

A 9-MONTH ABROAD ADVENTURE

Sometimes we feel like we've lost our way. When we don't know where we're going. Then we read a sentence. Or we can hear a sentence. A short, simple sentence. All of a sudden, it's like a sign in front of us. There is a new way ahead. It's a way we haven't seen before. A way we haven't thought about before. Maybe it was time to change dreams, not ways. I had read somewhere. While we are making plans, Life has already made plans for us. But I know that when we hit bottom, the best thing we can do is to go up. And I chose to go to the top. The place where I live was the most memorable days of my life and at night. In Bronte. In Giacche Verdi... ☺



I was excited about the realization of my dreams. I had been volunteering for a long time. And it was also very important for me to bring these experiences to the abroad experience. Every day I've lived here from the first time I came here was very beautiful and very special for me.. People in this place where I live, my friends who are volunteering like me and the managers of our office. First of all, I must say that the first times were, of course, difficult for me. A new country, a new language and a new life... I had to get used to these. And I had a lot to learn. Both in the concrete sense and in the abstract sense. I've never

had a great culture shock. Because the people of Sicily, the Italians were very friendly, helpful and sociable people. When I compared it with my own country, there was no difference. This situation helped me to adapt more easily.

Then I met some very nice people. Thanks to Erasmus +, I know these people who live in different countries. Maybe I would never have known. I shared the same house and the same room. We ate meals together, we have made programs together, we sometimes had fun like crazy, we sometimes also cried together. I learned different cultures. I learned the food culture of people from different countries. I taught them about some things our culture. I made Turkish food for my friends. Then I did it all the time. ☺☺ Because they loved it. Most of the time I couldn't say no to them. They were happy, and I was more than happy.. ☺



And Giacche Verdi... This beautiful institution I volunteer. Initially, it was just the institution I was volunteering for. Now when I look back, I see that they are my family. Sometimes when I went to travel to other places, I felt like returning to my home and my family when I came

back here. It gave me confidence and serenity. I've always been happy that this period I was volunteering was in Giacche Verdi. Because we did a very nice and very good jobs. We've always tried to create awareness. We've worked to make people more conscious. We have beautified the nature and the environment. We gave life. With the trees we planted, the garbage collection activities, and the trainings we gave to the children, we have learned and taught that this planet is our home and that we should take very good care of it. We understood and explained how important organic foods are for us. Thanks to the practical trainings, we have left traces. That's why I'm happy. We did useful things to people. I have had much experience.



And these are the people we do together Gino, Andrea and other volunteer friends. Actually Gino is a senior manager of our organization. But for me, he's like our father. He's got a childish spirit that's the same as us. He also has a big heart. Whenever you have a problem or when you're sad, he surely understands. He always wants to come and talk to you. He makes you laugh in a way. And you forget things that upset you.. He always makes funny jokes. He does that in a moment, and you don't even know what happened.. 😊 And so emotional. He feels upset for every volunteer who has completed the study. You can easily understand that he's upset.

Andrea... Gino is like our father, and Andrea is like our brother. We say 'abi' in Turkish. It is called the brother who is older than us. He tries to meet our every need, he will deal with all our problems. When necessary, he gives us advice, and sometimes he gets angry with us. 😊 Andrea, he's a really good person. He is also very kind. He was very interested in me. I asked him questions

about everything, and I wanted advice on everything. He always listened to me and tried to find solutions.. I've always felt his support.. I'll never forget him saying "crazy Sally." 😊



Every day that I volunteer at Giacche Verdi is very valuable to me. Since I'm volunteering here, I'm really happy that I'm working on this project and I've met people here and I had been sharing something with them. I was lucky. I've saved many beautiful memories that I will never forget. I learned a lot thing.. I always knew the power of love. But I learned more here. And I was at the place where the choice I made took me. In Bronte , In Giacche Verdi... Thank you for everything. Much obliged. I love you all.

I sat down and I thought of me.. The time passed so quickly.. I forgot everything. There was someone else. Now have a utterly different person.

Yours Affectionately

SELVER GÖK

VOLUNTEER OF GIACCHE VERDI

JULY 2018 - MARCH 2019