

## MY PAINFUL YOUTHPASS STORY

I am an English teacher in Turkey. In 2009, I heard about youth exchange, but I tried to learn but I was so young and inexperienced that I could not apply. No one helped me. 2009 was the year when my Youthpass journey started. But this is a long journey including a lot of disappointing events inside. But finally, it was with a happy end.

In 2013, I was appointed in a small town as an English teacher. This was an opportunity for me. I started studying on the National Agency Web Site. I studied so hard that our director of National Education of town asked me to present English teacher in my town about Erasmus Projects. I made several meetings with the local English teachers. I joined the several meetings of national agencies in Siirt, Gaziantep and Ankara. I applied several Salto-youth courses and Erasmus projects and all of them were rejected. I was so upset that. I gave up writing project for two years.

In 2016, I started carrying out eTwinning projects. I became successful and I won national quality label and European quality labels. Moreover, I won Move2learn Learn2move. I still went on applying Salto-youth trainees.

Thanks to Move2learn Learn2move, on March 2018, we went to Italy with 4 teachers and 10 students. We visited our partner schools and we visited Venice, Bologna, Padova and Verona. It was a great experience for us. When I was in Italy, I learnt that I was accepted to a Salto-youth programme called "BitriMulti" in Bonn / Germany. I was so happy. This time, luck was with me. I was so happy.

I joined "Bitrimulti" programme in April in Bonn/ Germany. We learnt how to write a Youth exchange project (KA105). I deserved my first Youthpass Certificate. It was very special for me but Bonn gave more gifts. I met several European people, but my best friends are Rose from Ireland, Diana from Bulgaria and Johanna from Finland. We wrote a project about culture together. Rose wanted to be coordinator and she applied it on October, 2018.

In December, Rose gave us good news. Our project was approved. The name of our project was "Intercultural Connections". Finally, our project was approved, and this was the first time. We screamed " We did it, we did it." On May, 2 teachers and 8 students we went to Plovidid / Bulgaria. It was a great project. All of my students and I got our Youthpass certificates. This was my second certificate. This was dream for ten years. I was thirty years old and during one third of my life, I wanted to deserve a Youthpass.

These Youthpasses helped me in my teaching career. In January, the best school in the announced a vacancy for English teacher. That school was my dream. I immediately applied. They wanted my all documents. I gave my two Youthpasses. During the interview, they asked me questions related to my Youthpasses. For example, they asked about my foreign language ability, my global citizenship, my communication skills and my value of tolerance. They gave me the highest point in the town and I am writing my story as an English teacher in that school.

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