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EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR OPEN EDUCATION STUDENTS OF ANADOLU UNIVERSITY

■ Erdem ÖZTÜRK (News Center)

Students of the Open Education Faculty of Anadolu University have the opportunity to visit Europe as part of the European Voluntary Service project. Students selected based on their GPA were invited to a meeting on February 25, 2016. In this meeting, students were informed about the project by Prof. Dr. Yücel Güney, Vice Rector for the Open Education System and Dean of the Faculty of Open Education, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bilge Kağan Özdemir, Coordinator of Anadolu University International Office.

“A First in the Open Education Faculty”

In the welcome speech of meeting, Prof. Dr. Yücel Güney pointed out the gains of personal experiences abroad, highlighting that this project was a first in the Faculty of Open Education. Stating that being informed about all negative and positive aspects of the project was important for future organization of the project, Prof. Dr. Güney asked the students to share their experience with the faculty.



“Anadolu University ready to provide support to students”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bilge Kağan Özdemir, Coordinator of Anadolu University International Office, mentioned that the International Office was ready to support the students participating in this project, and that students should be determined to go the full distance once they take the first step.

The meeting continued with providing project details to students that are to go to Hungary and Bulgaria under the European Voluntary Service project. Students have the opportunity to take part in volunteer programs without paying the costs of accommodation, food, passport and visa procedures. Students are not allowed to work in a paid job during the project, and are advised not to give up once they become a part of the project.

ANADOLU UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NOW GET MS OFFICE 365 FOR FREE

■ Res. Asst. Çağlar KARADUMAN

In our life, we all need computer software for word processing, spreadsheet and presentation for personal, educational and professional purposes. Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus, which offers these services and more, is now free for students of Anadolu University. Students can have access to Microsoft Office software via <https://portal.office.com/home>, by signing in to their student accounts. The setup file downloaded can be installed on up to five computers by the same user. The software also provides 1TB of online storage that allows users to store work files and other documents. Users have access to their files and Office applications by downloading Office 365 from online stores of mobile devices, and can access and edit their files on mobile devices.



Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Publisher, Skype for Business and Access. Some of the advantages that Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus programs provide are as follows:

- Working with keyboard, stylus and touch screen,
- Opening PDF files and editing paragraphs, lists and tables in the file just like in a Word file,
- Tracking changes and comments in Word files,
- Saving data as charts and tables to be able to work faster,
- Entering Excel spreadsheets, Visio diagrams, photographs and many other types of documents in OneNote files,
- Sharing PowerPoint files by sending links on the web.

KOSOVA'DA YILIN SANATÇISI SEÇİLEN ÖĞRENCİMİZLE KEYİFLİ BİR SÖYLEŞİ

■ Res. Asst. Güzde YILMAZDOĞAN



Türkan BAŞA

We had an interview with Türkan Başa, a student enrolled in the Kosovo program of the Faculty of Open Education. Born in Kosovo in 1977, Türkan Başa had a permanent orthopedic disability because of an illness she had at the age of one. However, disability has never been an obstacle to her. She received secondary school degree through distance education, authored three poetry books, and serves as the president of the Association of Spinal Cord Paralytics. Türkan Başa is currently a second-year student of the undergraduate program in Business Administration in the Faculty of Business Administration of Anadolu University. We would like to thank to Ms. Esen Spahi Kovaç, head of Anadolu University Coordination Office in Kosovo and Ms. Agnesa Baruti, a member of the Coordination Office for their support to the interview, and to our student Ms. Türkan Başa for sharing her success story with us.

Thank you very much for accepting our request for interview.

You are welcome.

Can you tell us about yourself briefly?

I was born in Prizren, Kosovo in 1977. After pre-school education, I was not able to continue my studies because of disability. However, I was always thinking that I should not be isolated from the society, I must become useful to myself and for the society. "Come on, Türkan. Rather than sitting back, do something, be useful to yourself and for the society," I said to myself and learned to read and write. Then through open education, I had my secondary school degree. I am now a second-year student of the undergraduate program in Business Administration in the Faculty of Business Administration of Anadolu University. I got enrolled in the program in 2014-2015 academic year. I had some health problems last year, and this is my second year in the program. I am interested in literature. Maybe I can study Turkish Language and Literature after completing this program.

Are you satisfied with being a student of Anadolu University Open Education System and your studies?

I am happy to study business administration. I believe some courses contribute a lot to me. For example, I am very much interested in course topics on socialization. The Open Education System is easy for those who study and hard for those who do not. It requires discipline and hardworking. But, as I said, it is easy if you study and it is easy to pass the exams if you study.

So, it would not be wrong to say you are happy with the Open Education System.

I am totally happy. The Open Education System is a great advantage for me because I am a disabled individual. I cannot go to school every day. Someone had to be with me and supported me all the time if I went to school. This would be a waste of time and energy. It would be difficult to do this every day. However, thanks to Anadolu University, I do not shut myself off other people, I pursue my studies and I do something good for the society. That is why the Open Education System is a great advantage for me. I am happy to be a part of it.

You also have interest in poetry. I saw poetry books written by you. Can you please talk about your interest in literature?

I had three poetry books published so far. I am writing poems since 1999. I was illiterate when my first book was published. I told my feelings to my mother orally, and she put them on paper. This is how my first poetry book, "Tekerlekli Sandalye (Wheel Chair)" was published in Prizren in 2002. Two years later, when I learned to read and write, I published a revised version of "Tekerlekli Sandalye" in Prizren. Then in 2011, the Metropolitan Municipality of Bursa published my third poetry book "Sen Gittiğinde Hanımeller Açmıştı (Honeysuckles Had Already Bloomed When You Were Gone)". I won the artist of the year award in Kosovo with this book.

These are so proud achievements. We know that you also play a social role as the president of an association. Can you talk elaborate on it?

Thank you. I am the president of the Association of Spinal Cord Paralytics for two years. We held 32 events under the roof of the Association last year. We distributed rechargeable wheelchairs and helped out people in other ways. We organized tours for disabled individuals and held celebrations or meetings on the occasion of International Women's Day and other special days. We endeavor actively and do our best to ensure that disabled individuals do not find themselves shut in and take active part in the society.

You play an active role in various areas of life and has had lots of achievements. Do you have any messages to disabled individuals?

I believe that the disabled should not be shut in just because of their disability. They must become a part of life and contribute to the society. Both other members of the society and family members of disabled individuals bear responsibility at this point. Other members of the

society should not have a pity on or exclude disabled individuals, they must support them. Anyone can become disabled in the future. As I said, I was not going to school. But I found myself in the school after starting to think that I must be useful to myself and others. For, the society needs active individuals. Families of disabled individuals bear great responsibility in this respect. My family supported any decision I made, they always backed me up. This is what was what should be done. They did not shut me in because I was disabled. Any disabled individual can lead an extroverted life and take active part in the society as long as they have the support of their family... as long as the family holds their hands. I think parenting roles include such support.

Thank you very much for being a role model to people and giving an interview to us.

You are welcome. It was a pleasure for me.