



COSMOS  
YOUTH

20  
23

# ANNUAL REPORT



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## Cosmos Youth Association 1st General Assembly Meeting

Cosmos Youth Association, which was established on 01 June 2022, held its first elective general assembly on 29 October 2022. With the General Assembly held, the new Board of Directors, Board of Auditors, and General Assembly were determined. From this date, Cosmos Youth started its work with Young General Assembly Members.





## \* How We Started?

We were founded in 2022 with the decision to establish an association managed by young people for young people, together with a group of young people between the ages of 18-25 who have been volunteering in the field of civil society for many years.





## \* Vision&Mission

Cosmos Youth Association sees every young person as a star, embraces all young people without discrimination under the roof of Cosmos, aims to provide social benefit by providing an area where young people can discover themselves, create a safe social environment, and improve themselves by having fun and learning.



## \* Cosmoslog Teams

Cosmos Youth consists of 3 main teams, and all its work and decision-making processes are carried out voluntarily by young people between the ages of 18-26.



Furkan HERGÜL  
President



Ece Nur KORKMAZ  
Vice President



Burak KÖKSAL  
International Networks  
Coordinator  
Italy Representative



Hafsa RUSHITI  
North Macedonia  
Representative



Hediye DEMİR  
International Team  
Leader  
Istanbul



Pelin ERAVCI  
Content Team Leader  
Ankara



Bilge KARTAL  
National Team Leader  
Izmir



Muhammed  
Demirel  
Media and  
Communications  
Coordinator  
Izmir

### INTERNATIONAL TEAM



Ahmet Efe KALAYCI  
Izmir



Dilek EZEN  
Wurzburg



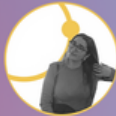
Ece SULE  
Manisa



Emir SEVER  
Hatay



Hatice Zeynep  
BAŞI  
Ankara



Nilsu FIRAT  
Graz



Selda BAYDEMİR  
Sakarya



Zubeyda Nur  
UTGUN  
Konya

## \* Cosmolog Teams

Cosmos Youth consists of 3 main teams, and all its work and decision-making processes are carried out voluntarily by young people between the ages of 18-26.

