

# Youth Telegraph



## 23 APRIL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND

### CHILDREN'S DAY

This national day (23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day) in Turkey is a unique event. The founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, dedicated April 23 to the children of the country to emphasize that they are the future of the new nation. It was on April 23, 1920, during the War of Independence, that the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara and laid down the foundations of a new, independent, secular, and modern republic from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. Following the defeat of the Allied invasion forces on September 9, 1922 and the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne on July 24, 1923, Atatürk started his task of establishing the institutions of the new state. Over the next eight years, Atatürk and his followers adopted sweeping reforms to create a modern Turkey, divorced from her Ottoman past. In unprecedented moves, he dedicated the sovereignty day

to the children and entrusted in the hands of the youth the protection of this sovereignty and independence.

Every year, the children in Turkey celebrate this "Sovereignty and Children's Day" as a national holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances in all fields in large stadiums watched by the entire nation. Among the activities on this day, the children send their representatives to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, provincial governors all turn over their positions to children's representatives. These children, in turn, sign executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. On this day, the children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss matters concerning children's issues.

Over the last two decades, the Turkish officials have been working hard to internationalize this important day. Their efforts resulted in large number of world states' sending groups of children to Turkey to participate in the above stated festivities. During their stay in Turkey, the foreign children are housed in Turkish homes and find an important opportunity to interact with the Turkish kids and learn about each other's countries and cultures. The foreign children groups also participate in the special session of the Grand National Assembly. This results in a truly international Assembly where children pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood.

The importance of April 23 as a special day of children has been recognized by the international community. UNICEF decided to recognize this important day as the International Children's Day.

## “Rasmus attended his Mid-Term-Training in Şile at the Black Sea.”

Rasmus, German EVS volunteer in S&G, attended from 11th to 14th April his EVS mid-term-training in Şile, about 60km from Istanbul at the Black Sea. Besides the program consisting of team-building activities, evaluation activities and sightseeing he was given the opportunity both to meet



again friends he made at his on-arrival-training in Gaziantep in February and to meet new people doing EVS in Turkey.

A highlight was the tour to the city centre of Şile, a lighthouse that is said to be one of the highest situated ones in the whole world, and a final dinner at the sea side – with of course delicious fish.



## Citizens' Convention Landau

In the “Year of Volunteering”, the year 2011, the citizens of the German city Landau situated in the Palatinate were presented the “Citizens' Convention Landau” organised by the German NGO “Citizens of Europe”. The event was the final one in a series of debates on the topic “volunteering” called “v11”.

One special feature of the event

was the inclusion of the local people. About 50 participants were hosted by local people, the participants presented their organisations within the “Festival of Organisations” by the city of Landau and the university of



Landau actively contributed to the program with presentations by the academic staff.

In the rooms of the university presentations on the prior activities and volunteering in Europe were given and a panel discussion with different people involved in volunteering were given. Workshops to topics like “Volunteering and active citizenship” or “Volunteering and development” were given all over the city to the participants as well as for university students interested.

Besides the debates and the presentations the local cinema hosted the final screening and the award ceremony of the European short film competition “MyEurope”.

EVS co-ordinator Özgür Akyar and EVS volunteer Rasmus Randig were representing S&G during the event.



## PHOTOS OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THEIR TRIPS IN TURKEY DURING APRIL

### İSTANBUL



Nicolas, Mickaël and Sarah in front of the Bleu Mosque



Mickaël inside the Bleu Mosque



View of Taksim where we were hosted by our friends, Asye et Otku



Nicolas front of Hagia Sofia

### GAZİANTEP & MARDİN



EVS Volunteers in Gaziantep



EVS Volunteers in Gaziantep



EVS Volunteers in Mardin, after Gaziantep

## TURKISH MENEMEN RECIPE FROM VALENTINA

Menemen is made by onions, tomatoes, green peppers, eggs and some condiments, let's make it!

**Contents:** Tomatoes, onions, bell pepper (choose the quantity of each ingredient in relation to your neighbor likes), eggs, salt, oil, a common kitchen, 24 hands, the sun outside, your neighbors to share your meal

### How to prepare?

- cut the vegetables into small pieces (together works better)
- put them in pan and add the eggs
- let's eat Menemen with bread!

**NEXT MONTH...  
CARAVAN ON THE  
ROAD!**

