

BASAK'S ESC ADVENTURE

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE



WHO AM I?

Dobar dan! I'm Başak from Türkiye. I'm 25 years old. I graduated from the international relations department. I love cinema and pizza!

I'm always interested in foreign cultures, traditions and people. I love sharing my culture and learn from others.

The ESC program was always one of my priorities after graduation, and thanks to Carpe Diem, I reached my dreams. I collect good memories, friends, knowledge and magnets :D



WHAT I DID?

I was working with Syrian children and trying to help their language learning. Then I started Turkish lessons, and this time I worked with Croat adults. I was really happy because people were interested in my culture and language. At first, I was nervous about speaking in front of people, but then I got used to it. Now, I don't have this fear, and I'm self-confident about myself.

My friend and I prepared a podcast, KataTurKa. With that podcast, we talked about ESC volunteering, cultural shocks, differences between our cultures, etc. Also, we had an Instagram account and we shared our trips there.

I also had the chance to help Carpediem's youth exchange and training. I learned a lot and met wonderful people.

I helped my friend's Treenet workshop. I hadn't heard it before, and I didn't have an idea what it was, but when I started to learn how to do nodes and create something, I didn't want to finish.



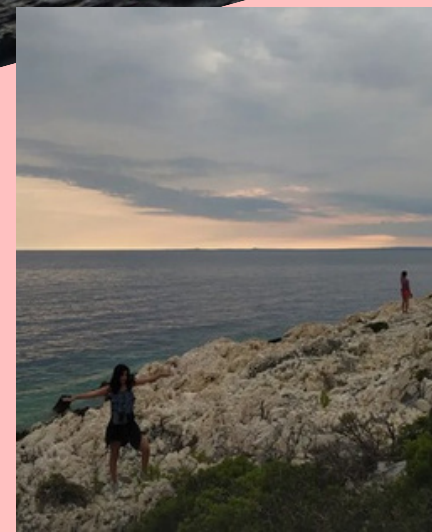
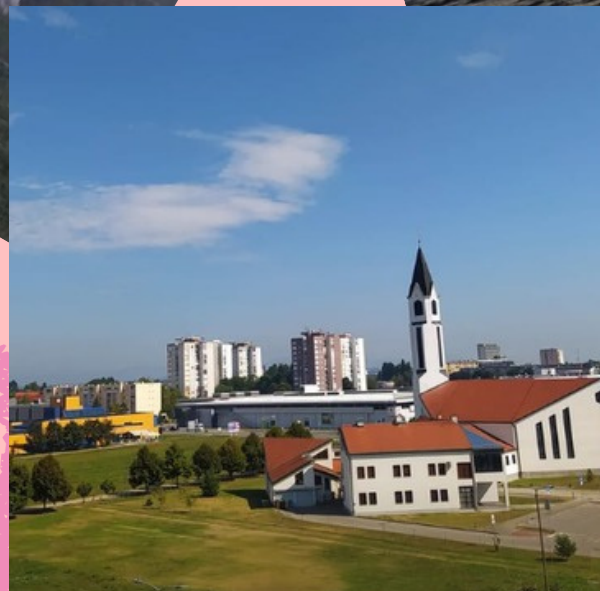
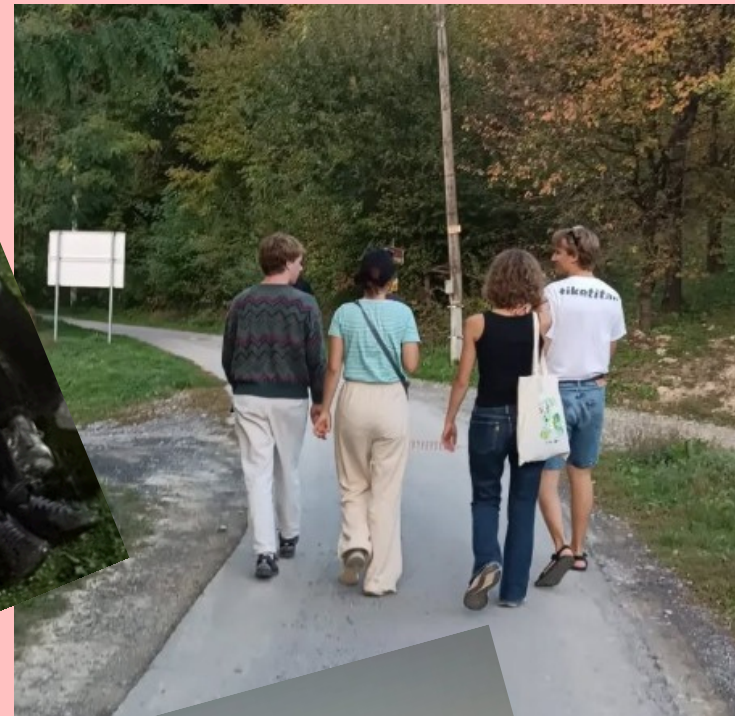
WHAT ESC GAVE ME?

