange

**20-30 JUNE 2019
KIZILCAHAMAM - ANKARA
TURKEY**

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Project Summary

In the past, when the plastic toys were not so widespread, children's toys consisted of handmade toys. The toys were made of wood or cloth, decorated with children's imagination. The wooden cars that our grandparents and grannies made for us were the most beautiful toys in the world and had no harm in our health. None of the present toys contribute to the imagination of children and unfortunately many are made of plastic that is harmful to health. Especially for children under three years of age there is hardly any toy that is not harmful to them.

Our project was born from the idea of reproducing and introducing various tools from the forest products which are the raw materials of these wooden cars we played in our childhood. There are two main reasons why we chose this idea for our project. Firstly, these toys made of forest products that appeal to the nostalgia of each country's culture. Therefore, the participants who will come to our project will be able to respond to their environment when they continue their skills in their own countries. Forest products, especially wooden made ones, in a way, remind the owners their past. The second reason is that we can open a window with wooden toys that we will make within the scope of this project and we can remind them that they are not alone. The second reason is that within the scope of this project we can open a window with wooden toys we will make, we can bring the subject refugee children who needs protection and in this way we can make them feel they are not alone. The primary aim of our project is to bring out, reproduce and introduce the wooden materials that have remained in the depths of these cultures. In addition to all, by giving our participants the skill to produce wooden tools by developing these workshops and making them a profession, to show our people a different aspect of using forests and forest products, moreover by bringing participants and refugee children together we aim to develop their empathy for refugees to introduce the Erasmus + program and its advantages to young people, to enable them to evaluate their free time and to contribute to the reduction of xenophobia are all among our other aims.

KIZILCAHAMAM

Our project will take place in Kızılcahamam, Ankara. The most important reason for choosing this region is to reach the disadvantaged young people. With us, our project will take place with 35 people including 4 + 1 (4 Participant +1 Leader) from 7 different countries. All participants, except for the group leaders, will be disadvantaged young people between 18 and 25 years of age. Group leaders will consist of youth workers or leaders who have been active in at least 2 projects before.



a night view from our mountain house in winter



The main working method of our project will be group work. In the first three days of our group work, each country team will work by themselves in their own groups and in the following days there will be heterogeneous groups from different countries. The first impact of our project is to increase the awareness of our participants, partner organizations and local people in our project area, their tolerance and awareness of being an individual.

The project will be realized totally based on non-formal learning methods such as learning by doing, small group work, outdoor activities, games, etc...



OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH EXCHANGE

The main impact of our project is that our target audience will be more conscious and motivated about social solidarity and cooperation when our project end, the empathy of our participants will be increased. In the long term, for those people one of the possible benefits of our project will be to share social aspects of cooperation and share the positive aspects of cooperation and cooperation with their environment. Furthermore, our project will serve as a tool to clear the bad effects of unfounded and negative propaganda that our country has been exposed to abroad through our participants and their social environment in the long term. Finally, this project will open the way for people in Kızılcahamam to start to benefit from forests and forest products in different ways such as fruit collection, mushroom, jam, nature tourism, camping and trekking which they have not evaluated until that day, thus will contribute to Kızılcahamam and Ankara economy even in the long term.

Another aim of our project is to increase the empathy of our participants by bringing them together with the refugee children.



There will be seven partner organizations from different countries as below and each partner will take place with 4 participants and 1 group leader.

- *TARPTAUTINIS BENDRADARBIAVIMO CENTRAS - LITHUANIA*
- *FIATALOK AZ ÉLHETŐ KÖRNYEZETÉRT EGYESÜLET - HUNGARY*
- *ASOCIATIA PRO-XPERT - ROMANIA*
- *ZNANSTVENO-RAZISKOVALNO..., SOCIALNO PODJETJE - SLOVENIA*
- *LIVIV CITY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION UNION FORUM - UKRAIN*
- *CULTURAL CENTER BABYLONI - GREECE*
- *NOSTALJI GRUBU - TÜRKIYE*



Participants

As mentioned before each country will take place with 4 participants and 1 group leader. Participants should be in 18-25 age group and group leader must over 20 but there is no up limit for group leaders.

Participants should be disadvantaged persons. Particularly, the participation of young people who has disadvantages in economic, social, cultural and educational difficulties is preferred. Participant's statement is essential about this topic. Also, it would be nice if each participant can communicate in English but it is not obligation ;)

If you think you need visa you may check <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>

Deadline for selection of the participants: Please select all the participants before **18.04.2019** and fill the document: *Details_of_team.doc* and please add your participants to our FB group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1532367516894556/>

Practical arrangements

Accommodation, meals and activity costs will be covered by the project. The food will be served 3 times daily. Water, coffee and tea will be free of charge available during coffee breaks. Project can not pay for extra meals or drinks you might need.

Reimbursement rules

Please buy all the tickets online (do not use travel agencies, cash payments are not allowed!) and always make online check-in where possible. This will speed up the reimbursement process and is more environment friendly. Please don't forget to choose economic class tickets.

PS: To fly Ankara is more expensive than to İstanbul from abroad. You may fly to Istanbul and take high speed train or bus to Ankara ;) If you need support for connections you can ask to us.

IMPORTANT: BEFORE BUYING THE TICKETS SEND THEM TO US FOR APPROVAL via kklmurat@gmail.com

Venue

As you know venue of the YE is a town of Ankara: Kizilcahamam. Kizilcahamam is 60 km far from Ankara city center and very famous with Soğuksu National Park, forest and natural SPAs. Accommodation and some sessions will be in a pension in Kizilcahamam city center. But most of the time which we spend together will be in the mountain house in the forest area. We will create our wooden toys in the open air workshop which is in the garden of forest house. When our toys will be ready to play, we will have a field trip to Ankara city center to gift our toys to poor/immigrant kids.

Pension details will be shared as soon as we receive the participant lists from all partner organizations. For some detailed information about Ankara you may use: <https://wikitravel.org/en/Ankara>. Also, if you want to know something about Soğuksu National Park and natural life of it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfi_OH0IYHE

Travel insurance

We strongly advice to make travel insurance and we want to remind this is your own contribution and will not be reimbursed. You may think travel insurance with medical insurance, trip protection and luggage insurance.

What to bring

Something to introduce your city and/or country, Something to introduce your organization, Some foods, drinks, music from your country for intercultural evening. Please don't forget to bring your good mood and open mind ;)

What to do

You need to make a research about natural toys, especially wooden ones.

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