

MERSİN | TURKEY | NOV. 2024

RURAL

2023-3-TR01-KA152-YOU-000176996

MYSTERY



NOVEMBER 11 - NOVEMBER 15, 2024

INFOPACK

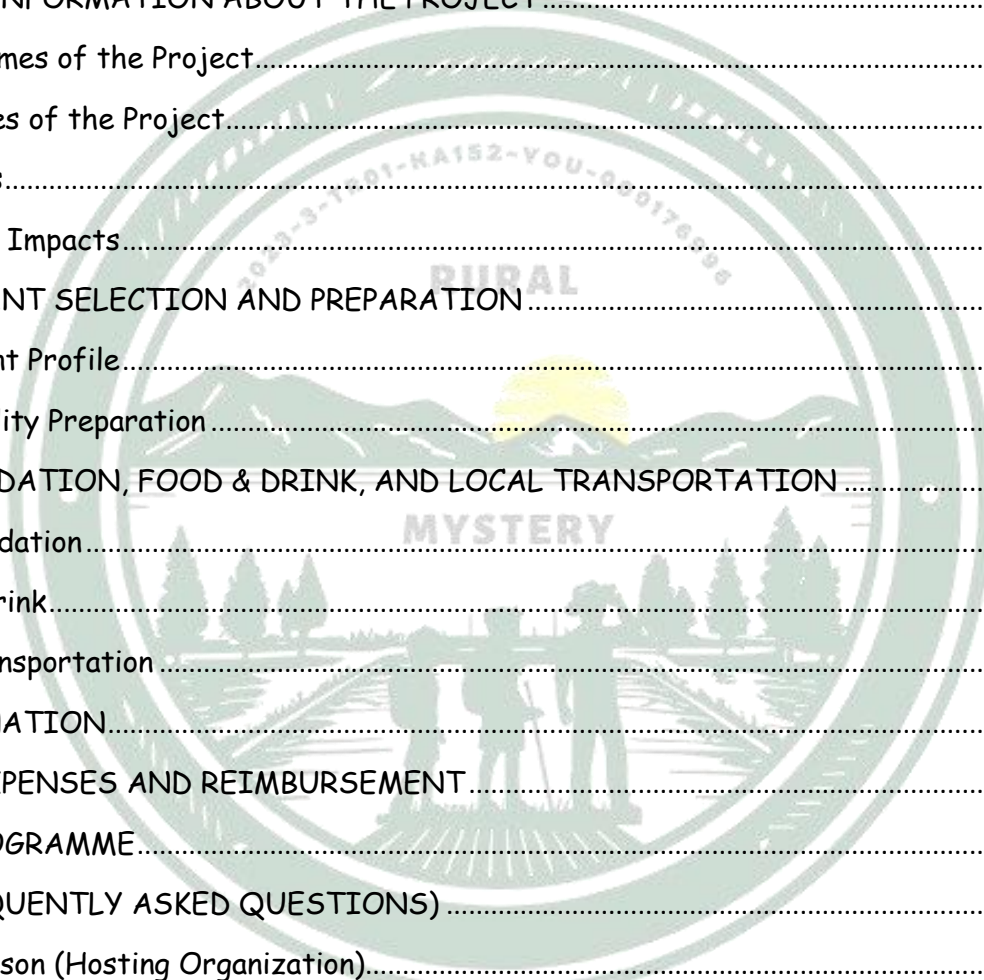


THE MYSTERIES OF RURAL LIFE:
SUSTAINABLE EXPLORATION WITH YOUTH



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Dear Participants,

We are delighted to welcome you to our project, "The Mysteries of Rural Life: Sustainable Exploration with Youth." This information pack contains all the essential information you will need throughout the project. Please read it carefully, and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions..

Project Title: "The Mysteries of Rural Life: Sustainable Exploration with Youth"

2023-3-TR01-KA152-YOU-000176996

Project Coordinator: [Mersin İl Tarım ve Orman Müdürlüğü \(TR\)](#)

[Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry](#)

The Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry is a government institution working to promote regional development in the fields of agriculture and livestock, support sustainable agricultural practices, and protect natural resources. Its main responsibilities include supporting farmers, providing education and extension services, monitoring and developing agricultural and livestock activities, and working on topics such as the sustainable management of biodiversity.

