



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



— INFO-PACK —

WORKING FOR OUR STRAY FRIENDS!



ESC Volunteering for Young Veterinarians
and Veterinary Nurses in Sinop, Türkiye



— 2026-1-TR01-ESC51-VTJ-000400703 —



European Solidarity Corps



Sinop, Türkiye



2026



ABOUT THE ORGANISATION



**Sahipsiz Hayvanları
Koruma ve Yaşatma
Derneği**



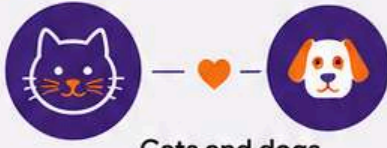
2005

Founded in Sinop



20+ YEARS

Protecting animals



Cats and dogs
in our care

*Better lives for animals.
Meaningful learning
for young veterinary professionals.
Solidarity through care.*

- Founded in Sinop in 2005, our association works to protect **stray cats and dogs** and **provide animals** in need with **food, veterinary care, rehabilitation** and a safe life.
- For more than 20 years, we have supported sick, injured, disabled, orphaned and elderly animals. Today, our work focuses mainly on stray cats and cats with special needs, many of whom have permanent disabilities or medical conditions that make life on the streets impossible.
- Our animals are cared for mainly at our **Village House in Bektaşğa**, the **Patient Room**, and the **volunteers' house garden**.
- We cooperate with **Sinop Municipality** and **Gerze Municipality** in the rescue, treatment and rehabilitation of stray animals.
- Veterinary volunteers may also gain hands-on experience at the **Gerze Municipality Stray Animal Care Centre**, particularly through sterilisation surgeries, other surgical procedures and veterinary treatments.
- When placements are available, volunteers may also support the **Wildlife Conservation Centre in Sinop**, which rehabilitates sick, injured and orphaned wild animals.



**CONTACT &
PROJECT INFO**



Founded:
2005



OID:
E10174385



Quality Label:
2021-1-TR01-ESC50-098875



Website:
sahipsizhayvanlar.org/en/



Email:
sahipsizhayvanlar@outlook.com



Location:
Sinop, Türkiye





ACTIVITY

Gerze Municipality Stray Animal Care Centre



One of the project's most valuable practical learning opportunities takes place at the **Gerze Municipality Stray Animal Care Centre**, where volunteers work alongside the centre's veterinarian in a busy clinical environment.

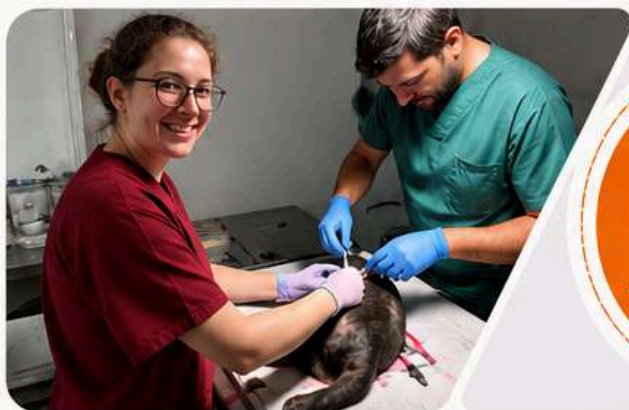


The centre receives sick and injured animals requiring **examination, diagnosis, treatment, surgery and follow-up care**. Depending on the cases of the day, volunteers can observe and assist with a wide range of procedures according to their level of knowledge and experience.



MEET OUR VETERINARIAN VET ERTAN KANDEMIR

Vet Ertan Kandemir supervises the volunteers during their activities, shares his professional knowledge and practical experience, and encourages active participation and questions.



TRANSPORT
BETWEEN SINOP
AND GERZE IS
REIMBURSED BY
THE ASSOCIATION.



NO TWO WORKING DAYS ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.

New patients, emergencies and surgical cases may arise throughout the day. Be prepared for an active, meaningful and rewarding learning experience!



WHAT CAN YOU LEARN?

