

MIGRATION; BIG PICTURE

“STUDY VISIT”

Diyarbakir, Turkey

9-17 March 2020

Migration; Big Picture is a Study Visit that brings issues to light of refugee issues and the social realities they confront, having a Turkish case analysis, for agents of non-governmental organizations in the partnership of the project, taking into consideration a reasonable way to deal with future projects including refugees.

Hosting organization: Diyarbakir çevre ve kalkınma derneği

Day 1: Introduction, 10th March 2020

We started first day with the “getting to know each other” games. At first we have learned each others names in funny and incredibly effective way. After that, another game followed. We blew up balloons and wrote our names on it. Then switching balloons and asking questions started. Since we already knew the names, some hobbies and other information, we were able to play the last game... The human bingo! In that game, we gained more detailed information about each other.

A little bit more serious work started after we get to know each other. Our task was to reveal our personal objectives, contribution, expectations and fears. We used colored papers for each objective, etc. and we glued them on persons who read all the papers.

Our facilitator introduced to us Erasmus+ activities so we had an opportunity to discover together activities such as Youth exchanges, Study visits and European Solidarity Corps which are held on behalf of European Union. We also got an information about the Youthpass certificates which the participated person will achieve after successful pass of the taken activity. Some of the participants have already engaged in these activities and shared their achieved experience with the newcomers.

At the evening, there were presentations of our sending non-governmental organizations. We were required to present our organization in a funny and original way. We witnessed a lot of very talented people performing great presentations.



Day 2: Team Building, 11th March 2020

On the second day of the study visit, we did a team building game “Mission (Im)possible”. We got 11 tasks and we had to complete that in 45 minutes. It was a good way to get to know each other. Firstly, we did a few tasks in a whole group. Afterwards, we were divided into 8 groups because of short time limit in order to work more efficiently and every group worked on their task.

All participants prepared presentations about the situation in their own country on the topic refugees. Most of participants played a theater which reflected the situations. Some countries presented the situation with more informational way.

There were also intercultural nights. First intercultural night was on the third day. Czech Republic, Portugal, Croatia, Romania, Lithuania presented their culture in a form of dance, songs, food, drinks etc. We had really good time.

A photographer and movie maker Hakan offered us a drone flying course in a free time in an after-lunch break. Participants had an opportunity of trying to fly a professional drone simulator.





Day 3: Discovering Diyarbakir, 12th March 2020

The project took place in the city Diyarbakir in the center of Kurdish majority region so interesting place in terms of integration of people into community such as Kurdish majority into Turkish traditions, dealing with refugees and question of migration of people from middle East to Europe.

The leader of the project Mehmet provided a guided tour in the city Diyarbakir in order to discover sightseeing such as city wall, traditional housing of the people from this region, museums of archeological artefacts, mosque, Hammam bath, Kurdish community in their singing session.





Day 4: Study Visit, 13th March 2020

We started the day with a visit of Professor Hasan Ince from the Dicle University in Diyarbakir. He provided us a lot of valuable information and after the end of his speech, he was answering our questions regarding immigration issues.

Later on, we investigated a photovoice session in order to get deeper insights of hidden awareness or overlooked issues and aspects of the community in regard of refugees. Based on this session, we used this photovoice qualitative method for community-based participatory research to document and reflect reality. Our aim was to create 5 photos per group and capture the awareness situation thus provide the voice and consciousness for those who have none with a motto “A picture is worth a thousand words”.





Conclusion:

The study visit project was organized by NGO Diyarbakır çevre ve kalkınma derneği in the city Diyarbakır in Turkey within 9–17th March 2020 based on the topic Migration, Big Picture.

The first day of our study visit was focused on getting to know all the new people we met. It was followed by team building exercises to enhance our teamwork spirit and to discover our roles in the team. And we started to do sessions regarding the main topic of our study visit such as presentations of immigrants situation in our countries

Culture nights were amazing opportunity for discovering different cultures, food and drinks. On day 3, we visited the city of Diyarbakır. We had an opportunity to taste local food, visit historical monuments, such as city walls, etc. On Day 4 we had an opportunity to meet Professor Hasan Ince from the Dicle University, who provided us wit a lot of information. After that we spent time doing photovoice session.

In those days we learned a lot of new information, we shared knowledge, experience and gained a lot of new friends from different countries and cultures.