In Mersin, there are 13 district directorates operating under the provincial directorate, with a total workforce of over 1,500 employees. Among these employees are agricultural engineers, food engineers, veterinarians, and many other professionals with various titles.

The Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry will act as the host institution throughout the project, providing the necessary local support and coordination for the participants.

Project Partners:

- [Trevesse APS](#) (Italy)
- [Asociatia Dar Development Association](#) (Romania)
- [Global Organization For Development \(G.O.D\)](#) (Bulgaria)



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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

Main Themes of the Project

- ✚ Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries
- ✚ Addressing geographical remoteness and inclusion of rural areas
- ✚ Quality and innovation in youth work

Objectives of the Project

1. **Raising Awareness of Rural Life Among Youth:** Creating awareness among youth about the contributions of rural life to economic, social, and environmental sustainability.
2. **Introducing Career Opportunities to Youth:** Informing youth about job and employment opportunities available in rural areas, thereby creating more employment opportunities in these fields.
3. **Enhancing Social and Cultural Experience:** Helping youth to better understand local culture and social structure, making them more open-minded, culturally sensitive, and socially aware individuals.
4. **Encouraging the Development of Social Skills:** Developing teamwork, communication, and leadership skills among youth, enabling them to be more effective in their personal and professional lives.
5. **Increasing Environmental Awareness:** Engaging in activities focused on the natural environment of rural areas to raise awareness among youth about nature conservation and sustainability.
6. **Promoting Youth Participation in the Community:** Encouraging youth to find more opportunities for community participation in rural communities.
7. **Developing a Global Perspective:** Helping youth to better understand different cultures and lifestyles, thereby enhancing their global thinking and cooperation skills.



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Activities

The activities to be carried out within the scope of the project are as follows:

1. **Raising Awareness of Rural Life:** Ensuring that youth understand the importance of rural life and become more conscious members of these communities.
2. **Introducing Career Opportunities:** Ensuring that youth learn about job and employment opportunities in rural areas.
3. **Social and Cultural Interaction:** Organizing visits and events in rural communities to help youth meet local people and experience their daily lives.
4. **Developing Environmental Awareness:** Providing educational sessions on nature conservation, organizing nature walks, and engaging in environmental projects to help youth understand the importance of nature.

Expected Impacts

1. **Increased Awareness of Rural Life:** Youth will have a better understanding of the contributions of rural life to economic, social, and environmental sustainability.
2. **Discovery of Career Opportunities:** Youth will have the opportunity to get to know businesses, natural resources, and cultural values in rural areas more closely.
3. **Social and Cultural Interaction:** Youth will develop their social skills by interacting with the local population.
4. **Increased Environmental Awareness:** Youth will understand the importance of nature and adopt eco-friendly lifestyles.



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PARTICIPANT SELECTION AND PREPARATION

Participant Profile

Young people aged 18-30 (4 young participants and 1 leader from each partner country). We want to give opportunities to participants facing various barriers such as cultural, economic, educational, and geographical. Each partner must select at least one participant with fewer opportunities. We insist that two participants be women because there are a few women leaders in agricultural world.

The selection will be carried out by our partners according to the criteria specified in the "participant criteria" section. Applicants will be asked to complete the application form and upload their Europass CV documents. Each of our partners will be asked to evaluate and select candidates from their countries through the [online application form](#). After reviewing the documents, participants will be determined. The results of this selection will be communicated to the coordinator.