- ✓ Cat and dog **sterilisation**
- ✓ Diagnosis and treatment in **internal medicine**
- ✓ Traumatic surgery, amputations and other **surgical procedures**
- ✓ **Post-operative care**
- ✓ Treatment and monitoring of **infectious diseases** (distemper, panleukopenia, parvoviral enteritis)
- ✓ Daily **examination and monitoring** of patients and young animals
- ✓ Feeding and **supportive care** of sick, recovering and vulnerable animals

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT



X-ray



Ultrasound



Biochemistry
analyser



CBC analyser



Microscope



Autoclave



Incubator



Electronically
heated patient
care unit



Two operating rooms



SUPERVISION & SUPPORT

The centre's veterinarian, **Vet Ertan Kandemir**, supervises volunteers, shares his professional knowledge and encourages questions, observations and active participation.



PACKED LUNCH – DON'T FORGET!

Volunteers should bring a packed lunch with them on the days they work at the centre.



ACTIVITY

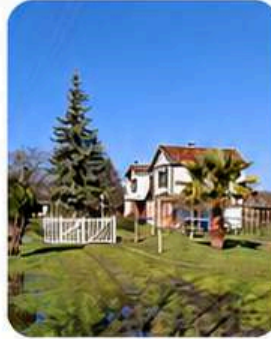
Bektaşağa Village



THE VILLAGE HOUSE

An important part of our association's long-term animal care takes place at our rented house in Bektaşağa Village, where we provide a safe and protected living environment for approximately 70 cats.

Most of these cats cannot safely return to life on the streets and need regular monitoring and long-term care.



Village House



≈ 70 CATS

+ 3 DOGS



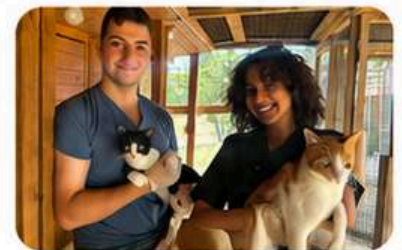
WHO LIVES HERE?

Many cats have permanent disabilities or have survived serious illnesses, including amputations, blindness, neurological conditions and diseases such as FIP.

Because of their individual health conditions and special needs, they require regular observation and long-term care.

THE DOGS

Three dogs live at the house. One has a disability, while the other two also help guard the property. All require daily care, walks and health observation.



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Volunteers support daily care, health monitoring and welfare.

- Feed cats and dogs and provide fresh water
- Walk the dogs
- Clean and maintain living areas
- Observe general health and behaviour
- Administer prescribed medication and treatments
- Support internal and external parasite prevention

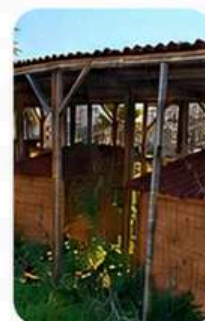
- Monitor animals with chronic conditions or disabilities
- Identify signs of illness or changes in condition
- Inform the veterinarian when further examination is needed
- Prepare animals for veterinary visits
- Provide individual attention and socialisation



MORE THAN TREATMENT

Working in Bektaşağa shows that veterinary care is not limited to diagnosis, treatment and surgery.

LONG-TERM MONITORING
PREVENTIVE CARE • HYGIENE • NUTRITION
QUALITY OF LIFE



ACTIVITY



Patient Room

Inside the volunteers' house, we have a dedicated Patient Room for cats requiring intensive care, treatment, recovery and close monitoring.



AROUND

10 CATS

receive care and close monitoring



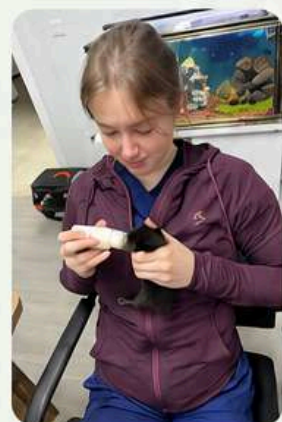
WHO ARE THE PATIENTS?

- ♥ Newly rescued sick or injured cats
- ♥ Cats recovering from surgery
- ♥ Cats undergoing treatment for infectious or other diseases
- ♥ Cats requiring regular medication and observation



ORPHANED KITTENS & NEONATAL CARE

We regularly receive orphaned kittens that have lost their mothers or were found without maternal care. Depending on age and condition, they may need bottle-feeding, warmth, hygiene support, frequent feeding and close monitoring.



