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EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE ENABLES OPEN EDUCATION STUDENTS TO VISIT EUROPE

■ Res.Asst. Zeynep KARAL ÖNDER

Students of the Faculty of Open Education take part in voluntary services across Europe under the European Voluntary Service (EVS) Project, funded by Erasmus+ Youth Programs, which allows them to have international experience and participate voluntarily in a wide range of activities. Fifteen volunteers are recruited in one of these projects, “Youth Empowering Youth YEY 18-30”. Nine volunteers were sent abroad in January, and six volunteers will participate in the project in February and April for a period of two or six months.

Volunteers of projects have so far been from Sinop, Antalya, Van, Mersin, Bursa, İstanbul, Ankara, İzmit, Eskişehir, Afyon, Balıkesir and



Edirne. Students are engaged in voluntary services in Norway, Portugal, Hungary, Italy and Bulgaria.

Under “Youth Empowering Youth YEY 18-30” project, students assist disabled young people aged over 18 with daily living activities, with basic self-care including hygiene, dressing and eating, organize

workshops for the therapy of disabled young individuals, organize pottery workshops, produce ceramic ware, and contribute to garden designing. Volunteers are also engaged in music, painting, reading, walking and speaking activities adapted to special needs and personal rhythm of disabled young people in order



to improve their motor skills. With these activities designed to enhance social relations between volunteers and disabled young individuals, young people have the chance to build rapport with each other. Furthermore, volunteers meet local people in different platforms, make presentations about their culture, and take part in discussion forums and workshops.

Volunteers are motivated to visit public institutions, libraries, banks, municipalities, hospitals and museums to get more familiar with local people. Cultural activities are held to enable volunteers to promote Turkey and the Turkish culture. In this project, volunteers' visa expenses are covered by the project budget, and the International Office of Anadolu University assists them with visa procedures. The International Office covers from the project budget volunteers' travel costs from the point of origin to the destination. Volunteers accommodate in houses allocated to them and do not pay for accommodation. Food expenses are covered by the host institution, and local transport expenses are covered by the project budget.

Furthermore, volunteers in an EVS project get a monthly payment of €90. Volunteers are accompanied by a guide when providing voluntary services. At the end of services, volunteers are granted an internationally valid Youthpass Certificate, which allows participants to show what they have done and what they have learnt.



■ Res.Asst. Merve ÇELİK

■ The Associate Degree Program in Child Development, launched in the Faculty of Open Education at Anadolu University in 2015-2016 academic year, aims to train professionals qualified to be employed in the field. Graduates of the Program Child Development will meet the need for human resources in private and public preschool education institutions. Students of the program are equipped with knowledge and skills required to monitor children's development in various areas, cooperate with families as well as individuals and institutions related to child development, and raise public awareness. Graduates of the Program in Child Development can find employment opportunities

A NEW PROGRAM IN THE FACULTY OF OPEN EDUCATION: **CHILD DEVELOPMENT**



in preschool education institutions affiliated with the Ministry of National Education, private education institutions, child clinics of hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health, rehabilitation centers, and institutions affiliated with the

Ministry of Family and Social Policies. Detailed information about the program is available at <https://www.anadolu.edu.tr/en/open-education/programs-in-turkey/associate-degree-programs-in-the-faculty-of-open-education/child-development>.