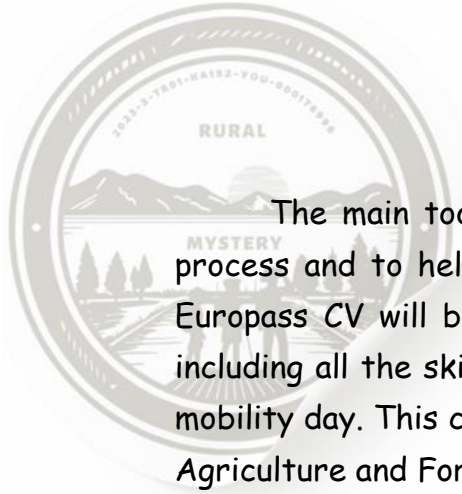
Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be between 18-30 years old.
- Must have basic knowledge of the Erasmus+ Program and rural life.
- Must have at least 1 year of experience in youth work or local youth projects in their countries.
- Must actively participate and contribute throughout the entire duration of the project.
- Must have English communication skills.
- **Diversity:** Care must be taken to select young people from rural areas, urban areas, and different social and cultural backgrounds.
- **Leaders:** Individuals experienced in guiding young people and ensuring the orderly progress of the project, with proficiency in English.
- **Activity Dates:** Our project will be held from November 11-15, 2024 (excluding travel). Participants should arrive before the event starts and leave after it ends. Therefore, the most suitable dates for participants are to arrive on November 10, 2024, and depart on November 15, 2024 after 21:00.



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The main tool will be Youthpass. It will be used to structure the learning process and to help participants recognize and evaluate their learning outcomes. Europass CV will be used during the participant selection process. A certificate including all the skills developed during the project will be given at the end of the mobility day. This certificate will be signed by the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry.

Pre-Mobility Preparation

First and foremost, we will ask our participants to complete the following tasks:

1. Overview of the RURAL MYSTERY Glossary:

- Review the RURAL MYSTERY glossary before starting the project and familiarize yourself with the concepts.
- [[RURAL MYSTERY Glossary](#)]

2. Information Gathering:

- Gather information about grant programs for agriculture and agricultural enterprises in rural areas in your country.
- Research grant programs and small business examples that promote tourism activities in rural areas in your country.
- Collect information on the access and quality of education and vocational training opportunities for youth in rural areas.
- Gather information about youth unemployment and job opportunities for young people.
- Useful Documents & Links
 - [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)
 - [The Erasmus+ Youth Quality Standards](#)
 - [Youth Strategy](#)

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3. Local Flavors and Round Table Discussions:

- For the Round Table Discussions, bring local typical snacks and beverages from your community and country. This will be a great opportunity for cultural exchange and sharing.

4. NGO/Youth Work Presentation:

- Bring materials related to NGO/youth work in your community (e.g., brochures, videos, pictures, and other materials).
- You can also bring materials introducing your collaborations with educational institutions.

5. Sketch or Presentation

We will ask our participants to prepare a 3-minute sketch or short presentation on either civic engagement and active citizenship or respect for cultural values in their countries. It will be your choice to select one of these two topics. This activity will allow participants to share their own cultural and social dynamics while providing a rich learning experience for other participants. In your sketch or presentation, please explain how your country approaches these topics and what methods are used to promote these values.

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For Example:

Civic Engagement and Active Citizenship:

- Volunteer activities in your country and their social benefits.
- Youth participation in volunteer projects and how these projects contribute to their personal development.
- How youth collaborate with local governments to address social issues.
- Events and projects organized by municipalities for young people.

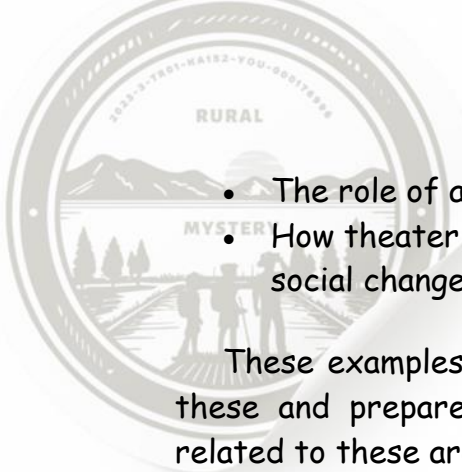
Respect for Cultural Values:

- The role of local cultural festivals and events in strengthening social bonds.
- The impact of participation and organization of these events on young people.



