

# Youthpass

## for **European Voluntary Service**

**Sina Küster**

born on **29/06/1982** in **Berlin, Germany**

participated as a volunteer in the project

**Multicultural Volunteering**  
in the host organisation **Mavi Kalem Social Assistance and Charity Association.**

The activity took place from **01/10/2007**  
to **31/03/2008** in **İstanbul, Turkey.**

## **European Voluntary Service**

Within the European 'Youth in Action' Programme, European Voluntary Service offers young people an opportunity of taking part in a non-profit-making, unpaid activity for the benefit of the general public in a country other than their country of residence.

Through European Voluntary Service, young people contribute to social cohesion and solidarity and considerably enhance their personal, professional, and intercultural skills and competences.

Essential elements of European Voluntary Service are preparation and follow-up activities in the country of residence as well as ongoing pedagogical, personal, and task-related support like training activities in the host country.

European Voluntary Service is carried out in partnership between a young volunteer, an organisation in the country of residence, and an organisation in the host country. It lasts up to 12 months.

Offering the added value of a European dimension, European Voluntary Service is quality-checked regarding content criteria and implementation.



Nuran Farina

Representative of the organisation

The ID of this Certificate is TEWA-EWY5-B2HN-8TJS.  
If you want to verify the ID, please go to the web site of Youthpass:  
<http://www.youthpass.eu/qualitycontrol/>

Youthpass is a Europe-wide validation system for non-formal learning within the EU 'Youth in Action' Programme. For further information, please have a look at <http://www.youthpass.eu>.

## Youthpass

This document certifies that **Sina Küster** spent her European Voluntary Service in the project **Multicultural Volunteering** in **İstanbul, Turkey** with the organisation **Mavi Kalem Social Assistance and Charity Association**.

The role and tasks of **Sina Küster** were:

Sina Küster had 120 hours Turkish lessons for the first two months. She was involved in different projects:

- Different activities with children which were about art, European and Turkish culture, and English lessons.
- A survey about women health, which Mavi Kalem conducted in the district of Fener. She interviewed women who are living in Fener-Istanbul.
- Working in our Association's café to have a chance to contact people living in this region
- Working with an artist

**Sina Küster** took part in the following training activities:

Sina Küster joined the pre-departure training in Erfurt-Germany before she came to Turkey. She joined the on-arrival training in Antalya-Turkey, 10-14 December 2007. She participated in the mid-term training from 11 to 14 February 2008 in Ankara. Sina Küster had 120 hours Turkish lessons for two months. She had art lessons 2 hours a week.

The host organisation **Mavi Kalem Social Assistance and Charity Association** offers the following:

Mavi Kalem Social Assistance and Charity Association has been founded by a group of volunteers in 2000 following after the earthquake in Marmara region. As well as to the enhancing and spreading out the volunteerism, supporting internally migrated new comers to the metropolitan cities in knowledge and service is also an area of work to our association. Our target groups are children and women.

The sending organisation of **Sina Küster** was **S.N.O.W. Projektbüro e.V.** from **Berlin, Germany**.

We certify the participation of **Sina Küster** in this European Voluntary Service project **Multicultural Volunteering**.



Seda Salihoğlu  
Person in charge of the project

Istanbul-Turkey, 16/04/2008

## Youthpass

**Sina Küster** participated in the European Voluntary Service project **Multicultural Volunteering in İstanbul, Turkey** between **01/10/2007** and **31/03/2008**.

The following summary of **Sina Küster's** learning outcome is the result of an ongoing dialogue process between **Sina Küster** and her mentor **Gülten Karahan** during the whole activity.

The following description of learning outcomes is a reflection related to the Key Competences for lifelong learning recommended by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2006.

### Communication in foreign tongue

Learning Turkish was essential for participating in the voluntary work of Mavi Kalem because Sina Küster had to speak Turkish in all the fields of activity in the organization. Therefore she got all of her Turkish classes in the two first months of her stay which enabled her to improve her Turkish language skills quickly. In doing so Sina Küster was soon able to carry out her children activities without the help of a Turkish speaker. After her Turkish lessons finished, Sina Küster was still learning more Turkish by using the language everyday during her work in Mavi Kalem and in her free time while meeting Turkish speaking friends. Working as an EVS volunteer for Mavi Kalem Sina Küster took part in a broad range of activities which helped her to develop her Turkish vocabulary. She improved her Turkish language skills to an extend that enabled her to participate in conducting a survey on the women of the Fener-Balat district which demanded good comprehension and speaking skills from her. In order to prepare her children activities and to report to Mavi Kalem about her EVS experience Sina Küster also had to write text in Turkish language, which she managed independently. Regarding her reading abilities she is now able to understand the main ideas of complex text on concrete topics.

Besides Turkish Sina Küster also used English to communicate with other foreign volunteers or with people from foreign countries who visited the organization. Sina Küster is a fluent English speaker which helped her in the beginning when communication in Turkish was difficult for her.

