



KA1 PARTNER PROFILE

Learning Mobility in the Field of Youth

Prepared for Erasmus+ KA1 partnership applications

Local roots. European reach. Meaningful youth impact.

Full legal name	GENCLIK ZEKA OYUNLARI VE KODLAMA DERNEGI	Acronym	KOZ-DER
Organisation ID (OID)	E10060467	PIC	901146103
VAT	3930984080	Type	NGO / Non-profit organisation
Location	Kilis, Türkiye	Website	www.kozder.com
Email	bilgi@kozder.com	Telephone	+90 551 197 29 97

YOUTH WORK

INCLUSION

DIGITAL SKILLS

NON-FORMAL LEARNING

Version: August 2026 | Experience: 7 years

Profile

Is the organisation a public body?	No	Independent civil-society organisation.
Is the organisation a non-profit?	Yes	Registered non-profit association.
Type of organisation	NGO	Youth NGO / non-profit organisation.

Background and experience

Please briefly present the organisation / the group

KOZ-DER (Youth Intelligence Games and Coding Association) is an independent, non-profit youth organisation located in Kilis, Türkiye. The establishment process began in 2018 and the association became legally registered on 2 January 2019. Its mission is to empower young people through inclusive education, volunteering, creativity, digital competence and European cooperation, enabling them to become confident, responsible and active members of their communities. KOZ-DER's name has a local meaning: koz means walnut in the Kilis region. The walnut's association with brain development symbolises the organisation's focus on intelligence games, robotic coding and learning methods that develop reasoning, creativity and problem-solving. The organisation operates in a border province characterised by migration, economic disadvantage and limited access to international opportunities. This context shapes its commitment to social cohesion, equal access, intercultural dialogue and support for young people with fewer opportunities. Its main target group is young people aged 15-30, including students, recent graduates, unemployed young people, first-time volunteers, refugees and migrants, young people from low-income or rural backgrounds and those who have never travelled abroad. Youth workers, educators and volunteers are also involved as learners, facilitators and multipliers. KOZ-DER's regular programme includes intelligence and strategy games, robotic coding, digital and media literacy, English-speaking activities, environmental awareness, disaster preparedness, volunteering, active citizenship, human rights, anti-discrimination and community participation. It organises workshops, seminars, speaking clubs, volunteer meetings, information sessions, local campaigns, application-support meetings and peer experience-sharing activities. Face-to-face work is concentrated in Kilis, while online activities are offered when they improve access or enable participation from other locations. Learning is based on participation and experience. Intelligence games develop concentration, patience, planning and strategic thinking. Coding activities help young people move from passive technology use to digital creation. Role play, LARP, simulations, peer learning, reflection circles and group challenges support communication, teamwork, empathy and critical thinking. Young people help identify needs, propose themes, create content, support events and evaluate activities. This means that they are contributors to the organisation rather than only recipients of services. KOZ-DER has a growing community of approximately 50-100 active or reachable volunteers and works with schools, universities, municipalities, youth centres, public authorities, civil-society organisations and local media. These partnerships support outreach, access to facilities, expert contribution, dissemination and the continuation of project outcomes. The organisation also maintains European partnerships developed through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, allowing local young people to meet peers from different cultures and transfer international learning back to Kilis. Internationally, KOZ-DER participates in youth exchanges, youth-worker mobility, cooperation activities and European Solidarity Corps volunteering. It holds an ESC Quality Label as a support and lead organisation. Its tasks include publishing transparent calls, matching participant profiles with project objectives, inclusive selection, preparation, intercultural and practical briefing, travel and visa guidance, insurance information, mentoring, safeguarding, risk monitoring, partner communication, documentation, dissemination and post-mobility follow-up. Continuous communication before, during and after mobility helps the team respond quickly to welfare or implementation concerns. The organisation has experience supporting international activities in Türkiye and sending participants to partners in countries including Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and other European programme countries. It has coordinated youth-mobility activities and integrated returned participants into local dissemination, peer guidance and volunteer work. The LIFE FOR PRR youth exchange held in Kilis in 2025 brought together international participants around protect-reduce-reuse practices and illustrates KOZ-DER's capacity to connect non-formal learning, environmental responsibility and intercultural exchange. Quality is supported through clear roles, participant feedback, observation, reflection sessions, regular partner communication and documentation of outputs. The team pays attention to safeguarding, privacy, responsible communication, inclusion and realistic risk management. Learning outcomes are reinforced through experience stories, local presentations, digital content and follow-up activities.