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- The role of art in promoting social participation.
 - How theater, music, or visual arts bring the community together and create social change.

These examples are for reference purposes. You can choose any topic beyond these and prepare a sketch or short presentation on the work and examples related to these areas in your countries.

To ensure a comfortable and productive experience for participants during the project, the following preparations need to be made:

1. Personal Care Items:

- Bring your basic personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste, and a toothbrush.

2. Clothing:

- Pack comfortable clothes and walking shoes. Check the weather and choose appropriate clothing.
- Opt for durable and comfortable clothes for activities in rural areas. Don't forget to bring your backpack.

3. Documents and Papers:

- Bring your ID card, passport, and other official documents.
- Bring your health insurance card that you might need during the project.

4. Medications and Health Products:

- Bring your personal medications and necessary health products. If you have allergies, don't forget to bring your allergy medications.

5. Electronic Devices and Chargers:

- Bring your electronic devices such as phone and camera, along with their chargers.



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TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Since the project venue is in Mersin, you can only reach the location by plane or a combination of bus and plane. You can book a direct flight to Istanbul. Once you arrive in Istanbul, you can take a flight to Mersin. Depending on your arrival time in Mersin, there will be two different options:

1. **Suitable Arrival Times:** If your arrival time falls within a specific time frame, we will meet you at Çukurova International Airport.
2. **Unsuitable Arrival Times:** If your arrival time falls outside the specific time frame, you can take the Havaş shuttle buses from Çukurova International Airport to Mersin, arriving at Forum Station. We will meet you at Forum Station.

This will be discussed and planned with the group leaders. For transportation and other details, please consult your group leaders.



After arriving in Mersin from Airport, we will proceed to our accommodation at the Alata Horticultural Research Institute's Recreational Facilities, located in Mersin - Erdemli, spanning 1300 acres.

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ACCOMMODATION, FOOD & DRINK, AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated at the Alata Horticultural Research Institute's Recreational Facilities, located in Mersin - Erdemli. Throughout the training period, the accommodation and main center will be the Alata Horticultural Research Institute's Recreational Facilities. The 5-day training will begin here. During the training, excursions to rural villages and towns will depart from here, with daily returns to the facility.

This facility is an excellent touristic and scientific area, perfect for evening camps, workshops, and experimental lessons. It also offers many leisure activities in cultural and rural areas. Participants will stay in rooms accommodating two or three people. Any changes regarding accommodation will be communicated to the group leaders.




Food & Drink

Participants will be provided with three meals a day throughout the mobility period. The meals will be prepared to meet the basic nutritional needs of the participants and will be served in different settings and conditions. For instance, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a village breakfast or taste local flavors at a village restaurant. Dinner will be served either at the accommodation or at a local



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restaurant offering regional cuisine. Expenditures will be managed efficiently within the limits of the Erasmus+ individual support budget.

Local Transportation

We will be responsible for all local transportation and transportation to rural activity areas during the mobility period. We will ensure participants' transportation to project activities and other planned events.

DISSEMINATION

Our goal is to ensure that as many people as possible are informed about our project, its topics, and its outcomes. We will use various methods to disseminate the project results:

BLOG: We have created a dedicated blog for the project. During the preparation phase and the exchange, we will share information about the project and continuously upload photos. This will serve as an archive of our action plan. Here is the [link to the blog](#), please make sure to check it out. Participants will also be encouraged to contribute to the blog with their own posts.

LOGO: Our project will have its own logo. This logo will appear on name badges for participants, on the blog, and in other places. Additionally, the logos of the national agency and Erasmus+ will be included.

Project Story Book: The project storybook will be designed and shared in collaboration with our partners.

Social Media Posts: During the mobility period, participants and our partners will be asked to share at least one visual related to the project on their social media accounts and tag the relevant national agency and partners.

Websites: Partners will be asked to publish news and announcements about the project on their own websites.

