



PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM

Young Intelligence Association
(Genç Zihin Derneği)



gezider.org

contact@gezider.org

GEZİDER – Youth Empowerment from Eastern Turkey to Europe

Genç Zihin Derneği (GEZİDER) is a youth-focused NGO based in Iğdır, **the easternmost city of Turkey**, and the **only officially recognized youth association in the region**. Since 2016, we have reached thousands of young people from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds through local empowerment and European cooperation.

We operate through independent project teams working in fields such as education, psychology, technology, and digital media. Our members are experienced project managers, trainers, and facilitators in the Erasmus+ field.

GEZİDER is a member of both the **Garagerasmus Foundation** and the **PRISMA European Network**, and has been involved in dozens of Erasmus+ projects on topics like democracy, social inclusion, green transition, digital literacy, and youth participation.

We actively invest in technology and innovation:

- We built our own cloud-based data system for secure and scalable project management,
- We offer trainings in coding, algorithmic thinking, Scratch, and Arduino,
- We integrate AI and digital culture into youth work and international collaboration.

Locally, we support schools, municipalities, and educators through workshops, consulting, and capacity-building activities. Internationally, we design projects that equip young people with 21st-century skills, civic values, and intercultural competence.

At GEZİDER, we believe that when one member dreams, the whole team acts.

Organisation ID	E10009467
Legal name of the organization	Genç Zihin Derneği
Legal name of the organization in Latin characters (if applicable)	Genc Zihin Dernegi (Young Intelligence Association)
Acronym/Organization's short name	GEZİDER
Registration No.	76-004-72
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Profile	
Type of organization	NGO
Is the partner organization a public body?	No
Is the partner organization a non-profit?	Yes

Background and experience

Please briefly present the partner organization

Young Intelligence Association (GEZİDER) is a dynamic non-governmental youth organization located in Iğdır, the easternmost province of Turkey. As the only youth-focused NGO in this geographically and ethnically diverse region, we have been active since 2016, engaging thousands of young people from underrepresented backgrounds through both local and international initiatives.

GEZİDER operates with a departmental structure, where each team independently designs and implements projects, ensuring efficiency, ownership, and innovation. Our members come from diverse academic and professional disciplines, yet share a common expertise in the Erasmus+ ecosystem as project coordinators, facilitators, and trainers. We are a proud member of the garagErasmus and the PRISMA European Network.

Through our involvement in numerous EU-funded projects, both as a project coordinator and as a partner organization, we have contributed to the development of high-impact educational activities and mobility experiences. We have also supported the participation of hundreds of young people in Erasmus+ programs across Europe.

These efforts help young people to:

- Enhance their civic and social competences
- Strengthen digital literacy and media awareness
- Engage with intercultural dialogue and democratic values

We have worked on key themes such as Diversity, EU Citizenship, Democracy, Hate Speech, Youth Employability, Healthy Lifestyles, Migration and Integration, Media Literacy, and Environmental Sustainability.

Our organization is highly active in the field of digital transformation and artificial intelligence. We provide trainings on Scratch, Arduino, and algorithmic thinking, and have developed our own custom data storage and internal management systems to ensure secure and efficient collaboration across Turkey. We leverage AI tools in our educational content and integrate digital creativity into youth mobility and soft power projects.

At GEZİDER, we believe that local action leads to global impact. We build inclusive learning environments, bridge cultural gaps, and equip young people with the values and competences they need to take the stage in 21st-century society. In our structure, when one member dreams, the entire organization moves to realize it.

What are the activities and experience of the organization in the areas relevant for this application?

GEZİDER carries out a wide range of activities in non-formal education, digital empowerment, and youth participation—especially targeting marginalized and geographically disadvantaged communities. Our work is deeply aligned with Erasmus+ priorities, combining technological innovation, social impact, and interdisciplinary learning.

Key areas of activity include:

- Supporting teachers in integrating ICT and digital pedagogy into their lessons, including Multimedia Design, Web 2.0 tools, and Educational Games.
- Providing algorithmic thinking and coding trainings (Scratch, Arduino) for educators and young people in Iğdır and major cities like Istanbul, Ankara, and İzmir.
- Designing and delivering programs on project management, NGO regulations, digital content creation, youth entrepreneurship, and youth work innovation (e.g. under the EU-funded Sivil Düşün initiative).
- Organizing seminars and webinars on media literacy, healthy living, remote working, ESC/EVS, and youth mobility.