### CONTENT TEAM



Dilan KARA  
İzmir



Erva Elif GÜVEN  
İstanbul



Enes KALIN  
Aksaray



Gülşah GÜMRÜKÇÜ  
Edirne

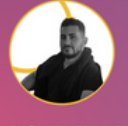


Kader DALMIŞ  
Çanakkale



Samet UKAV  
İzmir

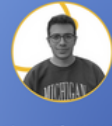
### NATIONAL TEAM



Erkin Küçükeroğlu  
İzmir



Bilge KARTAL  
İzmir



Ahmet Efe KALAYCI  
İzmir



Dilan KARA  
İzmir



Ece GACENER  
İzmir

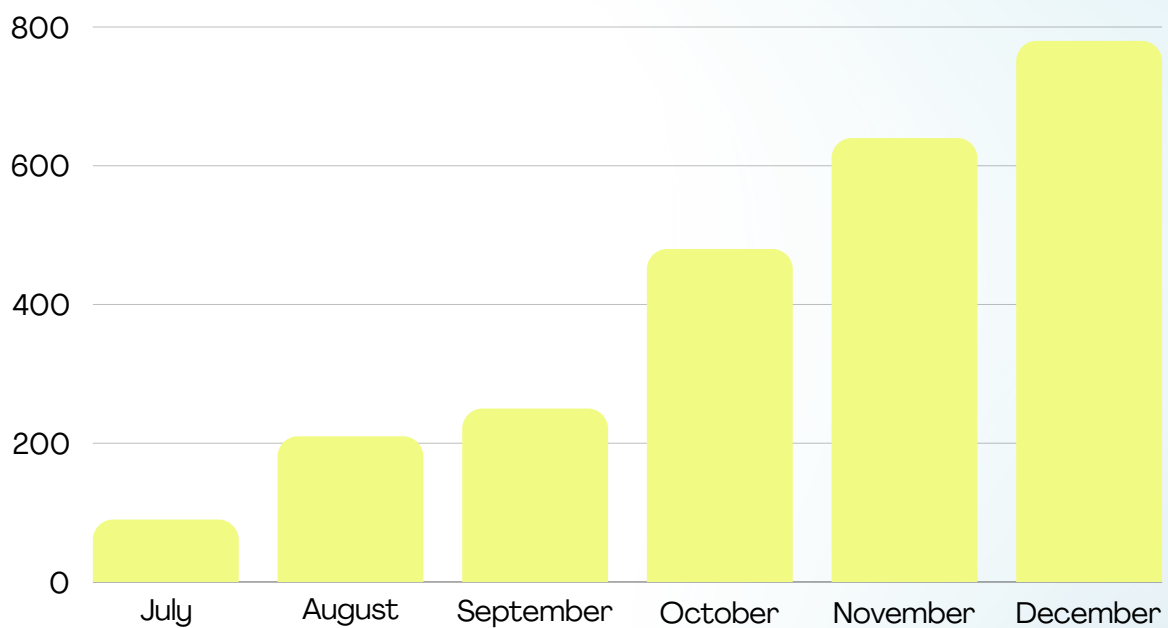


Ece SÜLE  
İzmir



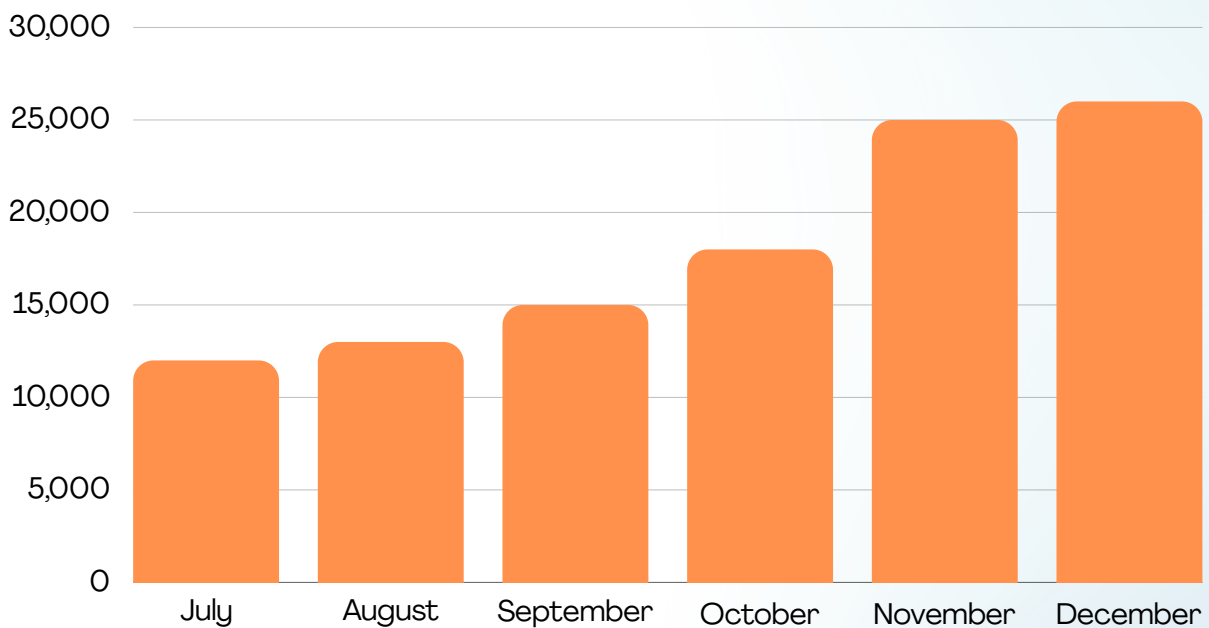


## \* Number of Volunteer



\*This graph shows the number of young volunteers of **Cosmos Youth** in the last six months. The graph shows the number of young people who filled out the association's official volunteer registration form by month.

## \* Number of young people reached by Cosmos Youth in las 6 months



\*This graph shows the number of young people Cosmos Youth reached and interacted with in the last six months. The graph shows the ratio of the number of young people who participate in the association's activities/follow it on social media/subscribe to its website/apply to its projects, by month.