### Mathematical competence and basic competence in science and technology

Calculating the budget for the children activities demanded some mathematical competences from Sina Küster, which she managed without problems. Regarding basic competences in science and technology Sina Küster gained more experience in preparing and conducting a survey while working on a women project. She was also involved in the process of developing a key for analyzing the collected data as well as in the entering data procedure. In addition to this she improved her presentation skills by explaining aims and working methods of the organization to visitors of Mavi Kalem. Sina Küster also participated in a youth conference in Ankara where she helped preparing a stand representing Mavi Kalem. For this youth conference she had to prepare a power point presentation and a brochure about her EVS project in Mavi Kalem. Working at the stand during the conference Sina Küster gave information about the organization in general and about her EVS project in

particular to the visitors of this event. By taking part in activities like this Sina Küster got an impression about the importance of public relations to an NGO like Mavi Kalem.

## Digital competence

For most of the activities in her EVS project Sina Küster had to use a computer, which helped her to improve her digital competences. Preparing her projects she often used internet as information source. Presenting information about her EVS project and Mavi Kalem she also used Microsoft Power Point. Working on the survey on the women of Fener-Balat she had to use Microsoft Excel. During her work in Mavi Kalem Sina Küster showed that she is able to use Microsoft Office Programs and internet applications independently.

## Learning to learn

Sina Küster decided to do her EVS in Mavi Kalem because she is very interested in working with migrants and women which was also the focus of her former studies and voluntary work in Germany. She wanted to gather work experience in an organization focusing on migration and gender issues and she wanted to know how an NGO like Mavi Kalem works. Sina Küster chose Turkey for her EVS because she wanted to know more about the country where most of the immigrants in Germany come from and she wanted to learn Turkish.

Mavi Kalem gave Sina Küster the possibility to participate in established projects as well as creating her own activities. Taking those possibilities Sina Küster learned about the working methods of Mavi Kalem by observing the work of the office coordinator and the other volunteers. During her EVS she also became confident in developing and carrying out her own activities and she was able to improve her own working methods by discussing them with other volunteers. By exchanging different experiences with other volunteers Sina Küster also learned about new approaches to problem solving which helped her to deal with unfamiliar situations. Working for Mavi Kalem Sina Küster was constantly challenged by new tasks depending on her improving language and working skills. This was very stimulating for her learning process and supported her in advancing her language and working skills.

Working as an EVS volunteer for Mavi Kalem Sina Küster also used the chance to get in contact with the organization's volunteers and people from the neighborhood of Fener-Balat. Showing herself interested and open-minded she learned a lot about Turkey and its society by talking to them. Moreover Sina Küster increased her knowledge about Turkey by using the internet, libraries, newspapers and television as information sources. During her EVS in Mavi Kalem Sina Küster got an impression about the working methods of NGO and she was able to improve her own working skills. This will be useful for her voluntary work in Germany as well as for a future employment in a social organization. In addition to this Sina Küster will be able to give information about Turkey to people who are interested in it and she can share her work experience abroad with other volunteers.

## Social and civic competence

During her EVS in Mavi Kalem Sina Küster was in contact with lots of people from the area of Fener-Balat and with volunteers from Turkey and other countries as well as with visitors of the organization and guests of the Demlik Cafe. She showed herself friendly, open-minded and interested while communicating with different



people like this. Especially the work with the children and women of Fener-Balat demanded a non-judging approach from the volunteers and while conducting the survey on the women of Fener-Balat. Sina Küster had to take on an observing and passive role, which she managed very well. In addition to this she improved her problem-solving competences by trying to find solutions for problems of other volunteers as well as for problems which occurred during her own project. She also improved her ability to work in a team by planning some children activities as well as conducting the survey together with other volunteers of the organization.

## **Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship**

Working as an EVS volunteer for Mavi Kalem Sina Küster increased her understanding of the practice and principles of project management by planning her own activities with children. In doing so she had to write activity descriptions including budget, aims, duration and content of the activities. Afterwards she had to write evaluations about the carried out activities which helped her to improve her working methods and which was also important for the documentation of the projects taking place in the organization. By planning and carrying out her own projects Sina Küster took on responsibility and she became more confident in putting her own ideas into action.

## **Cultural awareness and expression**

Sina Küster used all kind of information sources to get to know more about Turkey and the Turkish society. In doing so she became more aware of the prejudices people in the European Community have about Turkey and Turkish people and she got to know what Turkish people think about the Turkish society themselves.

We confirm the mutual process of reflection during European Voluntary Service.

Sina Küster  
Volunteer

Gülten Karahan  
Mentor of the volunteer

Istanbul-Turkey, 16/04/2008

Further information and original documents on the Key Competences can be found at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/policies/2010/objectives\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/policies/2010/objectives_en.html)

Further information about the EU 'Youth in Action' Programme can be found at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html) and about Youthpass at: <http://www.youthpass.eu>