

**& SYSTEM
GENERATION**



YOUTH TELEGRAPH SPECIAL EDITION



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY 5 DECEMBER

More than one billion people volunteer globally for solidarity and humanity, for people and the planet. International Volunteer Day (IVD), 5 December, is an occasion to pay tribute to volunteers worldwide and to recognize the value of volunteerism in advancing peace and development.



IF EVERYONE VOLUNTEERED, THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE.

Imagine more than eight billion of us volunteering. Limitless possibilities for sustainable development – food and education for everyone, clean environment and good health, inclusive and peaceful societies, and more. Volunteerism is an enormous renewable resource for social, economic and environmental problem-solving throughout the world. As the world faces mounting challenges, volunteers are often the first to help. Volunteers are at the fore in crises and emergencies, often in very testing and dire situations.

SYSTEM GENERATION **WHO WE ARE**

SYSTEM AND GENERATION GETS INTO THE ACT ABOUT:

**SOCIAL AND
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**ENCOURAGING SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
INITIATIVES**

**PROMOTING TOLERANCE
AND HARMONIOUS CO-
EXISTENCE**

**SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES AND FEWER OPPORTUNITIES**

**INCREASING OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**FOSTERING INTERCULTURAL
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION**

**WORKING ON MIGRATION AND
REFUGEE RELATED ISSUES**

SYSTEM&GENERATION IS:

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Network of Anna Lindh
Euro-Mediterranean
Foundation:*



*Board Member of
European Network
of Youth
Centres(ENYC):*



*Founder of Ankara
Social Innovation Youth
Centre*



*Full Member of
European
Volunteer
Centre(CEV):*



SYSTEM GENERATION

WHO WE ARE?

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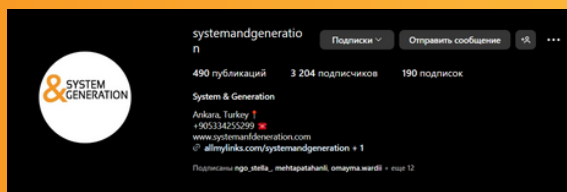


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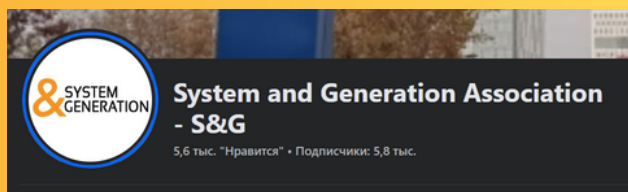
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YOUTHELEGRAPH 2023 EDITION: THE S&G ONLINE MAGAZINE WRITTEN DIRECTLY BY OUR LOCAL / INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS AND S&G STAFF MEMBERS.

(With special thanks to Sofia Shchypakina)

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Bilge Sayın, Türkiye

What is volunteering for you?

For me, volunteering is a thing which refers to a situation without money or material things. In this sense, volunteering should give happiness.

Why you decided to volunteer?

I see that volunteering is an activity which university students can benefit from and many of them can improve themselves.

What are the volunteering activities you do?

We did many activities, but what I remember the most was spending a good time with my friends and the earthquake victims, creating graffiti on the walls of the gym, which made me very happy and emotional.



How do you feel about participating in volunteering activities?

I feel happy and peaceful while doing volunteer activities. I discover new people, new cultures

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Kateryna Gerasimchuk, Ukraine

My main advice for new volunteers - to be open-minded, to be aware what kind of work you will be doing during the project and to enjoy every moment of being here.



My day as a volunteer: *discussing about current situation with your roommates during the breakfast, having some morning activities in the office or somewhere outside, meeting new people everyday, no time for lunch, making English classes for locals, talking a lot with Mister Gurkan, coming back home to cook the dinner, waiting in line to take a shower. It can look like a very stressful day (sometimes it is) but the days we spend here are really funny and it is an unforgettable experience for me. Furthermore, we have days off to rest, go shopping, discover Ankara and Turkiye as well.*

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Merve Özcan, Türkiye

For me, volunteering means devoting your physical and spiritual body to another place and time for a certain period of time.