Cosmos Youth

# ACTIVITIES OF 2023

<b>11</b>	PDA Creative therapies in youth work
<b>12</b>	Cultural Exchange
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<b>14</b>	Digital Youth Work
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<b>22</b>	<i>2026 European Youth Capital Ceremony in Lublin</i>
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<b>22</b>	<i>How Was 2023 for us ?</i>



# PDA CREATIVE THERAPIES IN YOUTH WORK



The general idea of the PDA was to provide a chance for youth workers, youth leaders, non-formal educators to be introduced and to experience elements of using art, movement and dance in youthwork that can be used as a tool for providing new non-formal opportunities for youth in the future. (Trainers are experts in the field of Art therapy, dance and movement therapy and are working in the University of J.J.Strossmayer in the Department of Art therapy and also in several organizations in the region and have Ph.D. and bachelors diploma from this field and also are very active in the NGO sector).

Our PDA is designed to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes of youth workers and youth leaders who are interested in various tools that could be used while working with the main target group of people suffering exclusion, who come from various underprivileged backgrounds, struggling with social exclusion, poverty, unemployment....

Also, important to say is that within this PDA trainers will provide follow-up (once a month in 2 areas) for 6 months after the PDA in order to fully support the participants and also possibly deepen their knowledge, so it is really for people who would like to gain valuable knowledge in this area.

**Place:** Osijek, Croatia

**Date:** 14-21 January 2023

**Partners Number:** 12

**Number of participants:** 24

**Participants Profile:** Youth Worker

# “CULTURAL EXCHANGE”



In this project, 32 young people aged 16–25 with different backgrounds came together in the “Cultural Exchange” youth project in Slovenia.

**Objectives:** The project aims to address the impact of globalization on cultural diversity, especially among young people. It seeks to raise awareness about the importance of preserving regional and national cultures, emphasizing the potential entrepreneurial opportunities within cultural heritage.

**Activities:** The project includes various activities such as introducing young people to cultural significance, exploring diverse cultures, fostering entrepreneurial ideas rooted in cultural heritage, and promoting collaboration among participants. Workshops, cultural exchanges, and group activities are designed to enhance understanding and self-confidence.

**Impact:** The intended outcomes include highlighting the challenges posed by globalization and cultural loss, transferring knowledge to participants who can then share it with their organizations, and creating a group of culturally-aware young individuals who actively contribute to preserving and promoting their cultural heritage.

**Place:** Murska, Sobota

**Date:** 21–30 March 2023

**Partners Number:** 4

**Number of participants:** 32

**Participants Profile:** Youth People



# “LEGISLATIVE PARTICIPATION AND MONITORING TRAINING”



Together with NGO representatives and Academicians from different regions of Turkey, we received training on the following relevant topics by expert trainers in their fields.

- Effective monitoring and evaluation of legislative and audit processes;
- Effective monitoring and evaluation of the functions, activities and duties of the Turkish Grand National Assembly;
- Active citizenship and participation in legislation;
- Data verification (fact-checking);
- Fundamentals of lobbying;
- Advocacy cycle.

'Legislative Participation and Monitoring Training' aims to introduce the tools and methods that enable citizens to have a say in politics and to actively participate in legislation in accordance with the principle of democratization, and to provide theoretical information and practices on the use of these tools and methods.

**Place:** Ankara, Turkiye

**Date:** 08-11 April 2023

**Partners Number:** 26

**Number of participants:** 26

**Participants Profile:** NGOs working on Youth and Human rights



# DIGITAL YOUTH WORK



The project aimed to develop and/or improve the Competencies of youth workers/youth leaders in digital youth work.

The other aims of the project are:

- Understanding of the concept of the digital youth work;
- Share knowledge, skills, competencies and experience in digital youth work;
- Discuss innovative tools that can be applied in daily youth work;
- Sharing good practices;
- Boosting the skills and competencies of the youth workers for using digital technologies;
- Online activism, and online communication to reach out to more young people, even from marginalized communities.
- Learning new methods in the Digital youth work;
- Youthpass preparation etc.
- Creating a network between the organizations etc.