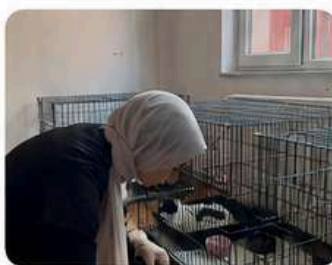
WHAT WILL YOU DO? ♥

Daily care is shared according to each patient's needs and the veterinarian's treatment plan.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ♥ Administer prescribed medication and treatments | ♥ Maintain strict hygiene, especially with infectious diseases | ♥ Take animals to the veterinary clinic when necessary |
| ♥ Feed animals and monitor appetite and behaviour | ♥ Provide supportive and post-operative care | |
| ♥ Clean litter boxes, cages and the room | ♥ Monitor changes in patients' condition | |



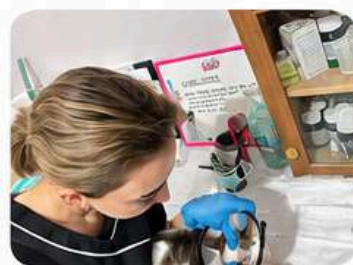
Cleaning & Feeding



Hygiene & Monitoring



Treatment & Medication



Care & Attention



RECOVERY DOES NOT END AT THE CLINIC.

Close observation, treatment follow-up, hygiene and supportive care are essential parts of recovery.



ACTIVITY

Garden

The garden is an important part of our volunteers' daily life and the animals' well-being.



DAILY LIFE IN THE GARDEN

The garden of the volunteers' house is another important long-term care area of our association. Approximately 30 cats and 4 dogs live here, and many have special needs or health conditions that make life on the streets difficult or unsafe.

Two of the dogs have disabilities. Because volunteers live close to the animals, they share responsibility for their everyday welfare and can observe them regularly.

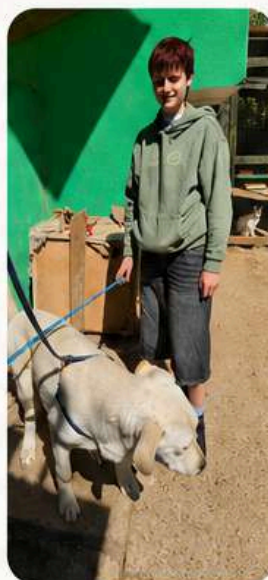


≈ 30 CATS



+ 4 DOGS

2 dogs with disabilities



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

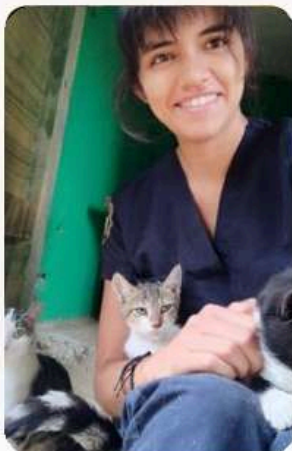
-  Feed cats and dogs and provide fresh water
-  Walk the dogs
-  Clean and maintain the living areas
-  Observe health, behaviour and appetite
-  Administer prescribed treatments when needed
-  Give special attention to animals with disabilities or ongoing health problems
-  Report changes in condition and arrange veterinary care when necessary
-  Provide attention, socialisation and daily companionship

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Living alongside the animals allows volunteers to notice even small changes in their health or behaviour.

Daily routines become an important part of preventive care and help volunteers understand the individual needs of animals requiring long-term support.

LONG-TERM WELFARE
DISABILITY CARE
PREVENTIVE HEALTH
RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT



DAILY CARE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Small observations can prevent bigger health problems.

Consistent care also builds trust and improves quality of life.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY



Wildlife Conservation Centre



Our association also cooperates with the **Wildlife Conservation Centre in Sinop**, which provides care and rehabilitation for injured, sick and orphaned wild animals.



The centre currently receives mainly wild birds, including cases involving broken wings and legs, as well as orphaned wild animals requiring specialised care.



Injured deer are also among the animals treated and rehabilitated at the centre.



When the centre has sufficient staff available to supervise volunteers, our ESC volunteers may have the opportunity to take part in activities there.

Please note that volunteering at the Wildlife Conservation Centre is subject to the centre's staff availability and cannot be guaranteed as part of the regular activity programme. When the centre is able to provide appropriate supervision, volunteers will be informed about the opportunity.