*For me, it means seeing a different country, city or land. Meeting new people means making the present fun and investing in the future. Getting to know many people and learning their stories is a building I have built on my heart. **At the same time, volunteering is a way to realize my personal but humanitarian goals in a different country and with different people.***

I had the opportunity to work with isolated individuals who were often relegated to the back streets of society. Although many rights are given to people from birth due to their human status, some communities are aware of these rights, but their rights are not fulfilled sufficiently by others. In this program, we spent time with the disadvantaged groups of the society (physically, economically and mentally) by organizing trainings, entertainment and events. We built a window in their room, reminding them that we were with them. Of course, they are also a door to our world.

Participating in volunteering projects made me feel different things socially and personally. To think socially, being involved in such a project brought me awareness and responsibility. Responsibility pushed me to take action, and taking action pushed me to have a say. This was a process that made me visible. Personally, I was someone who always wanted to go, see different places and get away. He gave me an adventure ticket, which opened up a path of freedom and originality for me.

We hope to have voluntary networks where we can volunteer at any time and place in our lives and maintain this excitement.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Doha Ouahid, Morocco

Hello, my name is Doha, I am from Morocco and currently I am a volunteer in Turkey, Bodrum.

Volunteering is my way of life since childhood. I started volunteering first in my country and then went all over Europe to extend my expertise. Because of this, I acquired a lot of social skills, made friendships from different countries, met new cultures, helped people, looked at new places and expanded my horizons.

I am glad and proud of every volunteer experience. To be a good in this domain, it is very important to be flexible and have the motivation for it.

Each experience was unique for me, but I spent more time as a volunteer and with the Red Cross I learned a lot there. I was a member of the commission for the development of volunteering and youth policy and also a first aid instructor. I shared the knowledge from this experience with different people from different fields and associations.

I chosed the project "call of trees" because I needed to get in touch with nature and I am interested in environment topics.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Farah Almaqusi, Jordan



Initially, I was a bit skeptical as balancing between my studies and volunteering demanded considerable effort. Moreover, many people in my surroundings laughed at me, deeming my efforts nonsensical and suggesting I focus on building my future. Despite this, I persisted in my journey with complete confidence in my choices. Soon, I noticed significant changes in my personality and felt a growing excitement in my heart.

Volunteering introduced me to passionate individuals who imparted various life lessons. Motivated by the opportunity to make a difference, I took the first step into the world of volunteering, setting the stage for a meaningful and rewarding experience. This journey helped me discover my passion, identity, and life goals, with my personal puzzle falling into place day by day.

Today, one of my dreams has come true during my opportunity in Ankara, Turkey, with System and Generation organization.

Being in another country, completely self-independent, facing new challenges, and exploring the unknown, I am experiencing new things and meeting people from diverse cultures. I've come to realize that a person has no limits and can achieve many things without fear of experimentation. My advice to anyone starting a volunteering journey is to begin with small, steady steps. Listen to yourself, don't be afraid to try, and persist until you achieve what you want.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Zümürüd Mammadova, Azerbaijan

Volunteering can benefit you socially, emotionally, and professionally. It can be broadly defined as donating your time usually to or for a good cause. It is about freely giving your time to help an organization, your community, or an individual.



Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, and boost your social skills. The key is to find a volunteer position that you would enjoy and are capable of doing. I have had the opportunity to volunteer at S&G, and it is an incredibly experience. I think the projects we are trying to do here will bring me great things.

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Gentjana Hasa, Albania

What is volunteering for you?

The others might say that it is about helping others, but for me it is about going outside of my comfort zone, and every time I go out of my comfort zone, I explore my limits. I think it is a great opportunity to understand myself better, to find out that I am able to do those things I never thought I will be able to. It's also very valuable for me to share my experience with others and develop my personality.

I can see volunteering as intercultural and interpersonal exchange between people from different countries and cultures that use the same human language.

Why you decided to volunteer?

The reason why I decided to come here is because I'm actually a pretty shy person and I wanted to go out of my comfort zone. I was willing to explore new horizons and express things that I've never said with a loud voice, to break the wall of my shyness. It was also to develop my entrepreneur skills and this experience is very helpful for me in this topic.

How do you feel about participating in volunteering activities?

It would be very hard to explain everything just by showing pictures or describing, because it is something you would never understand until you do.

