

I am Ezgi Mavzer, writing for the final report of my 12-month ESC project in Estonia.

Before adding the reports I wrote during the months below, I wanted to write my general thoughts here. The ESC program becomes much more than the work you do over time. It is a wonderful experience to get to know a new culture, speak a new language, start a new life, stop to think about your life and do something without expecting anything in return.

I started this experience when I was 20 years old and I am ending it when I am 21. It was a program that I am sad that it is over but I am grateful for what it has brought me. When I leave Estonia, I feel that I will leave a family here because from the first day everyone welcomed and helped me as if I was really one of the family.

I made great friends, met great people and worked with great kids. Each of them touched my life with their little hands and taught me so much. I hope I was able to leave a warm memory in their lives too.

When I started to apply for this program, to tell the truth, I didn't think much about the general functioning, but everyone around me really made things easier. Even though my project has come to an end, I will be very happy to be part of this team, to be part of this experience and to continue in some way from anywhere in the world.

My sending organization; Voluntary Services Association (GHD), my organization in Estonia; Noored Ühiskonna Heaks (NÜH) and my host organization Endla Nursery, a big thank you to all of them. I would also like to thank the teachers; Teele and Linda, with whom I worked for a year... They were wonderful and we were a great team. It was a great happiness and chance to work with you.

You can read my monthly reports below (I am sure there are some memories I could not add) about this beautiful adventure of 1 year, thank you 😊 <3

EZGI MAVZER-APRIL ACTIVITY REPORT

I'm Ezgi writing this report for the first month of the volunteer project in Estonia-Tallinn.

My first month in Estonia was very busy, but it wasn't too difficult for me to learn and adapt to what I was going to do. Over time, I started to participate in classroom activities and help with work with children.

Even though we don't speak the same language, being able to communicate and spend time with them is much more enjoyable and educational than I thought. We do activities together, we made small gifts for mother's day this month. They also teach me the things they do, such as the songs they sing in music class and the dances they know. I also learned as much Estonian as I could use in the classroom. I'm sure I can learn Estonian well by the end of the project. All my strain and stress before we started disappeared as I got to know and understand them.

In addition to these, I had the opportunity to meet other volunteers in Tallinn. We have a group where we can talk to each other. Being the only volunteer in the kindergarten I was in worried about my social life, but I discovered that there were a lot of international activities in Tallinn. Participating in these events is a very enjoyable experience and I have made many friends.

In the next month, we will make graduation preparations and organize events for the group I work for in the kindergarten. I'm going to start an Estonian course and I will also attend the arrival-meeting event this month. I started to make a list of places to visit in Estonia, I hope I can complete my list during the project.

I look forward to meeting new volunteers and gaining new experiences during the month.





EZGI MAVZER-MAY ACTIVITY REPORT

I'm Ezgi writing this report for the second month of the volunteer project in Estonia-Tallinn.

This month, I chose the group that I will work with from now on. I met the 'Sipsik' group at the end of last month and worked together for 2 weeks. I decided that I wanted to continue with them.

We did 1 week out day this month with the class. We played games in the garden from morning until lunchtime, did sports, and studied animals and plants. The next week we held a garden party at the nursery. Various activities were held and each class had mini-concerts. We went to Lahemaa National Park with another group. We visited museums and took a walk in the woods. It was great experience for me.

The following week, a running race was held for all groups in the kindergarten. We went to a park near the nursery and spent time there. In the same week, the bee recognition day was held and I had the opportunity to see the bees closely, which I couldn't examine due to my phobia.

I taught a Turkish children's song to the Sipsik group, they loved it and we still work from time to time. I also taught them a ball game I played when I was little. We all played together. They liked it and then played among themselves too. We held a year-end party in the last week of May. We gave the activity packages we prepared throughout the month to the children. We prepared various activities and set a buffet table in the garden. Although it was a very busy month, I experienced wonderful things.

This month I had the opportunity to visit Tartu with my friends. We toured the whole city for 1 day and on the day we went, a big market was set up in the city square and various celebrations were held. It was a lucky day. And I went to the Tallinn national library. I deleted both places from my list of places to visit..

The most important event for me this month is the Turkish Culture Night, which we started to organize together with other volunteers. In this event, which will be held on June 16, we are 5 Turks, but our friends from other nationalities also support and help us in every way. I am responsible for the presentation and poster design for this event. We are very excited and looking forward to the event day.