DEPENDING ON THE ANIMALS AND CASES PRESENT AT THE TIME, VOLUNTEERS MAY GAIN EXPERIENCE IN:



Supporting the care of injured and orphaned wild animals



Observing and assisting with the care of birds with wing or leg injuries



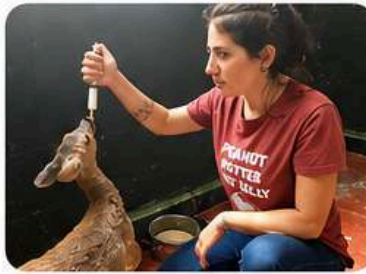
Feeding and providing supportive care for orphaned animals



Monitoring animals during their recovery and rehabilitation



Learning about the specific needs and welfare of different wildlife species



THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTRE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE

in the protection, treatment and rehabilitation of wild animals, helping them return to a healthy life in nature.



WORKING

TIME, SCHEDULE & DAYS OFF



Volunteering is a full-time activity. The weekly working programme includes the volunteers' activities, meetings, learning activities and other tasks related to the project.



Daily working hours may vary depending on the activity location, the tasks assigned and the needs of the animals. Therefore, volunteers do not follow the same fixed working hours every day.



As animal care is needed **seven days a week**, activities also take place on **Saturdays and Sundays**. Therefore, weekends are not automatically considered days off.



Every week, the volunteers meet together with their mentor to prepare the working schedule for the following week. During this meeting, working days, days off, activity locations and responsibilities are agreed upon according to the needs of the animals and the activities planned for that week.



Volunteers may work at different activity locations, including the **Gerze Municipality Stray Animal Care Centre**, **Bektaşağa Village**, the **Patient Room** and the **volunteers' house garden**, as well as the Wildlife Conservation Centre when this opportunity is available.



The workload and responsibilities are **shared equally** among the volunteers.



Each volunteer has **two days off per week**, although these days may not be consecutive and may fall on weekdays or weekends depending on the weekly schedule.



As veterinary and animal welfare work can sometimes be unpredictable, volunteers are expected to show **reasonable flexibility** in cases involving emergencies, sick animals, ongoing treatments or surgical procedures.



INSURANCE

Volunteers participating in our project in Türkiye are covered by the **European Solidarity Corps** insurance scheme administered by **Henner**, with primary coverage during their mobility.

Before departure, volunteers will receive the **Henner Membership Guide** together with the pre-departure information provided by our organisation.



Please read the Henner Membership Guide carefully before coming to Türkiye.



The Guide contains very important information about your insurance coverage, medical assistance, procedures, reimbursements, required documents and what to do when you need healthcare during your stay.

Volunteers are expected to familiarise themselves with these procedures before departure and to keep the Guide easily accessible throughout their activity.





TURKISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT



Long-term volunteers will receive Turkish language support during their activity.



This support is provided specifically for long-term volunteers, as language-learning costs are covered within the budget for long-term volunteering activities.



The lessons aim to help volunteers communicate more easily in their daily life and working environment and to support their integration into the local community.



CULTURAL EVENINGS



During their activity, volunteers will have the opportunity to organise a **Cultural Evening** to share their country, region and culture with the other volunteers and members of our local community.



The evening can include anything the volunteer would like to share: **traditional food and drinks, music, dance, history, geography, customs, celebrations, everyday life, games, stories or interesting facts about their culture.**



Volunteers are encouraged to make the evening informal, interactive and fun rather than preparing a formal presentation.



If possible, we recommend bringing a few **non-perishable traditional foods, snacks or ingredients** from home that may be difficult to find in Türkiye. These can be used during the Cultural Evening and are always a nice way of introducing your culture to others.



Cultural Evenings are an enjoyable part of the project and give everyone the chance to **learn from each other, discover different cultures and spend time together** outside the regular volunteering activities.



YOUTHPASS



At the end of their European Solidarity Corps activity, volunteers will receive a **Youthpass Certificate** recognising their participation and learning experience.



Youthpass is more than a certificate of participation. It helps volunteers **reflect on what they have learned and identify the knowledge, skills and competences they have developed** throughout their volunteering experience.



During the project, volunteers will be encouraged to reflect on their learning process and the competences they gain through their daily activities, veterinary practice, teamwork, intercultural experiences and life in a new environment.



At the end of the activity, these learning outcomes can be documented in the Youthpass Certificate, providing volunteers with a valuable record of both their **professional and personal learning journey.**



Youthpass

YOUTHPASS EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS 2021-2027 VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

This is to certify that

Name Surname

born on 01/01/2000 in City, Country

participated in the European Solidarity Corps project

"Project Name"

in City, Country

from 01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024

During this activity, the participant was actively involved in various tasks and developed personal, social and professional competences.

