

## Coexistence Project for Children

This project will enforce the communication between children that came from different origins and ethnicities and have to live in the same district.

The project will reach 150 children directly.  
Project duration is 3 months.

### Project area and its background:

Fener and Balat, an area located on the seaside of the historic Golden Horn on the European side of Istanbul, where Greeks, Turks, Jews, and Armenians once lived for centuries in harmony. Houses and lives were crowded into narrow, meandering streets. Clothes were shared with neighbors. Women washed down their yards with rose water--an area of Istanbul reminding us of the sea and its history.



But, starting nearly 50 years ago, many homes sat empty in Fener Balat after these earlier multi-ethnic inhabitants moved on. At this point a new population began arriving, immigrants from Turkey's East seeking a better life in the city. They came to Fener-Balat for the cheap and attractive housing.

Initially single men arrived from Anatolia. Later their families followed. Unfortunately, they did not always find the work they sought as many were uneducated and unused to living in an urban area. They also found that the lovely homes had deteriorated, forcing them to lead unhealthy and unhappy lives. The support and friendships they had known in their villages in the East were non-existent in Istanbul.



The area houses Turks, Kurds, Romani, to a lesser extent Greeks and Armenians. In addition to all these, due to the conflict in Syria, many Syrians were moved to camps in Turkey but the rest moved into cities to settle down. This number is to be estimated around 100,000 in Istanbul and Fener-Balat is one of the areas that house most of those Syrian immigrants. The area receives migrations non-stop. Ethnical, religious and cultural differences, secluded lives, poverty and conservatism brings problems like; violence, discrimination, adaptation problems, lack of confidence, being drawn away from education, moving towards risky economic methods.

These new immigrants faced problems assimilating into the urban scene, both with their newly arrived companions as well as with the old population they found upon arrival.

Customs were different, dialects were different. The social fabric frayed. The immigrants turned inward and tried to cope by themselves. Women kept to themselves and didn't leave the neighborhood. Many families were illiterate and had far too many children to be able to provide for.

Still, the children of Fener-Balat have hope for their future and believe they can have a better life with a little support. Help us support them.

### Project Goals:

- Supporting the habit of living together in a social environment among children from different cultural and ethnic origins.
- Improving the beneficiaries' awareness against violence.
- Improving their awareness on issues of discrimination, guiding them to removing the habits and factors in their life that lead to discrimination.
- Supporting their development to living in the City.
- Encouraging the children's development of self-confidence.

### Project Activities:

- Art activities and art therapy.
- Social tours (Movie, Exhibition, Museum etc.)
- Themed games based on violence, discrimination and human rights.
- Joint-game session for Children to increase their habit of interacting together despite cultural and ethnical barriers. (Tabletop games, sports, creative games, etc.)
- Personal Therapy sessions is required



### Project Budget:

Subject	Total \$
Game and Activity Materials	2.850
Social Tours and Transportation	2.225
Museum, Cinema, etc. tickets	3.215
Psychiatrist and therapist support	1.850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.140</b>