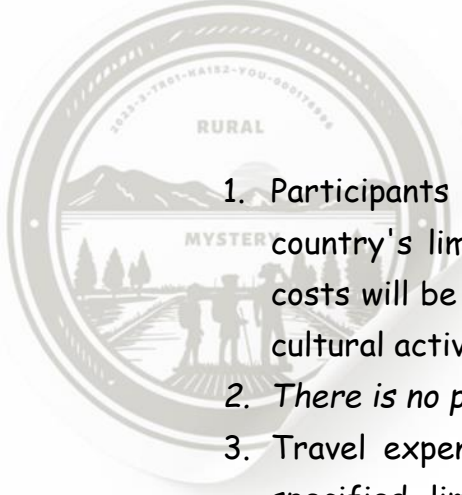
TRAVEL EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT

Participants' travel expenses to the project location will be covered under the Erasmus+ program. The following rules apply for the reimbursement of travel expenses:



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1. Participants can receive reimbursement for travel expenses up to their country's limit. If you spend less than the limit, only 100% of your travel costs will be reimbursed. The remaining travel budget will be used for other cultural activities.
 2. *There is no participation fee for this project.*
 3. Travel expenses will be reimbursed during the training period within the specified limits, provided that the relevant proof documents (boarding passes, flight tickets, local transportation tickets) are submitted. In case of incomplete documentation, the reimbursement will be made to the sending organization within 1 month after the Turkish mobility, provided that all original travel documents (receipts, invoices, tickets, and boarding passes) are uploaded and submitted via Google Drive. Taxis are not eligible for reimbursement.
 4. Participants can arrive one day before the project starts and depart one day after it ends. The extra days' accommodation costs will not be covered by the project budget.
 5. Participants must use the most efficient means of transportation. To be eligible for reimbursement, all original travel documents must be submitted completely and on time.
 6. It is crucial to submit all documents completely and on time to avoid any delays in the travel expense reimbursement process.

You can find the travel expense limits for each country below:

Participant Organization	Country	Number of Participants (4 + 1)	Travel Grant (Per Person)	Total Grant	Visa-Related Costs
Trevessu APS	Italy	5	360,00 €	1.800,00 €	+
Asociatia Dar Development Association	Romania	5	275,00 €	1.375,00 €	+
Global Organization For Development (G.O.D)	Bulgaria	5	275,00 €	1.375,00 €	+
Mersin Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry	Turkey	5	23,00 €	115,00 €	-



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DRAFT PROGRAMME

10th to 16th November 2024 (Include Travel Days)

Day 1: Welcome to Rural Areas (11.11.2024)

- Registration and Welcome
- Introduction to Rural Life
- Visiting Rural Enterprises
- Cultural Values Respect Sketch
- Sharing and Reviewing Community Experiences
- Evening Camp (Who Are We? Who Should We Be? Who Are In Our Lives?)

Day 2: Community Visit and Cultural Experience (12.11.2024)

- Morning Meeting and Goals
- Rural Family Visit
- Chatting at Village Coffeehouse
- Starting the Day and Talking about Social Participation
- Evening Camp (Where Are We? Where Should We Be? Why?)

Day 3: Developing Rural Business Ideas (13.11.2024)

- Starting the Day and Goals
- Examination of Natural Resources
- Business Ideas Development Workshop
- Youthpass
- Evening Camp (What? How? Why?)

Day 4: Sustainability and Environment (14.11.2024)

- Starting the Day and Goals
- 12 km Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Walk
- Life Stories of Young Entrepreneurs in Rural Areas
- Evening Camp (1 Year and 5 Years Later?)

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Day 5: Social Participation and Citizenship Awareness (15.11.2024)

- Traditional Breakfast
- Business Visit and Business Model Analysis - 1
- Business Visit and Business Model Analysis - 2
- Cultural Museum Visit and City Tour
- Closing Ceremony and Participant Certificates
- Social Participation and Active Citizenship Sketch
- Evaluation of Youth Rural Projects

We wish you a wonderful time in Turkey!

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Discover Mersin,

A city where the past and present harmoniously coexist, offering a rich tapestry of experiences that cater to every interest. ([Movie](#))



[Mersin](#), located on the southern coast of Turkey along the Mediterranean Sea, is a city renowned for its rich historical heritage, stunning natural beauty, and vibrant urban life.

