



# T.E.A.M.

**Third Eye Education and Youth Association of Mediterranean**

Akdeniz Üçüncü Göz Eğitim ve Gençlik Derneği

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## Who we are

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Akdeniz Üçüncü Göz Eğitim ve Gençlik Derneği (Third Eye Education and Youth Association of Mediterranean-TEAM) is situated in Kazanlı - Mersin – Turkey.

**T.E.A.M.** was founded in 2009 in order to protect the wild and natural life with the local community and youth in and around Mersin. We especially care a lot with the Sea-Turtles (Caretta-Caretta and Chelonia Mydas), which leave their eggs on the coast of Kazanlı-Mersin and are under the risk of extinction. We act as a Coordinating Organisation in Mersin (Supporting and Hosting Organisation), **in Volunteering Projects (EVS) under European Solidarity Corps (ex Erasmus+)** and we give training course to youths, create awareness and promote European citizenship by volunteering. Our organization is promoting international and intercultural values, also youth initiatives and projects in the local community.

After selecting volunteers and arranging their flights, we give details info about where and how to meet with the volunteers.

Travel money is calculated via distant calculator. Link is below:

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en)

The nearest airport is in Adana, which is on the East of and 60 km far from Mersin. There are 7/24 hours available shuttles from airport in Adana to the city center of Mersin.

During the Project travelling from where the volunteers stay to the other parts of Mersin is easy. There is public transportation to the city center and the first bus stop

is located just in front of the flats where the volunteers are accommodated. The schedule of the buses are in every 10 minutes during the weekdays and in every 15 minutes during the weekends. The last bus from the center is at 23:00.

**Mersin** is a city of culture and tourism that is frequently visited with its beaches, bays and gulfs and historical and various religious sites on the Mediterranean coast which is 321 kilometers. Mersin has a Mediterranean climate which means summers are hot and humid, winters are cold and rainy. In accordance with the Mediterranean climate in the region, usually oranges, tangerines, lemons, bananas, peppers, tomatoes are grown.

**Kazanlı** is a small town which belongs to Mersin and 15 km far from Mersin city centre. Today, the most important economic activity of the town is agriculture. In the surrounding fertile soils, horticulture and greenhouse cultivation are carried out. The coast of Kazanlı is the spawning area of two species of sea turtles in the Mediterranean. These turtles are green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*). Both species are classified as endangered (EN) in the red list issued by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The main spawning area of the green turtles in which the spawning areas are very limited is the coast of Kazanlı. On the other hand, Kazanlı coast is an important spawning area for *Caretta Carettas* that lay eggs in various bays along the Mediterranean coastline.

The turtles' season is between May and October so in the rest of the time we give more attention to create awareness about environmental protection, recycling, reusing, reducing among youth and children via theatrical plays, games, flash mobs, etc depending on our groups' creativity. One of the most important priorities for the project is the promotion of active citizenship spirit, the empowerment of voluntarism and of the spirit of collaboration and solidarity to youth groups.

## What we do

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Activities from the weekly program:

- Meeting with mentors and project coordinator discussion - briefing
- Cleaning the coast where turtles lay their eggs (the main activity for 12 months)**
- Preparing media about environmental protection
- Turkish Language support
- Meeting with local people and informative activities about environment
- Informative workshops - creating awareness about environmental protection, recycling, reusing, reducing among youth and children via theatre play, games, flash mobs depending on our groups' creativity.

**During Turtle Season, the volunteers are cleaning the beach in the late afternoon and walking along the beach at nights in order to monitor and protect the Mama and Baby sea-turtles from the predators such as dogs, crabs, etc.**

There are two kinds of activities for summer and winter season;

**Summer activities (From May to October):** The volunteers protect the mama turtles (from the dogs mostly) all night long by dividing into two groups at the beach. There are two groups in the night shift and usually determined by the numbers of volunteers via lottery. First group's working hours are between 10:30-3:30 and second group's working hours are between 00:30-5:30 (working hours may vary with time).

Later, the baby turtles starts hatching. The volunteer's mission is to find the baby turtles who are heading to opposite direction to the sea because of the artificial lights and collect them in the boxes for the purpose of saving them from the other animals which are not in the food chain of the turtles such as cats, dogs, snakes, birds, etc. After releasing the baby turtles to the sea by using torches to make them find their way into the sea. In other words for being a light to them.