Organisation



Date





ACCOMMODATION



Volunteers will live in a **furnished shared house** together with other ESC volunteers.



The house is equipped with Wi-Fi, hot water, heating, kitchen equipment, an iron and other basic household facilities. Bed linen is also provided.



Long-term volunteers are provided with a **private room**.



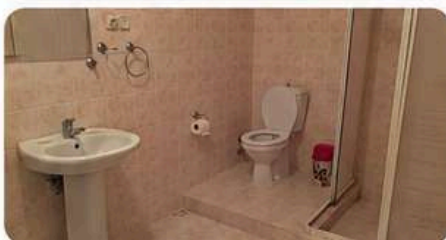
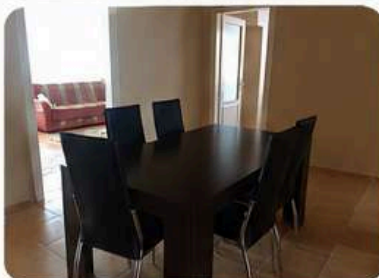
Short-term volunteers may be required to **share a room** with another volunteer, depending on the number of volunteers staying in the house at the same time.



Accommodation and basic utility costs, including **electricity, water, heating and Wi-Fi**, are covered by the association.



Volunteers are expected to use the house, furniture and utilities **responsibly and economically** and to keep the shared living areas clean and tidy.



LIVING WITH ANIMALS



Please keep in mind that the volunteers' house is **not an ordinary shared flat**. Animal care is part of both the project and the daily environment in which volunteers live.



The house has a dedicated **Patient Room**, where usually around **10 sick, injured or recovering cats** receive treatment and close monitoring. The number of patients may change frequently as new cases arrive.



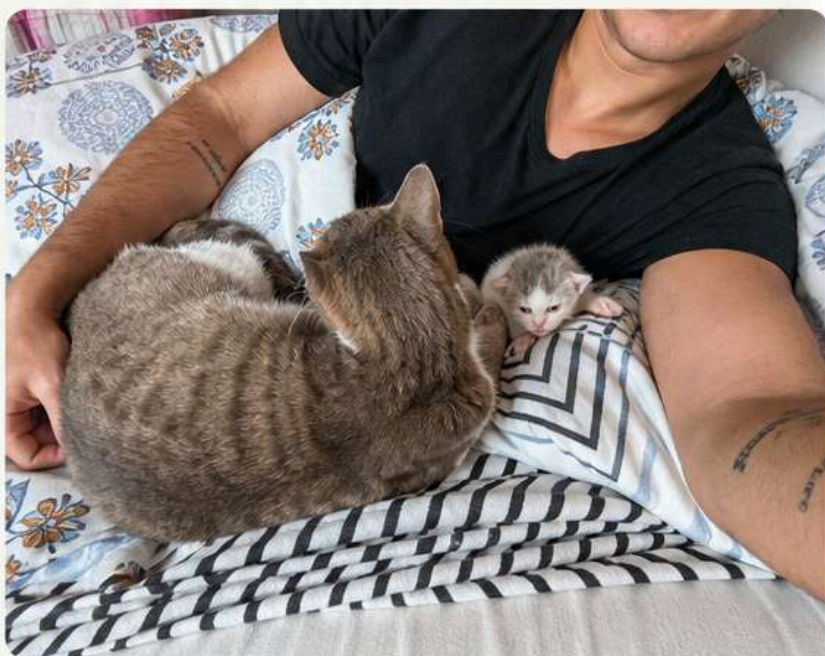
In the garden, approximately **30 cats and 4 dogs** live under the protection of the association. Some of these animals have disabilities or other special-care needs.



For this reason, volunteers should be comfortable **living in close proximity to animals** and understand that animal welfare responsibilities may sometimes extend beyond a conventional fixed working schedule, particularly when a patient requires medication, monitoring or urgent care.



The house and garden are shared spaces, and volunteers are expected to contribute fairly to animal care, cleanliness and hygiene together with the other volunteers.



POCKET MONEY, FOOD & LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Volunteers receive:



€6 per day as pocket money



€6 per day for food and local transportation within Sinop



Transportation costs for project activities requiring travel from Sinop to Gerze or Bektasaga Village are covered separately by the association.



Payments are made in cash and in euros (€).





ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



A successful volunteering experience is based on good cooperation between the **volunteer**, the **Lead/Hosting Organisation** and the **Supporting Organisation**. Each party has different responsibilities before, during and after the activity.