**Place:** Varna, Bulgaria

**Date:** 20-26 April 2023

**Partners Number:** 9

**Number of participants:** 18

**Participants Profile:** Youth Workers

# 10 LANGUAGE WEBINAR



In this webinar, we organized for all young people living in Cosmos, Wayne, who speaks 10 languages, was our guest. Many young people attended this webinar, which was open to everyone.

Wayne gave young people information about how learning different languages opens their horizons, as well as how learning a new language breaks down their prejudices.

**Place:** Online

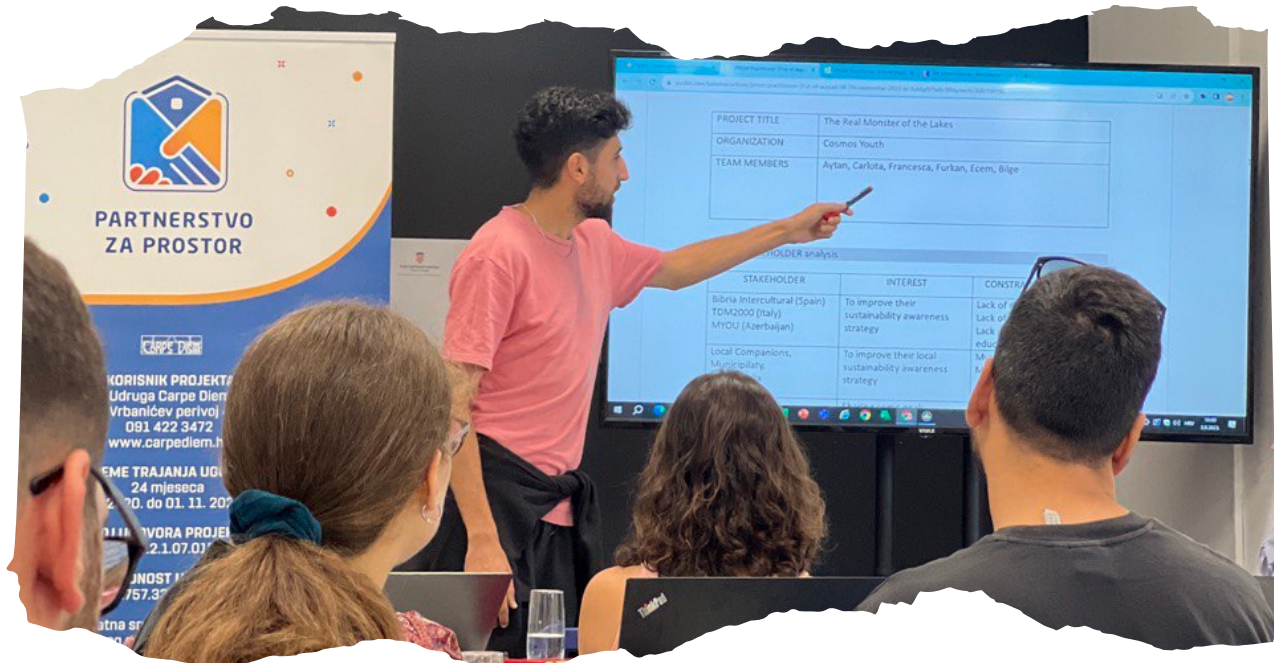
**Date:** 28 August 2023

**Partners Number:** 1

**Participants Profile:** -

# PRISM Practitioner

## *PRojects integrating Sustainable Methods*



PRISM Practitioner is a practical project management and sustainability course designed to prepare individuals to improve how they view, approach, manage and drive change

.The course combines teaching with case studies using real-world examples that bring to life project management in a way that meets the needs of the business while taking into account the needs of society and the environment.

The training course prepares individuals to improve the way they view, approach, manage and drive projects by blending instruction with in-class case studies; using real-world examples that bring project management to life in a manner that not only meets the needs of business in today's economy but also accounts for the needs of society and the environment.

This course will also prepare the participant for the GPM-BTM Certification exam. Participants can independently take the exam to obtain the GPM-b certificate.