4876 / 5000 characters

**What are the activities and experience of the partner organisation in youth work?
Please provide information on regular youth work activities at local level.**

KOZ-DER carries out year-round youth work at local level in Kilis. Intelligence games and robotic-coding workshops strengthen logical, strategic and algorithmic thinking while creating contact between young people from different social and cultural backgrounds. English-speaking activities improve confidence and communication. Volunteer meetings, information sessions and application-support activities help young people understand Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, Europass and international mobility. Environmental actions include recycling, reuse, tree planting and creative production with recycled materials. The organisation uses participatory non-formal methods including group work, peer learning, role play, LARP, simulations, reflection circles and learning-by-doing. Topics include inclusion, refugee integration, hate speech, xenophobia, human rights, gender equality, democratic participation, peace-building, media literacy, employability and digital citizenship. Young people contribute to needs identification, activity design, implementation, communication and evaluation. KOZ-DER has implemented and joined local, national and international youth activities, including the LIFE FOR PRR youth exchange in Kilis in 2025, focused on protect-reduce-reuse practices, and projects in Romania, Italy, Bulgaria and other European countries. Its ESC work includes participant outreach, selection, preparation, sending support, mentoring and follow-up. The team maintains contact before, during and after mobility and supports participants with practical arrangements, cultural preparation, safeguarding, crisis communication and dissemination. Regular cooperation with schools, public bodies, universities and NGOs increases local reach and sustainability. Activities are planned as a learning cycle rather than isolated events. The team first gathers young people's interests and barriers through conversations, volunteer feedback and contact with schools and local stakeholders. Objectives and methods are then adapted to the group's age, experience, language confidence and access needs. Sessions normally combine a clear introduction, practical group tasks, peer exchange and reflection. Facilitators rotate responsibilities so that participants can experience leadership, teamwork and decision-making. Feedback is collected through short questionnaires, observation, discussion and participant products, and findings are used to improve later sessions. Inclusion is particularly important in Kilis, where economic disadvantage, migration and geographical distance can limit young people's access to non-formal education and European mobility. KOZ-DER reaches local and refugee young people, first-time applicants, rural participants and those from low-income households through accessible calls and cooperation with community stakeholders. Activities are designed to avoid stigma: mixed groups work toward common goals, methods do not depend only on advanced English or academic performance, and young people needing further assistance receive guidance or peer support. The organisation promotes respectful communication, equal participation, anti-discrimination and safeguarding throughout its work. European opportunities form part of this continuous local programme. KOZ-DER organises Erasmus+ and ESC information sessions, explains eligibility and responsibilities, supports Europass CV and motivation preparation and helps candidates understand that participation is a learning commitment rather than tourism. Selected participants receive practical, cultural and learning preparation, including travel, visa, insurance, safety, intercultural communication and project expectations. During mobility the team maintains regular contact with the participant and host partner. On return, participants are encouraged to share stories, facilitate information meetings, create digital content and mentor future applicants, multiplying the value of the mobility. The organisation's experience covers both sending and local hosting or coordination responsibilities. It has contributed to activities with partners from several European countries and has supported young people in short- and long-term formats. Its ESC Quality Label as a support and lead organisation provides a structured framework for preparation, mentoring, welfare, risk management and follow-up. In youth exchanges and training activities, KOZ-DER contributes participant profiles, intercultural preparation, non-formal sessions, dissemination and evaluation. In local international activities, the organisation links European themes with Kilis realities and involves community stakeholders where useful. Regular youth work also supports organisational sustainability.

4763 / 5000 characters

Please give information on the key staff/persons involved and on the competences and previous experience that they will bring to the project.