A distinctive strength of GEZİDER lies in its digital infrastructure and AI orientation. We have:

- Developed our own cloud-based data storage and management system to handle member data and project documentation securely.
- Established an internal AI-supported environment for tracking participation, generating insights from survey data, and improving the quality and responsiveness of our activities.
- Adopted Active Directory and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to secure access across devices and platforms.
- Built a digital education archive, recording and organizing all learning events (with consent), accessible to members and trainers.
- Provided youth with tools and trainings to create their own digital content (blogging, visual design, interactive media), boosting their expression and media presence.

We analyze behavioral patterns and project outcomes using business intelligence tools, ensuring that our strategies are evidence-based, data-informed, and scalable.

Our members—known as Young Intelligences—follow a shared set of principles focused on active citizenship, youth equality, and digital transformation as a force for inclusion.

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

1) Muhammet Ali USLU – President & Project Strategist

Founder and president of GEZİDER, Muhammet Ali Uslu holds degrees in Psychology and Web Design, and leads the organization's digital systems and project development. He implemented GEZİDER's secure infrastructure (Active Directory, MFA, internal cloud systems) and structured its operational teams through custom regulations and tools. As head of the International Project Development Team, he coordinates Erasmus+ projects focused on digital transformation, youth participation, and social innovation. His interdisciplinary perspective ensures the design of impactful, human-centered, and scalable EU projects.

2) Akın ÖZNAZİK – Vice President & Partnership and Funding Team Lead

Akın Öznazik is Vice President of GEZİDER and leads the Partnership and Funding Team. A psychologist with an MA in Human Resource Counselling and Erasmus experience, he has long-standing involvement in Erasmus+ youth projects and NGO fundraising, and currently works in talent attraction and employer branding in the private sector. Within GEZİDER, Akın coordinates international partnerships, supports fundraising and project development, and contributes to the design and implementation of Erasmus+ youth projects, especially those focused on youth employability, digital skills, and inclusive opportunities for young people from underrepresented regions.

3) Onur GÜLTEKİN – Advisory Board Lead & Public Sector Projects Expert

A founding member of GEZİDER, Onur Gültekin currently serves as Director of EU Projects at the Iğdır Governorship. He has coordinated and reported on multiple international programs including Grundtvig, Comenius Regio, and Erasmus+ youth mobilities on refugee inclusion, social cohesion, and partnership building. He is also active in national-level projects for the Ministries of Youth, Interior, and Education.

4) Türkü EROĞLU – Legal Consultant & Youth Project Designer

Türkü is a law graduate and master's student at Sapienza University. She supports GEZİDER in legal compliance, contracting, and project design. With experience in over 50 youth project proposals and as a trainer in youth exchanges, she brings legal expertise and participatory methods into Erasmus+ collaborations.

5) Aygül KAYA – Educational Content Developer & Partnership Network Coordinator

Vice President and founder of GEZİDER's Psychology Team, Aygül is a psychology graduate from the International University of Sarajevo. She led the EU-funded project Play Like a Scientist, which combined science education with artistic expression. She contributes to educational design, wellness-focused youth work, and manages the association's efforts in partnership network development across Europe.

6) Zümra CENGİZ – International Relations Lead & Erasmus+ Facilitator

Zümra is responsible for managing GEZİDER's international collaborations and institutional partnerships. A psychology graduate with strong experience in non-formal education, she has facilitated multiple Erasmus+ youth exchanges using gamification and experiential methods. She also played an active role in the W-Energy for Equality project in partnership with Koç Holding and Aygaz A.Ş., and serves as one of the association's key facilitators in European training activities.

7) Betül Ayça ÇOŞAR – Creative Methods Facilitator & Project Assistant

A senior psychology student and researcher, Betül co-authored Play Like a Scientist and supports creative design and implementation in international projects. With experience in cognitive psychology, visual arts, and theatre, she contributes as a facilitator in youth mobility projects and helps develop inclusive, art-based learning tools for Erasmus+ initiatives.

8) Pelinsu YILDIRIM – Youth Volunteer & Network Coordination Support

Pelinsu is an active youth volunteer with strong interest in digital diplomacy, AI, and intercultural communication. She supports the coordination of the association's international networks, including garagErasmus and the PRISMA European Network. Her role bridges youth voices with global digital culture and emerging soft power dynamics.

9) Ali Özkan OZDURMUŞ – Software & AI Expert

Ali Özkan Ozdurmuş is a Technical Product Lead specialized in AI-driven software and digital transformation. With Erasmus+ experience and volunteering in GEZİDER, he develops AI-powered and automated tools for project management, sustainability tracking and workflow optimization, and supports strategic partnerships, funding applications and impact measurement in youth and NGO projects.

Have you applied for/received a grant from any European Union programme in the 12 months preceding this application?

