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In 2011, I took part in a European Voluntary Service project as a volunteer in Rome, Italy for 12 months. At the end of my volunteering activity, I received my Youthpass certificate.

Before my project, I was supporting some volunteering activities in my free time after my work. When I met the European volunteers of the organisation that I was supporting, I questioned whether I could do such an experience as well. With the support of that organisation, we started to look for projects that would be fit for me. In the end, we have found a nice project in Italy and I was included in it. The best part for me was to find a hosting organisation that had accessibility measures in place.

During my project, my hosting organisation has supported me in my activities and tasks within the organisation and in my adaptation to the city itself. I am grateful for all the support I have received from the organisation, starting from the people at the reception desk to personal support that I have received.



Competences are gained through learning; going through certain events during my volunteering helped me learn a lot of things. I learnt to express myself better, I realized that I could communicate better in English, I improved my social competences, I developed a better point of view when dealing with challenging situations, I could express myself better which helped me turn my ideas into reality. And all these improvements make me think “This was the best thing I have ever done” and Youthpass documents this invaluable time for me.

In 2012, when I returned to Turkey from Italy I was convinced: “From now on I would work in the civil society field and do something that has value for the society.” And Youthpass did not remain only as a certificate. It served me as a “reference letter” that I could use in my professional life that opened the doors for me to become a trainer in the field of non-formal education and to access higher level of training and education.

I continue working in this field, in order to mainstream the achievements of my volunteering experience, to enrich the points of view of the young people in my country through European opportunities so that with these newly opened doors they can also contribute to their country with a more global vision.