I was living in a cute house for free, and I had everything I needed. I got pocket money. With that money, I ate outside, I bought clothes, visited 9 different countries and more than 20 cities. I also had food money. Sometimes it was enough, sometimes I spent more.

I attended two trainings. The first one was in Orahovica, and when I went there, I felt so good because I was not alone. There were people like me. They left their jobs, schools, and loved ones behind and came to Croatia for a new chapter. I built strong friendships, and after training, we continue to travel together. I feel I have new family members around Europe. The second training was in Zadar. It was a beautiful place and we met some old friends and new friends. That one was not like the first one. You can see the best sunset there.

With ESC, I build confidence for myself. I feel I am an adult and I need to carry everything for myself. It gave me freedom. I could decide what I do, what I eat or where I go without asking permission from my family. I learned how to deal with difficult situations and people. I learned more about Europe and European culture.

When I look back, I feel I am a new person, and I'm so happy to be myself.



WHAT CARPEDIEM GAVE ME?

They gave me the best chance in my life. I was seeking to do ESC volunteering, and finally they chose me.

At first, I felt lonely, but when I used to work with them, I felt more comfortable and open towards them. I worked with good and funny people. When I need help, I can always ask.

They tried to include us in everything. We helped with a youth exchange and a training. I learned a lot from both of them and got lovely friendships. I was observing how NGO's work. I wanted to learn how to write a project and I got a special lesson :) I learned how to do podcasts, stop-motion videos and animations.

They sent me to two different trainings. I was in Portugal and Lithuania. I learned about those countries and how the other NGO's working. I'm so happy they gave me this chance, so I worked with professionals and learned from them a lot.

Thanks to my colleagues, I learned how to work in an office, how to build office friendships and how to carry each other. They teach me more than I want ❤️



WHAT KARLOVAC GAVE ME?

First of all, I want to start with beautiful nature. When you go out, you can't escape from nature, that's why when you feel sad or bad, just go for a walk and you'll get calm, believe me.

Second, my lovely friends... At first, making friends is so difficult for me because everyone has their friends, and nobody is looking for new ones. Then I started to join other Ngo's workshops and I started to meet new people. I had good and strong friendships. When I left Karlovac, I felt I was leaving my family behind.

Third, good food. I love eating pizza at Tiffany. They had the best pizza ever! Also, Bistro Špajza is good for vegetarian food. I also loved ice cream in Karlovac.

Fourth, rivers. Karlovac has beautiful rivers. When I felt so hot, I was just walking to jump into the water. This is a big luxury for me.

Fifth, Kino Edison! It was my salvatore 😊 When I was so bored or felt lonely, I would check to go to a movie. I love horror movies and they always have at least one movie for me.

Finally, Karlovac was a year home for me. I felt sad, angry, full of love, alone and happy. It was a wonderful city to live in peace and focus on yourself. I'm gonna miss Karlovac.



FINAL WORDS

This one year was a life-changing experience for me. I felt different emotions, learn different cultures, languages, people, working methods and most importantly myself.

I am strong and independent now. I lived in another country for a year and I survived all difficulties. I'm so happy to get that change and start to live a different life.

I suggest all the people who want to build a new character, learn about different cultures, make more friends and experience a different life to join ESC projects.

Life is short; if you're afraid, you'll just watch how others live.

With love,
Başak.