Erasmus+ YE	2016	2016-2-CZ 01- KA105-02 413 4	Teaching Methods in Intercultural Mixed Areas	Genç Zihin Derneği
Erasmus + YE	2017	2017-2-AT 02- KA105-001 91 7	Our Community	Verein InterAktion
Erasmus + TC Erasmus+ YE Erasmus+ KA1 Erasmus+ KA1	2017 2017 2017	2017-2-AT 02- KA105-001 91 8 2017-3-SE 02- KA105-00 198 4 2017-3-ES 02- KA105-01 032 3	Developing and adapting non-formal education methods to the needs of young refugees Young Journalists' Journey Your inner voice speaks louder through theater and music Camino Verde – Jóvenes Europeos por el Medio Ambiente y la Salud - Primera Edición	Verein InterAktion Exandas - Institute for Sustainable Civil Society Group Humanity INGEFIEX - Asociación para la Innovación, Energía, Cultura y Deporte
Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-3-AT 02- KA105-00 199 9	GO VISUAL: Visual Thinking Tools for Youth Workers Dealing With Integration of Migrants And Refugees	Plattform Generation Europa
Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-3-IT0 3-K A105-0122 43	We are all immigrants: open border	ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE JUMPIN
Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-2-LV 02- KA105-00 165 4	EntrepreDREAMship sapņu darbs kļūst par realitāti	SOLIS TUVAK
Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-3-CY 02- KA105-00 112 9	Employability for all!	Stressball

Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-2-IE01-K A105-025768	StartIn Project	Young Initiative
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Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-3-ES02-KA105-01054 5	Creative Boost 4 Youth Workers	SAL FUERA ELX
Erasmus+ KA1	2017	2017-2-UK01-KA105-03705 7	Developing a Healthy Lifestyle	Active Youngsters

Erasmus+ KA1	2018	2018-2-UK01-KA105-04855 8	Make Your Mark	Active Youngsters
Erasmus+ YE	2018		Green Path – Young Europeans for Environment and Health – First Edition	INGEFIEX
Erasmus+ KA3	2018		Migrants Are Welcome	SOS Europa
Erasmus+ YE Erasmus+ KA1 Erasmus+ KA3 Erasmus+ KA1	2018 2019 2019 2019	2018-1-IE01-K A105-038753	Healthy Lifestyle The route to understanding Model European Union Athens 2019 RAISING AWARENESS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	Global Youth Group Foundation "Nikola Kljusev" Bringing Europeans Together Association Greece (BETA GREECE) Active Youngsters
Erasmus+ KA1	2019		Preventing Violence Through Sports	Active Youngsters
Erasmus+ KA1	2019		EU4You	InterStep

Erasmus+ KA1	2019		Digital Storytelling for Social Inclusion	Itinere Società Cooperativa Sociale
Erasmus+ KA1	2020	2020-3-TR 01-KA105-09 7510	Play Like a Scientist	Genç Zihin Derneği
Erasmus+ KA1	2022	2021-2-DE 04-KA152-YOU 000040363	Movie making for social inclusion: Movie as universal language	Organisation EU Aktivisten e. V.
Erasmus+ KA1	2022	2022-3-IT03-KA152-YOU 00 0100593	The Rise Of the New digital citizens	ORIEL APS
Erasmus+ KA1		2022-3-PL 01-KA153-YOU 000103804	#FirstAid+	Fundacja Rysy
Erasmus+ KA1	2024	2023-1-PL 01-KA153-YOU-000 144143	Ecological Approach to Facilitating Non Formal Learning Activities	Fundacja Rysy
Erasmus+ KA1	2024	2023-3-PL 01-KA153-YOU-000 184002	Street First Aid Training Initiative	Fundacja Rysy
Erasmus+ KA1	2024	2023-3-IT 03-KA153-YOU-000 184665	IKIGAI	ORIEL APS
Erasmus+ KA1	2025	2023-3-LT02-KA152-YOU-000174265	MindGym	Milzinu lizdas
Erasmus+ KA1	2025	2024-1-IT03-KA152-YOU-000236099	Speak Up	ORIEL APS
Erasmus+ KA1	2025	2023-3-PL01-KA153-YOU-000172018	Street First Aid Training Initiative	Fundacja Rysy

ESAA Activities	2025		EU Green Deal & Erasmus+: Sustainability in Mobility	Genç Zihin Derneği
Erasmus+ KA1	2025	2024-3-ES02-KA152-YOU-000292083	Surfear la Vida - La Ola Digital	TunVerstehen

Legal Representative & Contact person

Title	Mr.	Title	Mr.
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Family name	USLU	Family Name	ÖZNAZİK
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