

NEWSLETTER

The Official Bulletin of Caritas Turkey



NATIONAL OFFICE : UPDATE

At the beginning of July, Caritas Turkey National Office organized in Istanbul its final capacity-building workshop aimed at designing the matrix of the 2021-25 Caritas Turkey Strategic Plan. The agenda of the Partner Meeting was discussed with all the diocesan directors and subsequently shared via Baobab with the network. Below you can find the links to this event which will take place via Zoom:

on 30th August 2021, 09.30/11.30 am (CET)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88541494785?pwd=OUN5aHMwYUJ0RFFma0UwUU1mdHZuZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 4149 4785

Passcode: 199170

on 31st August 2021, 09.30/11.30 am (CET)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82863603517?pwd=LzhFSVduVzJCMzRIQjUxa0t2eEJNQj09>

Meeting ID: 828 6360 3517

Passcode: 433272

A meeting of the CET took place on the 15th of July. The Bishop's conference confirmed its trust towards Caritas Turkey.

The National office started the preparation of the ODSS reports of the first six months of 2021; as well as the new ODSS application for the year 2022. A meeting was organized with Walter Nanni, head of the Caritas Italiana Study Center, to verify the possibility of using the OSPOWEB program as a database to collect and analyze data from diocesan listening centers.

In the building at the Vatican embassy, where there the National Office and the Istanbul Diocesan Office of Istanbul are located, important restoration works have begun and will continue until September. Despite this, the staff of the Istanbul Diocesan Office listening center did everything possible to ensure regular activities with the many beneficiaries who come to the service.

ANATOLIA DIOCESAN OFFICE



Special days in Iskenderun

Caritas Turkey's Anatolia Diocesan Office, in collaboration with the Social Services of the municipality of Iskenderun, organized five excursions for the children. This activity was carried out as part of the social responsibility project which aims to introduce and disseminate the historical, touristic, and cultural values of Iskenderun. This action involves children benefiting from social assistance, economic support, and foster care/family services.

Also within the framework of this project, Anatolia Diocesan Office has organized another visit to Hatay, the provincial capital, to learn more about the historical and cultural heritage of the region. This time the excursion was attended by the young people involved in the committee for the promotion of children's rights of the Iskenderun Social Services Center. These days were an important recreational and educational moment for those children who often do not have the opportunity to travel due to difficult economic and family conditions. Having the chance to observe their local context from another perspective allowed these disadvantaged children to re-evaluate their daily life, changing their perspective on the territory they changed their point of view. Something that was always considered normal or even indifferent became special and enriching.

For this reason, Yılmaz Balaman, Director of the Iskenderun Social Services Center, would like to include at least 5,000 children in these initiatives. He stated "Our purpose in organizing such trips is to introduce our children to the historical and touristic areas of their province and to observe events, people, and changing natural conditions. "

Despite the difficulties that Caritas Turkey faces in acting in the Turkish context due to the lack of legal entity and religious prejudice, this example proves how collaborations with public authorities are possible at the local level. Furthermore, the work of Caritas is appreciated and recognized both in the communities and by the media. Proof of this is that excursions organized by Anatolia Diocesan Office with the Social Services have been given prominence in the local newspaper Iskenderun Journal (News: Helga TERBİYELİ- Iskenderun Journal / 25.6.2021).



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