Looking forward to next month.. 😊





EZGİ MAVZER-JUNE ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the third month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

We attended an event organized for children on the first day of this month. Various experiments were done and we did puzzles in groups. Since it was summer, we spent most of our time in the garden or going to the parks instead of doing classroom activities. The family of one of the students organized a picnic and we played various games in the park and had a picnic. In the kindergarten, we usually play water games because the weather is very hot. Also, the fruits and vegetables we planted in the spring have grown and we collect them from time to time. On days when the weather was rainy, we continued our classroom activities. For example, we made monsters out of finished toilet paper.

Since it was the summer period, all the groups came together, so there were too many different age groups in the class. Although this situation was tiring at first, everyone got used to each other and we achieved harmony.

Apart from the kindergarten, we organized Turkey Culture Night this month. People from many different nationalities participated and we had a lot of fun. There were presentations, Turkish food, Turkish dances and songs at the event. We've received great feedback. This has been a great opportunity for us to evolve. We are planning to organize a larger event in the autumn term.

My host organization held a barbecue party this month, all volunteers and mentors attended the event. I had the opportunity to meet volunteers that I had not met before, we chatted and ate together. It was a beautiful day. ☺

At the end of the month, we went on a trip to Finland-Helsinki with my friends. On the trip we went and returned by ship, we toured Helsinki on foot all day. We visited various museums. It was a trip that fascinated us with its magnificent nature, architecture and city layout.

In Tallinn, we went to Keila Waterfall. We did a nature walk. It was a quiet and relaxing trip. I have 2 weeks vacation for next month.

I am planning to go to Parnu for vacation. After that, I would like to go to Saaremaa for camping.

This is the year I travel the most and gain new experiences in my life. So I look forward to every next month. ☺





EZGI MAVZER-JULY ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the fourth month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

In the first week of this month, we did garden activities in the nursery and enjoyed the sun. We drew pictures on the floor and learned to play hopscotch. We played basketball and football with another group that was older, they practiced all month and they are getting better every day.

From the second week, I took a 2-week vacation. I went to Parnu with my friend in the first week of this holiday. Even though it was a rainy week, we went to the sea and toured the whole city. We went to the Parnu river. It had an incredible nature and water, it was clean, we took a lot of photos and enjoyed the water. In the evenings, we made home-cooked meals and had long conversations.

The next week I went to back in Tallinn. I went some events with my friends, for ex: we went to the Latin America Fiesta, it was really fun. We danced (salsa and bachata..) and had fun at the concert. The rest of the days we went to the beach and enjoyed the sun. Actually I am little sad cause winter is coming and I just trying enjoy the summer time. ☺ Summer is my favorite season but people say summer will end here soon..

I attend the international meetup event in Tallinn every month, I met a lot of new people and listened to new experiences in this month's event. I love this event because I get the chance to meet people from all over the world. And I made really good friends.

I went back to kindergarten last week of the month. I missed the kids and I saw that they missed me too. That week we made masks out of paper plates. And we made animal drawing from shapes. We picked the fruits that grow in the garden and it was really delicious.

Next month, a friend from Turkey will come and we will travel together. We want to go to Riga and Saaremaa. Especially since Saaremaa summer is going to end, we have to go this month. And time is really fast, I've been here for 4 months and had a great experience. I feel very lucky because I still have time. I look forward to new experiences.





EZGI MAVZER-AUGUST ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the fifth month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

This month was the last month of the summer season, so we enjoyed the last warm days. We learned to play tennis and badminton in outdoor activities. Since it was the last month of summer, we had a more free month for the children. In addition, we started to return to classroom activities. For this month, I prepared a symmetry activity for the children. We made caterpillars from egg boxes and painted them. We did a lot of puzzles in the classroom. They really like to do puzzles.

Also, a small party was organized for the children in the nursery for the new term and we took lots of pictures with my camera there.

I attended on-arrival training this month. It was postponed due to some confusion and I just joined. It was a short training as it was not very crowded, but it was really productive. I had the opportunity to meet the new volunteers and since I was here before them, I had the chance to inform and help them about the issues they were wondering about. We toured the city together and chatted a lot.