**Place:** Karlovac, Croatia

**Date:** 31 August 2023 -  
31 August 2025

**Partners Number:** 9

**Number of participants:** 18

**Participants Profile:** Youth Workers



# ACCOMPANIED YOUNGSTERS



**Objectives:** The "Accompanied Youngsters" project addresses the needs of unaccompanied minors transitioning to adulthood, focusing on those lacking family support. Drawing from the professional experiences of Raúl R. Sola and Kenza Bendizan, the project integrates holistic approaches, combining artistic methods, creative therapies, non-formal education, and deep ecology.

**Activities:** The project, structured over 6 days with 2 days of travel, involves 20 youth workers from 10 countries. Activities include planning, preparation, implementation, follow-up, and closing stages. Content encompasses non-formal education, narrative therapy, creative writing, plastic arts, non-violent communication, corporality, intersectionality, social sciences, and meditation.

**Impact:** The program aims to enhance personal, socio-educational, and professional development, addressing attachment styles, trust, and vulnerability. Key objectives include active participation, fostering inclusive relationships, acquiring diverse skills, raising awareness about climate change, expanding networks, and developing linguistic, relational, creative, and digital skills.

**Place:** Barcelona, Spain

**Date:** 14-21 September 2023

**Partners Number:** 9

**Number of participants:** 18

**Participants Profile:** Youth Workers

# You(TH)INK: Youth Evolve



**Objectives:** The project aims to bridge the gap between skills possessed by youth and those sought by employers, focusing on the impact of soft skills. Through nonformal education, participants will explore the experiential learning of soft skills, differentiating them from hard skills learned in traditional settings.

**Activities:** Designed to enhance specific skills, activities include simulations, games, debates, role-playing, and mindfulness. Participants, including those with fewer opportunities, will undergo team-building stages, addressing problem-solving, public speaking, conflict management, time management, and more.

**Impact:** Participants are expected to enhance teamwork, conflict management, and time management skills. They will explore diverse learning methods, transversal skills, and engage in debate activities. The project aims to boost employability, improve communication in a foreign language, and foster self-confidence. The impact includes the development of well-rounded personalities capable of applying soft skills in both personal and professional spheres.

**Place:** Riga, Latvia

**Date:** 15-23 September 2023

**Partners Number:** 5

**Number of participants:** 30

**Participants Profile:** Youth People



# A Mental Health Toolkit for Youth Work



**Project Overview:** The project aims to address the rising mental health crisis among European youth exacerbated by the pandemic, climate crisis, war, and economic challenges. It focuses on providing essential tools and resources to empower youth workers, enhance their mental health support skills, and establish a collaborative network. Additionally, the project aims to raise awareness, improve youth work quality, and contribute to systemic change.

**Activities:** The project involves a Mental Health First Aid course, cognitive-behavioral therapy-based tools, case studies, and reflections. Yoga and meditation sessions are integrated to promote holistic well-being. Daily activities include cultural exchanges and recreational events, fostering networking and mutual learning.

**Participants:** The project targets 33 participants from 11 organizations, prioritizing youth workers with mental health interests, those facing challenges, and first-time mobility participants. A participant with fewer opportunities from each organization, especially those with mental health issues impacting normal participation, is included. Selection considers gender balance, age diversity, and varied backgrounds.

**Place:** Vig, Denmark

**Date:** 06–15 October 2023

**Partners Number:** 6

**Number of participants:** 18

**Participants Profile:** Youth Workers



# Storytelling in Museums



**Objectives:** The project aims to use storytelling as a tool for cultural integration and cooperation among youth. Participants will develop social skills, cultural understanding, and tolerance. Additionally, the project seeks to promote creativity, self-confidence, and employability through non-formal education methods. The focus includes enhancing digital skills and active youth participation in society.

**Activities:** The Youth Exchange in Artena involves 22 participants from four countries, emphasizing team-building, storytelling, and digital skills. Workshops, cultural nights, and museum visits are designed to foster a trusting atmosphere. Participants create short videos about museum artifacts using digital tools. The project culminates in a multimedia exhibition and prepares participants for dissemination and follow-up activities.

