Congratulations!

You are a participant on '**LET'S Folk!**' Youth Exchange, a unique and dynamic project involving 37 young people from 6 different countries:

Czech Republic, Latvia, Hungary, Slovakia, Crotia and Turkey,

Project **'LET'S Folk!'** will take place in Samsun, Turkey between *1 and 8 November 2014*. It will gather 37 participants, between 18 and 25 years old, from six countries: **Czech Republic, Latvia, Hungary, Slovakia, Crotia and Turkey**, interested in art, national traditions and curious about the world. It was created with the aim of preserving and promoting folk culture of different countries, as well as to raise awareness about other European nations, learn about their origins and thus to fight against harming prejudices. The projects name's extension is "LiveEnjoyTry'Spread FOLK!" and all this describe our aims.

We want to share our own skills and show that despite differences we can be united thanks to our common interests and goals. We will discuss the discrimination during the special workshops, games and also by contacting with other, differing youngsters. The whole week all together we will work on preparing choreography that will be presented on the last day to the local community of Samsun. We apply non-formal education methods and involve into the process of arrangements in order to give the youngsters a chance to be active in social life and expressing themselves, also we want them to use their own creativity to invent and prepare a final performance.

The main theme is to show colorfulness and multiculturalism of European countries. We focus mostly on dance and music because we believe that this will have a positive impact on the promotion of a healthy lifestyle (dance as a sport) as well as will show the opportunity for young people to spend their free time in a very fruitful way. Firstly they will keep fit, secondly they will support and spread traditions of their countries. What is more we will gather youth not only from various countries, groups will be also multi-religious. Despite all this differences, we will be all united in the common dance. As a result of cooperation we will try to disprove some stereotypes and prejudices about societies and will keep all our activities in the spirit of solidarity, respect and mutual understanding. Our aim is also to include Samsun's local community into our actions so that we could develop creativity and entrepreneurship. We will give participants a chance to present their skills and ideas.

Youngsters will have an opportunity to get new useful skills like organizing final event, possibility to improve English by cooperating in multicultural group, as well as preparing choreography and learning foreign songs and dances.

Idea of project is to promote Turkish culture among the young people from different countries, as well as foreign folk culture among the Turks. We believe this project will also

make positive contribution to Turkey by showing it's fascinating culture, positive and open attitude of society, legendary hospitality, and stunning views. All these aspects will help to break the stereotypes generated in Europe about Turkey, and will convince more people to explore Turkey.

We have more in common, but there are as well differences in our origins, and traditions. Especially now, in the age of globalization, we should be proud and preserve our cultural heritage. Maintaining traditions and broaden the knowledge about it will make us more aware and open minded citizens. What's more during our project we will be able to notice that our contemporary culture and and we, as a youth and as a human beings, are similar. It will cause the reinforce of awareness of young people's sense of European citizenship.

Consequently, it can be obviously observed that there is a need for an association of young people about folk dance in Samsun. After our programme, besides having representation of young people who likes folk dancing in Samsun thanks to the Association, it will be ensured that young people who needs to financial support will be reinforced and Erasmus+ programmes will be spreaded to large masses, especially to young people who have lack of opportunities.

This Participant Info Pack includes:

• A brief presentation of the project and Samsun city you will get this exchange, Travel details, Contact points and people, Reimbursment.

We kindly ask you to bring:

• Clear information (in English, if possible) about the main activities of your organisation, so that you can present it at the information gallery during the exchange. Please be aware that your presentation will be very brief!
• Map, posters, postcards about your country/region/town to be displayed during the Project.
• Some gastronomic specialities (food and/or drinks) for the International Evening.
• Folk clothes and some folk metarials fort he workshops

ABOUT SAMSUN CITY and WEATHER

Samsun is a city with a population over half a million people on the north coast of Turkey. It is the provincial capital of Samsun Province and a major Black Sea port. The growing city has 2 universities, several hospitals, shopping malls, a lot of light manufacturing industry, sports facilities and an opera.

Weather:

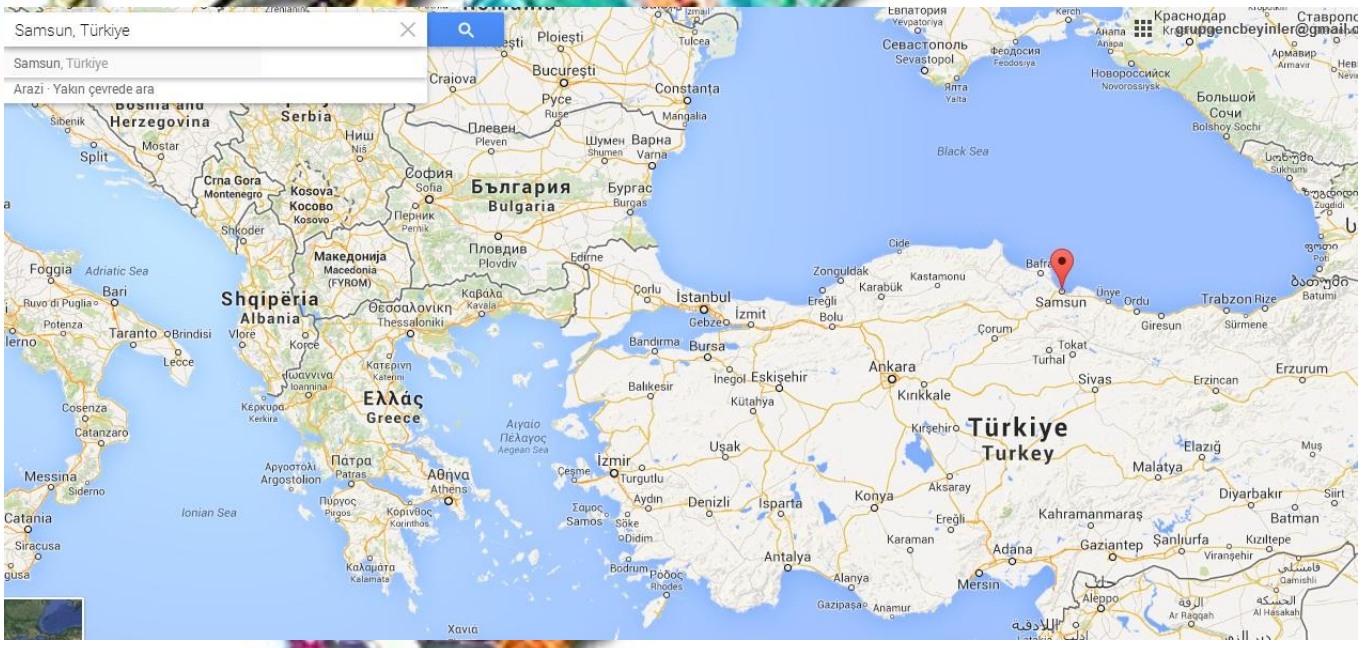
Samsun has a borderline like most of the eastern Black Sea coast of Turkey. Spring temperatures can vary dramatically from week to week. Summers are warm and humid, and the average maximum temperature is around 27 °C (81 °F) in August. Winters are cool and damp, and the lowest average minimum temperature is around 3 °C (37 °F) in January.

Precipitation is heaviest in late autumn and early winter. Snow sometimes occurs between the months of December and March, but never more than a few centimeters of snow falls in the city, and temperatures below the freezing point rarely last more than a couple of days.

There is not usually enough wind to fly kites in the parks.

The water temperature, like on the rest of the Black Sea coast of Turkey, fluctuates between 8–20 °C (46–68 °F) throughout the year.

For more info http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samsun



TRAVEL & CONTACT POINTS

<u>How I can get there?</u>

From Istanbul: There are 2 airports in Istanbul as Istanbul Ataturk Airport (Europe) and Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen Airport (Asia)

I think, all of partipications will use Istanbul Ataturk Airport☺

From Istanbul Ataturk Airport (Europe),

We will try to manage all participants together in same time in İstanbul, Then, We will arrange special bus from Istanbul to Samsun, and we will say to you the time of bus;) There will be some Turkish people from our organization in the bus with you. It takes 9 hours from İstanbul to Samsun.
NOTE! You can use TV, Wifi, Open buffet during your trip in bus.

NOTE! We will send you the information about accomadation soon. (But, don't worry! you will have what you need here ☺)

REIMBURSMENT:

We plan to reimburse your travel and visa costs at 3rd day of Exchange. We will hand out the a form, after you filled out the form and submitted your all expenses with invoice and tickets.

IMPORTANT: Turkish National Agency wants **Invoice** and **E- ticket** of flights together. The ticket must be including the prize on the paper! You can use check in machines in the airport for this!! And keep and save your **boarding passes** with you! We can't pay without it.

NOTE! Your participants *have to buy the tickets* as soon as possible. Because, as you know everyday ticket prices are getting more expensive. We are waiting your news about participants. Please find all participants soon. If not, tell us. We can look for participants too.

Max prizes details for groups:

We will pay **170 euros** for all your travel costs per person and **15 euros** for your VISA Money per person.

AEGEE-Praha – CZECH REPUBLIC: 5 Young participants (between 18- 25 year old) + 1 Leader (Can be any age)

Ocean Znanja u Republici Hrvatskoj - CROTIA: 5 Young participants (between 18- 25 year old) + 1 Leader (Can be any age)

Association of YWCA/YMCA of Latvia - LATVIA: 5 Young participants (between 18- 25 year old) + 1 Leader (Can be any age)

Ars Omnis Kulturális Egyesület - HUNGARY: 5 Young participants (between 18- 25 year old) + 1 Leader (Can be any age)

Parada Este – SLOVAKIA: 5 Young participants (between 18- 25 year old) + 1 Leader (Can be any age)

INTERCULTURAL NIGHT & FAREWELL PARTY:

We can't think an exchange without intercultural night. If you consider this, We would be very happy. (You will see in the programme which intercultural night is which day)

And, DON'T FORGET!

Dear participants,

Please for Samsun take good water proof shoes and warm clothes (because some activities will be outside).

• We will ask our participants to choose their country most characteristic or most interesting traditions, customs. We will have a chance to get familiar with their traditions. After this we will divide into groups, and in every group will be only one member from each country, and every member has to teach the others something (dance or activity) traditional from their country.

• Our final performance will take place in a hall which belongs to Samsun Municipality. We will show samples of folk dances coming from all countries in the project. Besides we will try to sing one local and one foreign folk song in assistance of instruments. We will be open for suggestions of participants who all together will decide on the repertoire.

NOTE! Feel free to use our Facebook group to ask all questions about the Project and our programme.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/276299742571738/

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We will be waiting for you! You can ask everything to us...

Greetings! ☺