Mevlide ÖZKARACA, President and legal representative, provides institutional leadership, legal oversight and quality assurance. Her educational background supports learner-centred planning, safeguarding and cooperation with local stakeholders. Halil ÖZKARACA, Project Coordinator and Vice President, is the primary operational contact. He is a psychological counsellor and experienced Erasmus+/ESC coordinator with advanced English, international study experience in the United Kingdom and extensive practice in project writing, partner communication, participant preparation, monitoring, reporting and dissemination. His expertise in inclusion, non-formal learning, digital tools and social media strengthens both programme quality and visibility. The wider implementation team brings complementary competence in education, youth facilitation, information technologies, financial administration, outreach and work with refugee communities. Team members have experience in youth exchanges, youth-worker mobility and EVS/ESC activities. They use non-formal and informal learning methods, understand Youthpass and learning-outcome reflection, and can manage logistics, risk assessment, participant welfare, evaluation and local dissemination. KOZ-DER's volunteer network supports outreach, peer mentoring and follow-up, while connections with schools, municipalities, universities, media and NGOs help project results reach wider audiences. Mevlide ÖZKARACA's role covers governance, institutional continuity and formal decision-making. She ensures that projects remain aligned with the association's statute, mission and non-profit character, approves key commitments and follows quality and safeguarding responsibilities. She supports coordination with local stakeholders and helps the team maintain a learner-centred and inclusive approach. As legal representative, she provides the stable institutional link required for agreements, accountability and continuity beyond the duration of a single project. Halil ÖZKARACA coordinates the operational project cycle, from opportunity analysis and partner communication to participant follow-up and final dissemination. His professional background in psychological counselling strengthens needs assessment, group dynamics, inclusion, safeguarding, conflict-sensitive communication and individual support. His international education experience and English competence support clear communication with European partners. His Erasmus+ and ESC practice includes preparing applications and partner information, matching participants to activity profiles, arranging pre-departure preparation, monitoring mobility, responding to practical or welfare concerns, collecting evidence, reporting results and communicating impact through digital channels. The project team applies a division of tasks based on competence. Educational and youth-work contributors adapt non-formal methods, facilitate learning and support reflection. Digital and communication contributors prepare visual content, website material, calls and dissemination outputs. Administrative contributors support records, participant documents, travel evidence, financial follow-up and archiving. Volunteers assist with outreach, event logistics, peer communication and local multiplication. Responsibilities, deadlines and communication points are clarified at the beginning of each activity and reviewed during regular coordination. The team is familiar with inclusive participant management. Calls are written clearly and distributed through the website, social media, volunteer groups and local stakeholders. Selection is linked to project objectives and fewer-opportunity considerations rather than personal connections. The team prepares selected participants on learning objectives, intercultural communication, travel, visa, insurance, safety, rights and responsibilities. It maintains contact with partners and participants during implementation, records concerns, seeks timely solutions and supports reintegration and dissemination after return. Psychological and educational competence helps the organisation recognise support needs without labelling or excluding participants. Quality assurance is shared across the team. Staff and volunteers use checklists, schedules, participant records, risk considerations, feedback forms, reflection sessions, partner meetings and output review. Problems are discussed early, responsibilities are reassigned where necessary and changes are documented. The team understands the importance of privacy, informed consent, safeguarding, accurate public communication and responsible use of photographs and personal stories. Learning outcomes are supported through reflection and, where relevant, Youthpass-oriented competence awareness. KOZ-DER's wider institutional network strengthens the key persons' capacity.

4869 / 5000 characters

Past participation

Action	Applicant A	Partner A	Applicant B	Partner B
Youth mobility (KA105)	2	0	6	1
Mobility of young people (KA152-YOU)	6	1	6	1

Newcomer organisation	No	Multiple KA105 and KA152-YOU projects are recorded.
Less experienced organisation	No	The participation record exceeds the less-experienced threshold.

Comments or additional information on past participation

KOZ-DER's automatic participation record shows substantial experience in Erasmus+ youth mobility: two Youth Mobility (KA105) projects as applicant and six as partner or consortium member, plus six Mobility of Young People (KA152-YOU) projects as applicant and six as partner or consortium member. The record also indicates one project in each action under the additional recorded status shown in the application table. KOZ-DER should therefore be marked neither as a newcomer nor as a less experienced organisation for this field. The organisation also holds an European Solidarity Corps Quality Label and has experience as a support and lead organisation. Its added value is not limited to participation numbers: KOZ-DER has direct access to disadvantaged young people in Kilis, applies inclusive selection, provides structured preparation and continuous support, and integrates mobility results into regular local youth work. Partner organisations benefit from responsive communication, suitable participant profiles, risk-aware implementation, documentation, dissemination and long-term cooperation.

1103 / 3000 characters

Partner selection

How and why did you choose your project partners? What experiences and competences will they bring to the project?

We chose KOZ-DER as a mobility partner because it has direct access to motivated young people and participants with fewer opportunities in Kilis and South-eastern Türkiye. The organisation has substantial experience in Erasmus+ youth mobility and European Solidarity Corps activities and can manage transparent outreach, inclusive selection, preparation, travel and visa guidance, safeguarding, continuous participant support and follow-up. Its team contributes competence in non-formal education, intercultural learning, inclusion, digital communication, dissemination and evaluation. KOZ-DER's ESC Quality Label, strong local stakeholder network and responsive project coordination make it a dependable partner capable of selecting suitable profiles and turning mobility outcomes into sustained local youth work.

814 / 1000 characters

Associated persons

The legal representative and primary contact are different persons, ensuring operational continuity.

Legal representative	Mrs Mevlide ÖZKARACA	President	bilgi@kozder.com	+90 551 197 29 97
Primary contact	Mr Halil ÖZKARACA	Project Coordinator / Vice President	halilozkaraca@gmail.com	+90 553 593 45 73