

GSM

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 information 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 youth portals, web sites and youth researches.

- 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.

GSM is a member of,

- ALLIANCE of European Voluntary Service Organisations
- Youth CAN – Youth Culture in Action Network
- ERYICA – European Youth Information and Counselling Agency

The General Characteristics of GSM's Workcamps

All the camps;

- are being organised by GSM in cooperation with municipalities, universities and local initiatives
- are international and the camp language is ENGLISH
- last for 2 weeks
- have one or two GSM camp leaders
- have an age range of 18 to 28
- do not provide insurance

What is expected of the volunteers?

- no previous experience or specialty for participating at the camps is necessary
- to be ready to work 5-6 hours a day
- to be able to speak at least basic English
- to arrange their own transfer to/from the camp place
- to join all the camp activities and obey the rules of the camp
- to bring necessary materials, which are required for the camps
- to arrive at the camp place on the arrival day and depart on the departure day
- to have their own large insurance in their own countries and bring any necessary documents
- to bring a big smile and enthusiasm