For me it is so rewarding and meaningful, I realized that small things can bring plenty of happiness. I became more social, made new friends.

I'm happy to feel comfortable, like I'm at home, it helped me to overcome some fears I've had before. Mister Gurkan is like Google maps for me, guiding and helping to find the best route.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Sofia Shchypakina, Ukraine

For me my volunteering time is like an alternative universe, where everything that happens is more joyful, meaningful and gives my life a sense.

During my volunteering experience i have a chance to meet the sweetest, kindest souls, people of different backgrounds and beliefs. It`s an honour and a blessing to have the opportunity to exchange our experience, get another view of this world, make new connections. I can confidently say that during my volunteering I`ve met friends for life around the whole world. It is truly amazing to see how confident and happy other people become after volunteering and I`m glad to be a part of this journey.



This specific project in Turkiye was like a fresh air for me, as I absolutely love this country`s culture, traditions and people, here my soul is at peace.

I`m happy to be a part of something that makes people`s lives here easier and more interesting, gives them some opportunities, empowers them and give them some meaningful connections and memories.

Without volunteering I would not be who I am now.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Ceren Yeşil, Türkiye

For me, volunteering means trying to make the world a better place. It is taking a huge step to transfer our world to the future in a healthy way. That's why I came to Albania to volunteer.



We organize activities for disabled children here. We meet them and learn with them. We plant vegetables in the Greenhouse. We collect the growing vegetables and give them to the school. We discuss how we can make our activities more effective.

I feel like a hero when I do a volunteer project. It is very important for me to see the smiling faces of children and have fun with them. Not only do we teach them, they also teach us.

One of my favorite things about volunteering is that there is so much I can contribute from myself. I am interested in drawing and I can teach such activities to children. I love singing and we can paint together while singing. And now I know that when I return home, I will be a very different person. I will take a lot of experience with me.

*Also, I learn the culture of Albania every day, and the more I learn, the more I love it. While doing all this, **I can already realize how much my perspective has expanded. I am now more conscious about many things.***

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Omayma Wardi, Morocco

To me, volunteering is a passion I had since as long as I can remember. I consider it an obligation toward the people in need.

We all have plenty of privilege one way or another, but we take it for granted, unfortunately. So I see it as a chance to give back to people who need us, and to our mother earth that we took so much from, but nothing was given back in return. It's also an opportunity to learn new skills, as well as meet new people from different backgrounds.

My favorite part about volunteering is sharing my time with other volunteers and getting to socialize with various types of personalities. All together, we shall find a common ground to cooperate and reach our end goal for the project we're all working on.

It might seem simple but believe me it's not an easy task. However, when it's accomplished you'll all be satisfied and even build new friendships on the way!



I'm more than thrilled to be one of the volunteers in this project in particular, since it gathers various activities.

Each one of them requires a different skill, for example : speaking, documenting, planting trees, craftsmanship, debating with other volunteers etc..

This means that I'll get the opportunity to learn from others and try to give my perspective on things in return. I see it as a win-win deal!

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Daryna Nychyporenko, Ukraine

What is volunteering for you?

Volunteering, for me, is a selfless act of contributing time and effort to support others or a cause without expecting personal gain.

Why you decided to volunteer ?

I'm here in the sense that I exist to assist and provide information. My "decision" to be here is based on my programming to offer help and engage in conversations.

What are the volunteering activities you do?

I organize and facilitate an English conversation club and create posts for Instagram as part of my volunteering activities. I find fulfillment in contributing to education and community engagement through these efforts.

How do you feel about participating in volunteering activities?

Engaging in volunteering, like coordinating an English conversation club and crafting Instagram posts, brings me a deep sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.



It's not just about contributing to education and community engagement; it's also the chance to forge new connections and explore the vibrant culture of Turkey. The genuine warmth and kindness of the Turkish people amplify the joy in my volunteering journey.

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Marta Zalutska, Ukraine

What kind of people did you meet while running a volunteer project?

- Actually I met different people from different countries. That's an amazing experience of being surrounded by people with different cultures, languages, religions.

How many people have you met in a volunteer project?

- A lot of nice, charming and smart people.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Nia Kakulia, Georgia

A volunteer project, this is a unique opportunity for each young person.

