



Social Responsibility Through ESC Volunteering Among Young People in Türkiye

PRESENTED BY HATİCE SUBAŞI

Who I Am? :)

My name is Hatice Subaşı, and I am a youth worker at Van Youth Education Academy Association (VAGEAD), an ESC-accredited organization based in Eastern Türkiye."



VAGEAD



VAGEAD is a youth organisation based in Van, supporting young people through **international mobility, non-formal education, and community engagement.**

We work to empower **youth with fewer opportunities** and promote active citizenship, solidarity, and inclusion.

Where Is Van? Why Does It Matter?

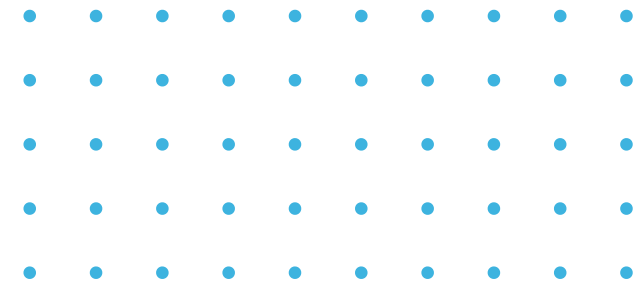
GEOGRAPHICAL & SOCIAL CONTEXT

Van is located in Eastern Türkiye, close to the Iranian border, far from major metropolitan centres.

Young people often face limited access to international opportunities, socio-economic disadvantages, and reduced mobility.

For many participants, ESC becomes their first international experience and a major turning point.





Who Are the Young People We Work With?

Our participants are aged 18–30 and come from diverse backgrounds, including:

- Rural or economically disadvantaged communities
- University graduates unable to find stable opportunities
- Young people motivated to contribute but lacking access to international programmes

These youth are talented, eager, and open to transformation.





What Is the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)?



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**



The ESC is a programme of the European Union offering non-formal learning experiences abroad.

Through volunteering, young people develop:

- Social responsibility
- Civic engagement
- Intercultural understanding
- Practical skills through real-life community projects

Our ESC Projects Abroad

TYPES OF VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES

Turkish youth contribute to projects in various fields, including:

- Working with children and young people
- Supporting people with disabilities
- Environmental activities and sustainability
- Community-based initiatives and social services

These projects help them become active, globally-minded citizens.



Why ESC Matters for Young People?

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

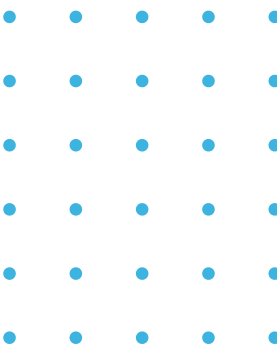
ESC offers powerful learning outcomes:

- Increased self-confidence
- Stronger sense of purpose and responsibility
- Enhanced problem-solving and communication skills
- Improved employability and clearer career goals



Impact on Social Responsibility

FROM LEARNING TO ACTION



ESC experiences transform personal growth into social engagement:

- Participants return with a deeper commitment to community issues
- Many initiate local volunteer groups or small civic actions
- They develop empathy towards marginalized groups
- Social responsibility becomes part of their identity

Real Stories from Türkiye



Ferdi, a young Physical Education graduate from Türkiye, was unable to find a job after university. Through the ESC, he joined a long-term volunteering project in Portugal, supporting children and youth through sports.

His volunteering experience transformed his life. Ferdi gained confidence, new skills, and strong connections within the organisation. After completing the project, he enrolled in a Master's programme in Portugal, and shortly after, the same organisation offered him a job. Today he works there as a youth professional.

Ferdi's journey shows how ESC can open unexpected paths and create real social and professional opportunities for young people from Türkiye.

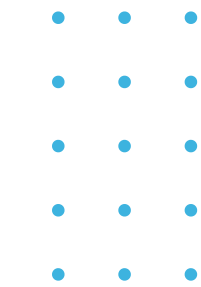


Community Impact in Türkiye

BEYOND INDIVIDUAL GROWTH

ESC creates a ripple effect:

- Families and communities become more aware of volunteering
- Local organisations begin new youth initiatives
- International cooperation strengthens local capacities
- A culture of solidarity slowly expands in the region

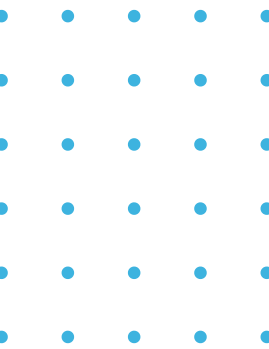


Challenges We Face

BARRIERS FOR YOUTH IN EASTERN TÜRKİYE

- Financial limitations
- Lack of foreign language skills
- Fear of travelling abroad
- Limited role models who have international experience

Through guidance and mentoring, we help young people overcome these barriers.





Why This Work Matters?

BUILDING A RESPONSIBLE GENERATION

ESC volunteering helps create young people who:

- care about their communities
- understand inclusion
- respect diversity
- believe in active citizenship



Conclusions

- Non-formal education is a powerful driver of social responsibility
- ESC offers transformative experiences for youth with fewer opportunities
- Young people from Türkiye bring commitment, energy, and empathy to Europe
- Their ideas and actions influence both society and the workplace



***“The best way to find yourself is to
lose yourself in the service of others.”***

Mahatma Gandhi

*Thank
You*