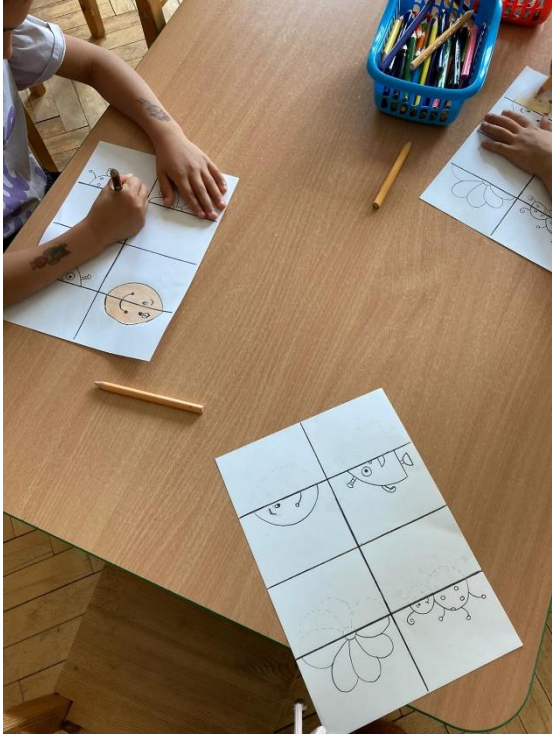
Also, my friend from Turkey came to visit me this month. We spent a lot of time together and traveled to places I had never been before. We also participated in events for the city. He also met my other friends here and we traveled together. This month we went to Latvia-Riga.

Although it has similarities with Estonia, there is a nice vibe in the city and we had a lot of fun.

We also went to Kaberneeme, Rummu and Haapsalu. We swam in Rummu and Kaberneeme and took a lot of pictures, first time swimming in the lake was a nice experience. Haapsalu was much smaller than I expected but we still had a good time. Estonia is always at the forefront with its nature, which makes it look beautiful in every way. This month has been the month I traveled the most. I feel really lucky to have experienced this.

The school season will start in September. For this, we will make some changes in the classroom, and the children will return to the school period and their lessons will begin. We're thinking about making a reading area for them, and we're making some fun banners for their dressing room. 😊







EZGİ MAVZER-SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the sixth month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

This month, we continued with the normal education system in the kindergarden. Robotics training, nature class, weekly walks etc. We collected the garbage for nature, we collected garbage for nature and talked about the damage of these garbage to nature and made some art about it.

I drew sea animals for coloring for children. We also made underwater animals from waste cardboard and glasses. And we did a sky-themed watercolor work.

In the first month I started working, we gathered the vegetables we planted and cooked from them. It's great to see them grow and learn something every day. Their interest and enthusiasm for everything is also inspiring.

We celebrated the 70th anniversary of the kindergarden where I work. It was a great organization. It was really nice and a new experience for me. Because I used to attend school activities as a student 2 years ago, but that day I was with the teachers. 😊

I attended the Turkish Embassy lunch this month and had the opportunity to meet new volunteers and students. In the rest of the day, we visited the city museums together and had the opportunity to get to know each other closely.

This month I did the bog walk that I wanted to do for a long time. Normally, I love hiking in the forest and go often, but this was a slightly different experience. I also participated in the Turkish movie event initiated by Tallinn University, it was very nice to be able to watch and talk about the movies I watched in my childhood with my other friends from different cultures.

I went to Tallinn-Haapsalu. We visited the city and enjoyed the last green days and went to see the famous castle. After this trip, I attended the Italian food night with the invitation of an Italian friend. my friend cooked it for us and also taught us while cooking. It was super delicious..

Towards the end of the month, I participated in a big graphic design show. It caught my attention as it is my general interest and it was very useful for me to be able to see the designs made by people from all over the world.









EZGİ MAVZER-OCTOBER ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the seventh month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia. There has never been a place where I lived and saw autumn more beautiful. The city, which looks colorful under the leaves, was a visual feast for us.

During the whole month we did various activities from chestnuts, autumn leaves and fruits.

This month, we went for walks frequently with the children, during these walks we gathered leaves, chestnuts and seasonal fruits and then used them for activities.

During the month, we did the day-out for a week. We worked outside from morning till noon this week. We started every morning with sports and we did running races. Kids really love this week's work. Since it is migration time for birds, we went to the viewing hill and examined the migrating birds, and talked about birds throughout the month and held various activities.

Also this month was teachers' day in Estonia and with that I got my first teacher's day gift. Kids were so cute and emotional. 😊

October 29 is celebrated as the Republic Day in Turkey. For this reason, I prepared a presentation for the children and told them how important it was for us. Afterwards, we made a bread that is famous in Turkey. They loved it and were very involved. I received very good feedback about this, and families expressed their happiness about learning that there are other societies in the world at a young age and their values.

