



23.07.2015

A Big Hello, from the oldest (age 52) but not the worst campleader to all my precious volunteers of GEN-39 Work and Write Camp in Aziz Nesin Foundation, in Çatalca / İstanbul between 5-20 August 2015.

I am Füsun Çetinel, however you can call me "Fifi". That is my work camp nickname. I speak Turkish, German and English.

In the photo, I am the one on the wall with the blue t-shirt and funny glasses next to a stone carving artist.

I am an ex-teacher of English in High Schools. Every summer I organized school trips to England and was a group leader there.

At the moment I have classes in a writing house about short story, novel writing, ghost writing and literature. I am also an author-coach. I take part in many social volunteer activities. Every Friday I work with a group of young kids in Sait Faik museum, which is sponsored by the famous short story writer's family, about literature and writing stories. In a few months I am going to start another writing project in Maltepe juvenile prison, in İstanbul.

I write short stories and novels. My first book is called "Hagia Sophia has spoken". It is for all ages although it is released by a children publication.

Me and my partner organize "Writing İstanbul" activities for foreigners and locals. We go to different locations, walk, take notes, speak to local people, sit at a cafe and write something. Then we read our writings to each other.

I love flea markets, discovering weird parts of the city, walking, cats of İstanbul, reading, photographing, working camps, travelling, hostels.

I have been to three work camps so far. First one was restoring a kindergarten in Augsburg, near Munich / Germany. We painted the stones with funny faces, washed and

fixed the toys, cleaned the shed and organised a charity bazaar. Last summer I was again in Germany, near Stuttgart rebuilding a dry stone wall which was hard work but I enjoyed it so much. Finally I have just come back from Bratislava, Slovakia where I volunteered for a day care center for mums on pregnancy leave. It was great.

I believe in the equality among the people so I am against any prejudice. Age, sex, country and religion doesn't matter for me. The only thing that makes all the people understand and tolerate each other is literature and art. So our camp where you will discover Aziz Nesin's satire and his funny World will be a Good experience for all of us. Otherwise the world is really unbearable with so many malice.

Let me say that you have made a good choice as participating in a workcamp in Türkiye. I hope you will enjoy your participation in this camp. You will have a chance to live in different culture, to meet interesting people and get information about the daily life and the traditions of Turkish people which is absolutely different than yours and you will enjoy spending your time in amazing group atmosphere.

Among GENÇTUR's other camps, this camp has a very special place. Nesin Foundation is a long term partner of GENÇTUR and these two NGO are cooperating in different projects for many years.

Aziz Nesin, the founder of Nesin Vakfi, was a very famous humorist and human rights activist during his all life. His stories have been translated into more than 40 languages. In order to pay his debt to the society, he decided to set up this foundation to support disadvantaged kids from all over Turkey. Nowadays there are 45 beneficiaries in the foundation between 7-25 age group. You can see some pictures at

<http://www.nesinvakfi.org/bahce.php>

This year is the 100th birthday of Aziz Nesin who died in 1995 and buried in the garden of the foundation. There are several different activities to celebrate his 100th birthday and our camp is one of them.

I am sure you are curious about the other participants. You will see the list at the end of this letter. By a coincidence, we are all females for the moment and I hope that until the camp starts we might have new applications from male Volunteers too.

Detailed information about the camp rules will be given at the orientation meeting which will be done on arrival. Usually the orientation meetings are done in GENÇTUR office but as it is easier to go to the foundation from Atatürk Airport than meeting in GENÇTUR office we are expecting to meet you in the foundation (Nesin Vakfi) on the 5th of August Wednesday at 18.00.

To arrange a group travel I am waiting for your arrival details. If your arrival times are suitable for a common meeting hour we can meet in and travel from Yenibosna Metro Stop altogether. In order to arrange a meeting time I am waiting for your arrival details as below.

Your Name:

Arrival Date	Arrival Airport	Landing time	Flight Number

Please fill in the boxes and send them both workcamps.in@genctur.com and ffusuncetinel@gmail.com . Pass control and luggage claim may take 1 hour, and then reaching to Yenibosna Metro stop will take 30 minutes. This means 1,5 hour after your landing you can be in the meeting point. I will write you all again, after collecting your arrival details.

If you miss the group departure you can also travel to the foundation by your own, the directions are below.

To reach to the meeting point (or to make your own way to the foundation) , take the metro from Atatürk Airport to Yenikapı direction and get off at the second stop YENİBOSNA. Go out and take a bus to Çatalca (No: 401). In Çatalca terminal, take a minibus to NESİN VAKFI (ask before getting in). The driver will drop you off, just in front of the foundation.

If you are landing in the Asian side airport (Sabiha Gökçen – SAW) on coming earlier than the first day of the camp you can go to GENÇTUR office to get help about your travel.

Please don't forget to send your Camp Confirmation Slip back to GENÇTUR otherwise you may lose your place in the camp. If you still haven't sent the form please do so by e-mail to workcamps.in@genctur.com A copy of the form is also attached to the info sheet of the camp that you should have already received from your sending organisation.

Attached you will also find the info sheet where you will have information about the work.

All mobile phones function in Turkey if they are open to international roaming. You can also make international calls from the post office or the phone boots on the streets in the town by a phone card.

If you have any health obstacle like allergy, chronic illness, etc. Please inform me before coming here.

As it is easier to change money in Istanbul than in Çatalca, you should better change some money before arriving to the camp site. In order to give you an idea, I can say that 100 TL. (app. 30 EURO) will be enough for the camp period, excluding the money for the return transport.

Do not forget that you have to pay the cost of your transportation in Turkish currency. The prices are given as foreign currencies on the info sheet or here for giving you an idea about the costs. You do not need to bring any specific currency, as it is possible to change all currencies. But \$, £, and EURO are the most easy ones.

Before ending, let me remind you once more the important points of this letter. Please;

- Confirm your participation / cancellation by E-Mail to [GENÇTUR](#)
- Fill in the arrival detail boxes and send them to me and GENÇTUR
- Change some money at your arrival point.
- If you have further questions about the camp or Turkey, you can write to GENÇTUR :

GENÇTUR's phone numbers : +90 212 244 62 30

GENÇTUR's E-Mail address : workcamps.in@genctur.com

- If you have any specific private questions don't hesitate to ask me.

e-mail: ffusuncetinel@gmail.com

My mobile : +90 535 239 51 20

I opened my arms and am waiting for you for a big hug.

See you soon in İstanbul.

Füsun Çetinel

List of Participants :

GEN-39	WORK AND WRITE - NESİN VAKFI - ÇATALCA - İSTANBUL				05.08 - 20.08.2015	
org	country	name	first name	sex	dob	age
GEN	TUR	ÇETİNEL	FÜSUN	F	03.06.1962	52
GEN	TUR	YALINALP	EVİRİM	F	09.06.1970	45
GEN	TUR	DİDİR	GÜLAY	F	05.03.1995	20
SVI	ESP	CANO AROCA	LAURA	F	05.04.1994	21
SVI	ESP	DELGADO FRANCO	CONCEPCION	F	06.09.1996	18
ESMAD	ESP	NOTARIO	ANAIS	F	16.06.1997	18
SVI	ESP	RODRIGUEZ SANCHEZ	LAURA	F	20.04.1996	19
SCI-I	ITA	BRUGNETTINI	EVA	F	27.03.1982	33
CIEEJ	JPN	HAYASHI	MAKO	F	23.05.1995	20
VSS	RS	TOSIC	KATARINA	F	13.09.1992	22
VSS	RS	TOSIC	VIOLETA	F	13.09.1992	22