LEAD & HOSTING ORGANISATION

Sahipsiz Hayvanları Koruma ve Yaşatma Derneği is the Lead and Hosting Organisation of the project.



Our main responsibilities include:

- Coordinating the project and the volunteering activities
- Providing suitable accommodation and the necessary practical arrangements
- Providing a mentor and ongoing support throughout the activity
- Organising the weekly working schedule together with the volunteers and mentor
- Coordinating the volunteers' activities at the different project locations
- Ensuring appropriate supervision during veterinary and animal-care activities
- Providing pocket money and food/local transportation allowance
- Covering eligible project-related transportation and travel costs according to the project rules
- Supporting volunteers with visa and residence-related procedures when applicable
- Supporting the volunteers' learning process and Youthpass
- Maintaining communication with the Supporting Organisation
- Providing information and assistance when problems or emergencies arise



Our aim is to provide volunteers with a **safe, meaningful and well-supported learning experience** while ensuring that the welfare and needs of the animals remain at the centre of all project activities.



SUPPORTING ORGANISATION

The **Supporting Organisation** plays an important role before departure and throughout the volunteering experience.



Its responsibilities include:

- Preparing the volunteer for the European Solidarity Corps activity before departure
- Explaining the ESC programme, the volunteer's rights and responsibilities, and the conditions of the activity
- Supporting the volunteer with travel and visa preparations when necessary
- Making sure that the volunteer understands the insurance arrangements and knows how to use the Henner insurance system
- Keeping regular contact with the volunteer during the activity
- Maintaining communication with the Lead/Hosting Organisation when necessary
- Providing support if the volunteer experiences difficulties during the mobility
- Supporting follow-up and dissemination of the volunteering experience and project results



THE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are active partners in the project and are expected to:



- Participate responsibly in the agreed activities
- Follow the weekly working schedule and inform the mentor/coordinator in advance when a change is necessary
- Treat the animals with care, patience and respect
- Follow veterinary instructions, hygiene procedures and safety rules
- Share responsibilities fairly with the other volunteers
- Respect the shared accommodation and living environment
- Communicate openly with the mentor and coordinator when they need support or encounter a problem
- Take an active role in their own learning process and Youthpass
- Respect the principles and values of the European Solidarity Corps





TRAVEL & REIMBURSEMENT

Travel costs are reimbursed according to the **eligible travel budget** and the rules of the **European Solidarity Corps Programme**.



BEFORE BUYING YOUR TICKET



IMPORTANT: Please do not purchase your ticket before contacting Irem Ebru Kuru.

Before booking any flight, bus or other long-distance transportation, volunteers must share their proposed travel itinerary and ticket options with **Irem Ebru Kuru** and receive confirmation.



This is important to make sure that the planned journey is eligible under the project rules and remains within the available travel budget.



TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Eligible travel costs are reimbursed to volunteers **in cash and in euros (€)** after the required travel documents have been provided.

Volunteers must keep and provide all relevant travel documents, including:



Tickets and/or invoices



Boarding passes



Proof of payment when required



Other travel documents requested for project documentation



Volunteers should therefore **keep all original travel documents** throughout their journey and should not throw away boarding passes, tickets or receipts before the reimbursement process has been completed.



VISA COSTS

- ✓ If a volunteer requires a visa to enter Türkiye for the volunteering activity, **100% of the eligible visa cost** will be covered by the project.
- ✓ In order to receive reimbursement, the volunteer must provide the **original invoice or official receipt showing the visa cost**.



Please make sure that you obtain and keep the **original invoice/receipt** when paying for your visa. **Without appropriate proof of payment**, the cost cannot be reimbursed.

- ✓ If you apply for your visa online, please check carefully that the document you receive **clearly shows the visa fee paid** and can be used as proof of payment.
- ✓ If you have any questions about the visa procedure or eligible costs, please **contact the Project Coordinator** before making the payment.



IMPORTANT – LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS

- ✓ Long-term volunteers must travel to Türkiye with a **valid passport**.
- ✓ Even if you are a citizen of a country whose nationals may enter Türkiye using a national ID card, please **do not travel to the project using only your ID card**.
- ✓ A valid passport is required for the **Work Permit Exemption application** that will be completed for long-term volunteers after their arrival in Türkiye.
- ✓ Please make sure that your passport is valid for the required period and **bring it with you when travelling to Türkiye**.