I went to Tartu where I met my friends, it had been a long time and I had never been to Tartu this time of the year, so I had a pleasant time. Then we went to the Jagala waterfall. The forests in Estonia are very colorful this time of year :) From here, we came across a small horse farm with a friend of mine, we met very sweet people on the way and got permission for a few photos :)

I also went to mid-term training this month. I met wonderful people, it was a 4-day training in a quiet and peaceful place and it was like therapy. During the project we face difficulties from time to time and sometimes we feel really lonely. Even though everything is in order with time, it can be very difficult sometimes. It was good for all of us to see and talk to people who had the same problems and were able to cope with it. I have seen that sometimes people need to know that they are not alone. For this reason, I think that this process is managed very well and is very important.

Although I left very prejudiced and nervous, I came back very relaxed and peaceful. 😊









EZGİ MAVZER-NOVEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the eighth month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

We started this month by thanking nature. We organized a running race for nature and made a small fire with the leaves from autumn and made wishes with the children.

Another study was to learn about the planets, we made crafts about it and talked about it.

Afterwards, we went to an observatory in Estonia, studied real meteoroids, and saw a large telescope that kids love so much.

We prepared cards for Father's Day celebration.

Sipsik group also participated in an inter-school song contest, they were very sweet and had a lot of fun even though we went at the last moment.

At first, I had difficulties in communicating directly with many children due to the language barrier, but now they started to speak English (very fluently and well, everyone is a little confused about this :D) and at the same time I started learning Estonian. We get along much more easily now, however, I taught them a few words in Turkish, and every morning when I come, they say 'hello' in Turkish :)

In addition, an event was organized for teachers in the kindergarten, a jewelry designer came and taught us how to make bracelets, necklaces, earrings. He gave us the jewelry we made ourselves. :)

And this month I went to Vilnius with my friends. We stayed for 2 days and toured 2 cities. Thanks to this, I have traveled all of the Baltic countries. It was a very nice experience. We had the chance to go to different museums. My favorite was definitely the illusion museum.. ☺

As New Year's Eve was approaching, the whole city was decorated with lights. It was a visual feast.

Towards the end of the month, another Turkish cultural event was held and I worked there as a helper. We reached many new people and once again introduced our culture.

At the same time, at the end of the month, we started the preparations for the New Year in the kindergarten. Everyone was very excited for this New Year's Eve celebration, which will be my first, and we did a lot of decorations and lighting. I can say that it is the children's favorite period.

We also enjoyed the Christmas decorations in the city. I attended the New Year's Eve celebrations in the old town on the first day, it was really magnificent and beautiful, it left me wonderful memories.

...:)





EZGI MAVZER-DECEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the ninth month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

We spent the whole month preparing for Christmas.

I don't think I have ever prepared for the New Year with so much excitement.

In class, we mainly did Christmas decorations and activities. The theme of all our work was the new year.

We baked Christmas cookies and then decorated them one by one.

Santa Claus came and gave gifts to the children one by one, talked to them about the new year and asked for their wishes. They were really happy and excited :)

We also celebrated Christmas and exchanged gifts among teachers. On a page on the school website, everyone wrote comments about the teachers and these were given to us as gifts. It was one of the most meaningful gifts I have ever received :)

As for the outdoor activities, we had a hard time because I had my coldest month here. For me, the cold weather is extra tiring.

We made snowmen and somehow tried to pass the time in cold weather.

We took walks in the city, went to the library and borrowed Christmas themed books again :)

It has been a busy month outside the kindergarten. On the first weekend of the month, my friends and I went to visit a friend of ours who lives in the forest outside the city and we spent 2 days there together. He gave us a workshop about nature. In the evening, we prepared a nice table and spent the night chatting until the morning. I also had the opportunity to see Estonia's famous sauna culture up close and experience it once again.

The following week we went for a hike to Keila waterfall. Actually I went in summer but I wanted to see the frozen water in winter. Even though we couldn't spend a long time because of the cold, it was fun.

We also spent a lot of time in the city, as always :)

For New Year's Eve, I organized a dinner at my home and invited my close friends. Everyone had bought gifts for each other with the raffle we had held before, and we had a pleasant and gift-giving evening.