***"Turtles never say thank you, you should have your own motivation."***

Cleaning the beach where the turtles lay their eggs and Turkish lesson continue all year long.

Winter activities (From October to May); when the baby turtles finish hatching and reaching to the sea, the winter activities start. Our volunteers keep cleaning the beach on weekdays. Beside this, one day is turkish lesson class and they also do workshops on weekdays. Workshops are about the activities for raising awareness about environmental protection, life circle of sea turtles, 3R (reuse-reduce-recycle) etc. And they are raising awareness mostly in public, in middle-high schools and in kindergardens. For the middle and highschoools they are having presentation in English (if there are language classes, they usually have priority) and for kindergardens, volunteers perform theatre. Subject is still about environment and it depends on the group's creative capacity. And sometimes we are making events with kids from schools, municipality and with the other local organizations and we are cleaning the Kazanlı beach together. In this case, the people that we are trying to make more aware about environment protection experience on the field with our european volunteers.

If there is a chance, we visit the recycling factory and turtles hospital in Mersin.

The volunteers will be active in the project for 35 hours per week (language lessons are the part of it). Arrival and departure days do not make the part of volunteering time. The volunteering schedule may also vary with time – some periods will be more busy, and some will be much more flexible. During the planning of the activities the volunteer has to build up together with the host organization.

## **Food and Accommodation**

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Food and accommodation will be covered by the Turkish National Agency. Travel costs are covered by the Turkish National Agency according to the EU distance calculator.

The volunteers have budgets for the shops for food and common needs for the flat. Shops consist of supermarket, butcher, organic shop and greengrocery. Budgets are combined by each volunteer's food money all together. If some volunteers want to use their budget for food separately (vegetarians, vegans etc.)

they can. The volunteers are responsible to cook their meal 2 by 2 on each weekday for the entire group.

Volunteers will be accommodated in 2 flats and share the common space and the bedroom mostly four people in one room. The flat is situated near the project area and has double bedrooms, kitchen, living room and all other facilities. There are mainly sufficient materials in the flat. It is a good chance for volunteers to live in a multinational team and share their own cultures with each other. They can improve themselves to understand and respect for cultural differences more, also for improving communication skills in English, Turkish and more.

## Pocket Money

Pocket money is calculated 4€ per day. It is given on a weekly/monthly basis.

## Language Support

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We provide Turkish language lesson training; a total of 3 hours per week, which include vital language features which a volunteer will need to communicate with the local people easily and smoothly especially when he/she sets out for any activity in downtown, city center or other places where he/she would like to go. Learning a nation's culture starts with learning the language of that nation. So that this lesson provide you to learn Turkish culture also.

## Intercultural Evenings

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The volunteers are kindly asked to present their own cultures – national, regional, personal or any kind of culture they feel represents them! These presentations should be interactive. This means that all options are possible. A culture may be presented by a song, a game, a story, a poem, a dance, Power Point, video, some typical drinks or food, etc. The volunteers may bring pictures, music or anything which they consider to be helpful to present their culture. There will be a computer and data projector available.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

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**Volunteering Projects** are based on the principals of non-formal education. This gives learning opportunities outside schools, universities, and other similar institutions.

Without doubts, the volunteer will learn a lot throughout the project period, and sometimes about the things he/she could not even expect from the beginning. In order to make the volunteer's learning as efficient as possible, he/she has to take the responsibility for it, and to put clear aims, about what he/she wishes to learn, and how to achieve it.

The volunteers will be supported in following and evaluating their own learning process that will result in [Youthpass certificate](#), which is recognized throughout Europe. Youthpass certificates will be filled by the volunteers themselves via evaluating their own achievements on competences. We highly recommend our volunteers to read the contract carefully which will be sent by the sending organization after being selected.

We deeply wish to let this **Volunteering Projects** place open for young people with a strong motivation to be a volunteer, and to continue after their **Volunteering Projects** to be volunteers in their life and hopefully keep in touch with our organization and their sending organization.

## Further Information

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If you want further information of Turkey, check the link below.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C3%BCrkiye>

If you want further information of Mersin, check the link below.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mersin>

**“BE AWARE AND CREATE AN AWARENESS”**



## Contact Details

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### AKDENİZ ÜÇÜNCÜ GÖZ EĞİTİM VE GENÇLİK DERNEĞİ

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## Activities Gallery

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For more information and photo gallery please click the link below. The link will direct you to our official web page.

<http://thirdeyemed.org.tr/>