

## The first Time Travels in Turkey

In April 2009 the first Time Travels in Turkey took place. They are part of the Tusenet project concerning Democracy, Human Rights and closer relations between Turkey and the European Union. It is a project between Kalmar läns museum in Sweden and three Turkish municipalities close to the Aegean Sea– Karsiyaka, Bornova and Manisa. In each municipality a Time Travel group has been formed. Here are the reports from the three groups.

### Bornova, Izmir Yesilova 8000 years ago

Two Time Travels were realized in Yesilova Höyük which is the oldest settlement area in Izmir. The Time Travel were conducted by the Municipality of Bornova, Ege University and Kalmar County Museum. About twenty 6th grade students and teachers from Isikkent Education Campus participated. The Time Travels took part in the prehistoric village in Bornova, where there are two Stone Age houses, a furnace, an oven and a courtyard constructed in 2009 by the Municipality of Bornova.

Before the first Time Travel the students prepared by visiting the archaeological excavations. The students were also taken to the archaeological park to dig in the artificial excavation area. In the Time Travel back to the Neolithic Age, 8000 years from today, the students cooked, made bread, pots and stamp seals, prepared jewellery and ornaments in clay while discussing questions like how to handle with the ecological problems and climate change and how to deal with the changes in society.

They even participated in free time activities at the end of the Time Travel as they didn't want to leave the Stone Age village.

The first experiences of Time Travels have been an enjoyable and informative study for the participants and trainers. Moreover, it has been a good example of harmonious cooperation between several institutions.

### Scenario, extract Yesilova - The Green Plain Settlement

People in the settlement on the green plain between the two rivers live a good life with plentiful resources. But now times are changing. There is a lot of turmoil and unrest in the society.

One problem many people are talking about is the change in the climate. It has been warmer the last years. There is less rain, sometimes the crops have not ripened and there have been too little pasture for the cattle. The people on the green plain have also heard about the extreme droughts in the inland and that many people are forced to leave their homelands. There is an uncertainty how to cope with the changes in the climate and how to deal with all the immigrants coming to the plain...



While working everybody talks about the changes in the society and in the climate. The children are making pottery and stamp seals to be used in the village 6000 B.C.

### Comments

*"Travelling to 6000 B.C. was a great experience which gave me a totally different way of looking at history."*  
Duygu Uzdaz, Bornova municipality.

*"Time Travels is a very important educational method. We have to work to make it sustainable and widespread."*

Jülide Karakus, Bornova municipality.

Bornova Time Travel Group

### Karsiyaka, Izmir Time Travel to Smyrna 590 B.C.

On the 5th and 6th of May 2009 two Time Travels were realized by Karsiyaka municipality and Smyrna Excavation Administration with the help of Kalmar County Museum. The first day 37 high school students and the next day 15 elementary school students, plus c. 20 adults each day, had the opportunity to take part in the daily life of a Smyrnian person 590 B.C.

The Time Travel began with a ceremony at the Athena temple led by King Basileus. After the ceremony prepared for the festival by painting pottery, building the fortification wall, making necklaces and cooking. They discussed and argued how to make Smyrna the top city around the Mediterranean Sea again, if wealth is for everyone and if the gods have all the explanations for the structure of the world. The Time Travel ended with an offering to the goddess Athena inside the temple. Musicians, philosophers and bards of the city sang songs and read poems.

### Scenario, extract

Smyrna preparing for the festival in honour of the new Athena temple, ten years after the Lydian conquest.

Smyrna has had a hard time after the Lydian attack ten years ago. Parts of the city were destroyed, including houses, the city wall and the Athena temple. The

last years have been a time of renovation and rebuilding. There have also been big efforts to rebuild the Athena temple, to make it even grander than before.

Today is a big day for the city; the restoration of the Athena temple is finished. The new temple for the goddess of Smyrna can be used for the first time. A festival is going to be held and there are lots of preparations to be done.

People are called in from neighbouring farms to prepare for the festival and to bring food products...



The Time Travel in Smyrna began with a ceremony at the Athena temple led by King Basileus. One of Basileus' assistants is reciting a poem from the time.