A year ago, I decided to start participating in a volunteer project, which turned out to be amazing. Volunteering gives u the opportunity to get to know people from different backgrounds, their culture tradition of other countries and at the same time make foreign friends.

What I enjoyed most about my experience was that I will develop my skills, speaking and communication.

*During the project, I met people with different personality views and goals, who inspired me in a certain area. **Volunteering is more than the word defines.** Therefore, my advice would be for young people to make the most of this opportunity because they will get international experience, which is really important for their careers.*



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Mehtap Atahanlı, Türkiye

People who will volunteer in social responsibility projects must be people who cannot expect anything in return for their work.

They must be responsible people who sincerely want to turn their knowledge, love, time and sometimes money into goodness and for the benefit of society without any interest, who are helpful, friendly to people, animals and nature, compassionate, adapt to teamwork and sometimes able to lead.

My favorite volunteer project was visiting village schools and doing activities with children in need of support there. We bought stationery items, boots, coats, snacks, and personal care products for them and gave them as gifts.

*We spent a few days at the schools and I got closer to the children and established an emotional bond. The financial situation of the children there was very bad, so bad that they had no shoes or clothes. And this situation made me very sad. **On the third day of the project, a few girls called after me and said, "We want to be like you when we grow up."** These girls want to study, but their families cannot afford them because they do not have the financial means. Both the children and their families did not attach much importance to school education because they had never seen young people who studied at university and were so interested in children, but after seeing us, they changed their minds a little. And they promised to support their daughter as much as they could. Even a girl wanted to be a lawyer like me, and this made me very happy.*



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Sena Bayraktar, Türkiye

What does a day look like as a volunteer?

As a volunteer, a typical day involves engaging in various activities based on the organization or cause. This may include assisting with events, participating in community outreach, handling administrative tasks, or working directly with those in need. Tasks could range from organizing activities and coordinating events or participating in hands-on projects.

Engaging in volunteer work provides individuals with a sense of purpose and fulfillment, contributing to positive mental well-being. The social connections formed through volunteering reduce feelings of isolation.



Exposure to different perspectives in volunteer activities promotes empathy. Volunteering enhances mood, happiness, and satisfaction. Acquiring new skills during volunteer efforts boosts confidence and a sense of accomplishment.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Azra Sutovic, Montenegro

What kind of people did you meet while running the volunteer project?

By participating in a volunteer project, I can say that I meet different types of people.

People that become my friends but are coming from different countries and backgrounds, and on top of that have different mindsets, is amazing. So, while running a volunteer project, I got the chance to sit and talk with people I wouldn't have had the chance to meet or talk to otherwise. I learned a lot of new things about different countries, languages and their funny little customs.

What will be the greatest contribution of volunteering in your business life?

I think greatest contribution of volunteering to me will be the ability to manage a project within the group.



I think learning how to navigate through different groups or projects is important in business life because it teaches us how to set priorities and make sure we get them done in time, while being a part of the group.

OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Galina Gospodarski, Bulgaria

What does a day like as a volunteer look like?

A day as a volunteer is a very interesting day because every day you visit different places, meet new people, get to know their religions and above all help many people.

How many people have you met in a volunteer project?

Every day we meet many new people. Maybe we meet 50-100 people on each project.

If you could give one piece of advice to our new volunteers, what would it be?

My advice to them is, don't be afraid to communicate with new people.



OUR VOLUNTEERING STORIES

Dilek Palaz, Türkiye



1. What do you like most about volunteering?

I like meeting new people and gaining different perspectives.

2. What is the biggest experience that volunteering has given you ?

We did a lot of activities thanks to this project. But the biggest experience for me was being able to speak English especially with other volunteers for the first time. At first I was worried and hesitant. But when i met the others, they encouraged me to speak English.

3. What characteristics should a volunteer have ?

Must be open to innovations and different cultures.

4. If you could give one piece advice to our new volunteers, what would it be ?

I couldn't participate in all the activities due to the intensity of my college schedule , but i would have loved to .

You should participate in a volunteer program at least once in your life. Evaluate this process well.





“ENHANCE YOUR DREAMS WITH S&G”

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