HOW TO REACH SINOP



Sinop has its own airport, **Sinop Airport (NOP)**, located approximately **8 km** from the city centre.

If you can find a suitable flight connection to Sinop, flying directly to Sinop is usually the easiest and most convenient option.

As flight schedules may vary depending on the season and the day of travel, please check the available connections when planning your journey.



IF YOU CANNOT FIND A SUITABLE FLIGHT TO SINOP

There are several alternative ways to reach Sinop:



VIA SAMSUN

You can fly to Samsun Çarşamba Airport (SZF) and continue to Sinop by road. Samsun has a larger airport with more flight connections. The journey from Samsun to Sinop takes approximately **3 hours by bus**.



VIA ANKARA

You can fly to Ankara and continue to Sinop by intercity bus. The bus journey from Ankara to Sinop takes approximately **6 hours**.



VIA ISTANBUL

You can travel to Istanbul and continue to Sinop by domestic flight or intercity bus. Please keep in mind that travelling from Istanbul to Sinop by bus is a long journey of approximately **12 hours**.



Please remember to have your proposed travel itinerary approved before booking your tickets.



SINOP



BEFORE YOU COME – CHECKLIST



Before travelling to Sinop, please make sure that you:



Contact us before purchasing your tickets. Send your proposed itinerary and ticket options and wait for confirmation before booking.



Provide the personal and contact information requested by the Lead/Hosting Organisation, including the contact details of a person to be contacted in case of emergency.



Learn about the European Solidarity Corps and make sure you understand your rights, responsibilities and the conditions of your volunteering activity.



Read the Henner Membership Guide carefully before departure. Make sure you understand how your insurance works and what to do if you need medical care in Türkiye.



Keep all your travel documents, including tickets, invoices, boarding passes and proof of payment when required. You will need them for travel reimbursement.



If you are a long-term volunteer, travel with a valid passport. A passport is required for the Work Permit Exemption application in Türkiye. Please do not travel using only your national ID card.



Bring suitable veterinary work clothes and a stethoscope. Your activities include practical veterinary and animal-care work, so bring comfortable clothes and shoes that you do not mind getting dirty.



Bring your own towels and personal items. Bed linen is provided in the volunteers' house.



If possible, bring some **non-perishable traditional food, snacks, ingredients or small cultural items** from your country or region for your Cultural Evening.



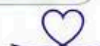
Come prepared to live and work closely with animals, including sick, injured, disabled and recovering animals. Animal care is part of both the volunteering activity and daily life in the volunteers' house.



Get ready for your new adventure in Sinop!



SINOP





OUR TEAM

Who Will Support You?



Irem Ebru Kuru

President of the Association

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Project Coordinator

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Phone: +90 538 989 9157



Ertan Kandemir

Veterinary Supervisor

✉ Vet.hek.ertankandemir@hotmail.com



Oktay Kuru

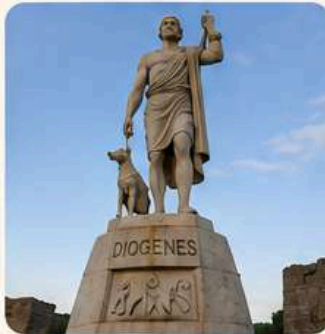
Turkish Teacher

✉ oktay.kuru@yahoo.com.tr

SINOP

Your Home During the Project

Sinop is a small and peaceful coastal city on the northernmost point of Türkiye's Black Sea coast. Rich in history, nature and culture, it offers a unique and relaxed lifestyle by the sea.



WELCOME TO ONE OF TÜRKİYE'S HAPPIEST CITIES!

Sinop is known as the "Happy City." According to TurkStat's Life Satisfaction Survey, **77.7%** of Sinop's residents reported **that they were happy**. In the 2024 Türkiye Happiness Report, Sinop once again ranked as the **happiest province in Türkiye!**



LIVING IN SINOP

Sinop is a small and safe city where many places are within walking distance. You will find cafes, markets, beaches and all daily amenities easily. Life is quieter and slower than in big cities—perfect for enjoying nature, local culture and a close-knit community.



WEATHER & WHAT TO PACK

Sinop has a Black Sea climate with rain throughout the year. Winters are cold and wet, summers are warm and pleasant. Bring clothes for different seasons, a waterproof jacket, comfortable shoes and warm clothes for winter.



And don't forget your swimsuit — you will be living by the Black Sea!