Mersin has been a home to many civilizations since ancient times, including

the Hittites, Romans, Byzantines, and Ottomans. The city boasts significant historical landmarks such as Soli-Pompeiopolis, Kizkalesi, and Kanlıdivane. These historical treasures make Mersin a cultural gem.



As a modern port city, Mersin plays a crucial role in trade and agriculture. The city is economically vibrant and well-known for its delicious cuisine, including specialties like tantuni, cezerye, and Mersin kebab.

Throughout the year, festivals, cultural events, and a lively social scene keep Mersin bustling with activity and excitement.



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Mersin is famous for its breathtaking natural landscapes. With its clear Mediterranean waters, long coastline, and beautiful beaches, it is an ideal destination for summer vacations. Natural wonders like Tarsus Waterfall, Heaven and Hell Sinkholes, and Asthma Cave offer captivating experiences for nature lovers.



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FAQ (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Q-1: What should your travel documents and invoices look like?

A-1: We need your original tickets to reimburse you. The payment date, amount, flight date, your name, and route information must be included. We also need your boarding passes. Please do not lose them; otherwise, we will not be able to reimburse you.

Q-2: When can I receive my reimbursement?

A-2: If there are no issues with your documents, you haven't exceeded your travel limit, and you arrived and departed on the correct dates, we can reimburse you before you leave Mersin.

Q-3: What is the Cultural Hour like?

A-3: The Cultural Hour plays an important role in youth exchanges. There will be times when we share our food, drinks, dances, music, clothing, etc. There will be 13 cultural hours throughout the project. We wanted to give each group enough space to showcase their cultural elements. You can bring drinks, food, sweets, national clothes, etc. You don't have to bring everything, just what you can afford and show during the cultural hour, or you can prepare small theater sessions about your culture.

Q-4: Can the daily schedule change, or will it remain the same until the last day?

A-4: The daily schedule may change due to accommodation conditions, weather, budget limits, etc. You will likely have a definite idea about the daily schedule on the first day of the project.

Q-5: What will the weather be like?

A-5: We will inform you about the weather a few days before the project. We don't have exact information now because there is still a long time before the project. If we forget to inform you, please remind us before you come.



Q-6: Which travel expenses can't we reimburse?

A-6: According to Erasmus+ rules, we cannot reimburse taxi, car rental, or fuel expenses for travel.

Q-7: Which documents should you keep and send/bring to us?

A-7: To reimburse your money, you need to keep and bring the following documents:

- Your tickets (for details, please read "Q-1: What should your travel documents and invoices look like?")
- Outbound and return boarding passes (if you are coming by plane)
- Original power of attorney
- A copy of your passport (signed for identity and entry to Turkey)
- Visa-related costs

Q-8: Can you stay in Istanbul or other cities, and can we pay for your accommodation there?

A-8: If you come to Istanbul or other cities and stay there before/after the project, we cannot pay for your accommodation in Istanbul or other cities. We can only pay for your travel expenses (from your city to Istanbul, from Istanbul to Mersin), but we will cover 100% of your accommodation and three meals a day in Mersin during the project.

Q-9: Can you come to Mersin before the project or leave Mersin after the project?

A-9: Yes, but it can only be one day before the project at most or one day after the project, and we can cover your accommodation and meal expenses for these days.

Q-10: Can you come to Mersin after the first day of the project or leave Mersin before the last day of the project?

A-10: Sorry, but no. If you do this, you may have problems with reimbursement. We don't want to put you in a difficult situation. We will contact the Turkish National Agency about this. We just want to warn you. Please pay attention to the travel dates and inform the host group before buying your tickets.





Contact Person (Hosting Organization)

Mr. Yunus TAN
ymsrtan@gmail.com
+905415600224

Mr. Mert BERK
mert.berk@tarimorman.gov.tr
+905312587702

Ms. Elif NARİN
eelifyalcinn@gmail.com
+905051540264



MERSIN PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE OF
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