### Comments

*We felt the spirit of the past. These Time Travels should be provided for all students. It enables us to learn about the history, ourselves and our society.*

Yesim Kuynulu, teacher at Karsiyaka Anatolian High School

*I'm honestly proud of joining this pioneering project which performed for the first time in Turkey. I wish that all students would have the chance to join a Time Travel. It is such an efficient teaching method and I learnt a lot of things about Smyrna."*

*It was really mystic and fascinating when we gave the presents and made our wishes to Athena. The time travel was a big experience. This is the best way to learn history. Every student should participate in a time travel.*

Snay Kohvec - grade 9, Karsiyaka Anatolian High School

*Everything was great, magnificent, enjoyable. When we made the sacrifice for Athena I really felt that we were in 590 B.C. The music was fascinating. I think I will never forget this day. This kind of activities must be popularized all around the world.*

Mert Aktulum - grade 9, Karsiyaka Anatolian High School

Karsiyaka Time Travel Group

### Manisa Time Travel, Manisa 1955

In the Time Travel in Manisa the Seven steps for the Time Travel method was applied. We chose a site (1) "Tophane" on the slopes above the city where Manisa Tarzan had lived. We researched the site (2) and "read the landscape" (3), interviewed people who lived in the 1950s, read books, looked into archives and newspapers. We had workshops and training days (4). The learners studied the 1950s, Manisa life and Tarzan (5). The Time Travels took place April 28 and 29 April, the first day with students in grade 4 and 5 from Children Art and Culture Center, the second day with students from grade 6-8 from Ali Rıza Çevik Elementary school. University students from CBU University in Manisa helped in the Time Travel (6). Evaluations were made both with learners and the leaders of the Time Travels (7).

A couple of days before the first Time Travel the last preparations for material and transport were made, the area was visited and the appropriate places for the activities were determined.

The Time Travel starting with the participants catching sight of two people beginning to cut down trees for a new avenue. The children tried to stop them. After a short quarrel the woodcutters promised to come back with a written permit. While waiting the children wrote protest placards, planted flowers, examined plants and trees.



"Tarzan" and the children tries to stop the woodcutters from cutting down the trees. The children have even made protest placards. Manisa 1955.

They also enjoyed games like topa, listened to music and talked in the coffee house about the future for Manisa, traditional or modern way of life, environment or development. Some prepared food and drinks, like gzleme, ayran and coffee.

When the woodcutters came back with their permit the children shouted for Tarzan. Tarzan came running and there was an intense and fi erce discussion about the importance of trees and a clean environment. In the end the woodcutters gave up, at least temporary. The people thanked Tarzan and celebrated by eating food, singing and playing games.

After the Time Travel both adults and children wrote their experiences and comments in a memory book.

### Scenario, extract

#### Manisa in 1955, the green city?

The city of Manisa is taking a step into the modern times. The population is growing and the city needs to be modernized with better roads and higher standard of living for people. A new avenue is planned. All the trees in the area of the road have to be cut down as well as some of the old trees in and around the city.

The assistant gardener Ahmeddin Carlak, “Tarzan”, is not at all happy with the new plans for the city. He tries in many ways to convince the leaders of the municipality that trees are important for the wellbeing of the people.

Today the fi rst trees are going to be cut down for the modern avenue. Rather many people have gathered in the morning. Some are only curious but some are here to protest and will try to stop the plans to fell the trees. The atmosphere is tense. People are upset. Will the tree cutters come? What will happen?

In the evaluations after the Time Travels we see that all students and leaders were happy with the project. The students said they felt as if they were living in 1955. They saw how important mother nature is. They said they would never forget what they experienced in the Time Travel, adding they would like to join another Time Travel.

In the evaluations we observed that the project had reached its aim, the students felt the spirit of that time, and they also felt the love of Tarzan and his fi ght for trees and nature. All these positive reactions made us very happy and has encouraged us for making more Time Travels.

### Comments

*“I believe that this teaching method is one of the best. Thanks a lot for this experience”*

Salih Iltenmis, teacher from Manisa

*“It was a very successful project. It is an honor for me and my students to take part. And education has never been such fun before.”*

Ebru Iltenmis, teacher from Manisa

*“Going back to 1955 made me very happy . I didn’t want those moments to fi nish because there was no pollution. People respected the environment more, I believe that it must be the same today.”*

zge Uzun - 5/C

*“It was really fun. My task was to call Tarzan and I loved it very much. We played games of 1955. We sang songs. The love of Tarzan for the nature was very good. I hope I can join again.”*

Mehmetcan Sapı - 4/E

*“It was the best experience in my life. I learnt a lot, now I will protect the trees and I will not pollute the environment.”*

Barı Sanıtok - 4/D

*Manisa Time Travel group*