**Impact:** Post-project, participants are expected to be more educated about social media, proficient in digital tools, and empowered to express their creativity. Enhanced social, teamwork, and project management skills contribute to increased employability. Learning outcomes extend to youth workers, organizations, and the local community. The initiative aims to raise awareness of diversity, promote Erasmus+ values, and make local organizations more innovative.

**Place:** Rome, Italy

**Date:** 06-14 October 2023

**Partners Number:** 4

**Number of participants:** 24

**Participants Profile:** Young people

# 2026 European Youth Capital Application Journey



5 cities competed in the final to obtain the title of European Youth Capital, which is also important for taking concrete steps regarding the political, civil, social and cultural rights of young people under the leadership of young people.

Young people from Izmir continued their contacts in order to strengthen Izmir's hand in this race. In this context, a delegation consisting of members of the European Youth Capital Platform went to Strasbourg, France. During the visit, Izmir Youth Municipality representative Alper Kurudere from Izmir's European Youth Capital team, GoFor representative Barış Azar, Cosmos Youth representative Furkan Hergül, Izmir City Council Youth Council President İsmail Ferhat Kaplan and Gülşen Balcı and Cenk, who are involved in Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Youth and European Union studies. Oz joined.

The team met with officials in the European Council and the European Union Parliament and followed the General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and evaluated the opportunities for cooperation between the youth of Izmir and Strasbourg in the meeting held with the youth work team of the Strasbourg Municipality. We met with Gül Sarıgül, Deputy Undersecretary of the Permanent Representation of Turkey to the Council of Europe, and exchanged ideas about Turkish youth's involvement in Europe-Turkey relations and studies and increasing cooperation.



## 2026 European Youth Capital Ceremony in Lublin



As Cosmos Youth, we took part in every stage of Izmir's European Youth Capital application process with great excitement, pride and dedication. This application process has enabled us, especially young people in the civil sphere, to have a great bond with public institutions and youth organizations in the local Izmir. We have full faith that we will continue these collaborations into a wonderful future for the youth of Izmir!

We also congratulate Tromso, which will be the European Youth Capital in 2026. We are excited about the work they will do for young people. We will continue to support all projects and activities for young people wherever they are in Cosmos.

**Place:** Lublin

**Date:** 27 November 2023



## We took part “Let’s Get Political” Seminar organized by Eu Comission



The seminar aimed to contribute to empowering and supporting young people to take part in the democratic political life at local, national and European level.

The objectives are:

- To map the barriers and challenges that young people face when trying to get politically involved, including economic, social, cultural, institutional, and legal.
- To discuss solutions to address the limited political participation of young people, including the lowering the voting age and of the age to stand in elections, the creation of independent and youth-led structures for youth participation in decision-making, deliberative democracy, etc.
- To reflect on the stigma associated with political involvement among some young people and the ways to address it.
- To explore the role played by political youth organisations in advocating for structural changes that enable youth participation and in supporting young people’s engagement in politics.
- To elaborate recommendations for actions/activities to be undertaken by the Council of Europe, as well as other international organisations, national and local authorities and civil society to advance youth political participation. Youth revitalising democracy is a project led by the Council of Europe Youth Department to restore mutual trust between young people and democratic institutions and processes. The project builds on the results of the youth campaign Democracy Here | Democracy Now that raised awareness among young people, youth civil society and decision makers on the dangers posed by continued backsliding of democracy in Europe. The key event of the campaign, the Youth Action Week (June 2022, Strasbourg) issued a Call for Action that provides the directions and objectives the project for the period 2023-2027.

# How Was 2023 for us ?

1

Cosmos Youth did all its work voluntarily in 2023. In addition, the expenses of the association were covered by young people's scholarships without receiving any external financial support.

2

Cosmos Youth, who wanted to improve its capacity, was turned away from almost all the grant programs it wanted to apply for due to lack of capacity.

3

Cosmos Volunteers, who never lose their motivation, communicated and partnered with more than 120 institutions in total in 2023. It brought together approximately 40 disadvantaged young people with young people from another part of the world and from another culture. In this way, under the umbrella of Cosmos, it continuously progresses towards its goal of creating a world where all young people can live together, respecting each other.



# Thank You!

**CONTACT WITH US**

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