We celebrated the New Year with my friends in the old town. 2022 gave me a new life, a new perspective and great people. I always will remember so lovely.. <3











EZGI



- "Vahest ma mõtlen, et kuidas küll oskad olla nii tore, ilus ning hea, kaunistada päevi oskad, muuta tuju ning hetked kõik heaks."
- Lahke rõõmus naeratav noor inimene, kes soovib panustada iga päev 7t Sipsiku meeskonna ja laste õnnestumisele, aitäh!
- Thank you so much for your commitment and kindness. You are the sunshine in our days and bring so much happiness. Love that you share your culture and cooking with us, its delicious.
- Ta on kui särav päikesekiir, lahke ja abivalmis.
- Tänu Ezgile on lapsed palju paremini kursis sellega, et maailm on midagi enam, kui vaid see, mis nina ees on. Huvi kaugete maade, võõraste keelte ja kultuuride vastu on igatahes tänu Ezgile idanema pandud!
- Tunnustan soojuse ja abivalmiduse eest!
- Ezgi on Endla lasteaiaga nii hästi kohanenud ja tõeline meeskonna liige! Aitäh sulle, et muudad laste päevad lasteaias nii toreks ja oled nii hooliv sõber neile!
- Ezgi on alati armas ja meeldiv ning teeb tuju heaks, kui temaga koos olla.
- Tunnustan abivalmiduse eest
- Lapsevanemana kuulen Oskarilt, et Ezgi paitab lastel pead, et nad lõunaunne uinuksid. Jätkevat naeratust ja rõõmsameelsust igasse päeva, mis toetab ja julgustab lapsi oma murede ja rõõmudega Sinu poole pöörduma.
- Ezgi on hea ja tore inimene. On õpetanud lapsele huvitavaid Türgi tantse ja Türgi lipu tunneb laps juba kaugelt ära.
- Aitäh Teie suurele pühendumisele selles raskes töös! (Grete vanaema)
- Ezgi- Alati naeratab, nii positiivne ja armas tahaks teda kallistada ju tunnevad ka nii lapsed. Aitäh et hoolid♥
- rõõmus noor laps soovime talle edu ja loodetavasti ta ikka mäletab aastat Eestis ka tulevikus
- Ezgi on alati armas ja meeldiv ning teeb tuju heaks, kui temaga koos olla.
- "Oskad armastada, oskad salata, leida uut ja otsast taas alata.
Oskad võidelda, võita ja ihata, tõe otsida, pettust vihata.
Oskad muinasmaad leida, imet tabada,
õnne hoida ja elada rõõmsana!"

2022



EZGİ MAVZER-JANUARY ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the tenth month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia. We celebrated the first days of the year by enjoying the snow. The first week after the holiday period was pretty quiet. Afterwards, we made preparations to celebrate the Chinese New Year at school, and we helped the kids prepare a theater, they did really well.

I started teaching origami to children and they liked it very much. We change the animals we make according to the theme of each week and they are very enthusiastic about this subject, I got feedback from their families that they try to do it at home and that they love it. It was very nice to hear that, I learned very late to make origami but I loved it and it's good to see that they like it too. I also know that origami has an important place in the development of focus and hand-eye muscles in children.

We also went for walks frequently this month, went to see the airport with the children, watched the planes and talked about how we could travel. During this walk, they asked me a lot of questions because they knew that my house was far away and I came here by plane :) They were super cute and curious..

We also went to the money museum during the month. It was pretty interesting. After this trip, we examined the currencies of different countries. I showed them Turkish money. They already remember how the Turkish flag was and who was the founder of Turkey. So they understood what was on the money, it was really special.

And I went to Vienna and Venice this month. I hadn't traveled in a long time and it was amazingly beautiful.. I only had the opportunity to visit Vienna for 1 day, but I spent 2 days in Italy, it was truly fascinating with its incredible architecture and history. I had the opportunity to visit a museum with artifacts from the Renaissance period and I can say that it was the best museum I have ever visited.. I have accumulated wonderful memories.

As I move towards the end of my project, each day remains a separate experience and a beautiful memory. 😊







EZGI MAVZER-FEBRUARY ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the eleventh month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

I will add a few more photos from my trip, which covers the end of last month and the beginning of this month. ☺

At the beginning of the month, I had the opportunity to go to Italy, Venice and Austria, Vienna. It took 4 days, but it was amazing. I had a great time in both countries that impressed me with their architectural structure.

We had a busy but enjoyable month at the nursery. In-class activities; we did movie day, we covered a classroom with papers and opened it up for the kids to draw and paint as they wanted throughout the day. They looked really free and happy. :)

In the outside activities, we mostly made preparations for the Estonian Independence Day. Then we celebrated in the old town. We sang songs and danced together.. Apart from these, we made walks and library trips during the month.

We reviewed countries and flags. We ensured permanence with different activities. It caught their attention more than we thought. We didn't forget to celebrate Valentine's Day. We made cookies together and prepared cards with lots of hearts.. ☺

In the last week, we started to work on the subject of animals. We talked about animals in the world and where they live.

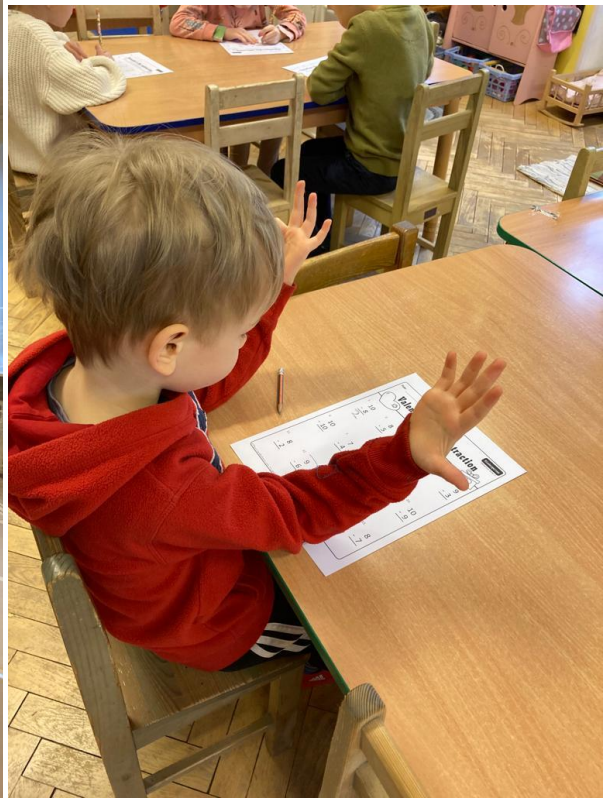
Since I am nearing the end of my project, I took care to spend more time with my friends this month, I took a lot of walks in the city.

This month has been the hardest for me to spend here. Even though I went through a difficult period mentally due to the earthquake disaster in my country, I received support from my friends and my environment during this process. Once again, I am happy with the bond established by the project I am in. As I enter the last month of my project, I am happy to be a part of this team, even though I am sad that it will be over.

This month I had the opportunity to see the northern lights. It was very good for me to have the opportunity to watch the miracle of nature at a time when I was hopeless. Estonia gave me another wonderful memory. <3







EZGİ MAVZER-MARCH ACTIVITY REPORT

I am Ezgi writing this report for the last (12) month of the volunteering project in Tallinn, Estonia.

Time flies. This is the last report I am writing during this project :) I wanted to thank everyone who contributed to this journey and touched my life :)

This month was a month with very emotional ups and downs for me.

We talked to the children about volunteering from the beginning of the month. I realized that it hurt them as much as it hurt me that I was leaving, and that was really hard. But we got used to the idea and we said goodbye very well and I promised them that they could call me often. ☺

This month a team came to the nursery to teach skiing and we had the opportunity to ski with the children. It was really fun and it was also my first time to ski ☺

And we prepared a group story book in which they wrote their own stories and made their own pictures, they presented it in front of the whole kindergarten. They were süper cuteee.. <3

I prepared Turkish food for the farewell meeting for the teachers and many of them tried it for the first time. They shared it on the school page in the estonian newspaper and it was a proud and beautiful experience. I was also happy that everyone liked the food.

We made various decorations and flower-themed activities for spring. In the garden, we found the first flowers of the year and talked about them. The overall theme for this month was the arrival of spring. For a children's competition, we designed a garden with children and made various animals in it. Then we shot the video and sent it, they are waiting for the result :)

We did a lot of origami work :)

Since it was my last month, I received many gifts from the children :) They brought their own handmade works and they were really creative. You can see them in the photos I will add below.

Also the kids and my coworkers prepared a very sweet video to say goodbye :)

Apart from that, I traveled around a lot of cities, spent time with my friends and ended every meeting with goodbyes. It was really hard, but after a while we got used to it and made plans for a repeat :)

Life flows very fast and we always felt very lucky to find each other in this flow.

On the last day of the week, we gathered in the nursery garden and everyone said goodbye, gave gifts and lots of hugs.

I am really glad to met them. They were always so kind and friendly.. and my kids, they are amazing. I learned a lot of things from them. I always remember them <3

Thank you all for everything.. <3

I am sure we will see each other any time and any where in the world.. ☺

See u <3









