

Report on the Volunteering Experience in the Short-Term Project "Remembrance Trails /Round 4"

Held in Kryoneri Korinthias, Greece, within the framework of the European Solidarity Corps

Introduction

As part of the European Solidarity Corps program, we had the opportunity to participate in the short-term volunteering project called *Remembrance Trails*, held in Kryoneri Korinthias, Greece. This project aimed to promote historical memory, preserve cultural heritage, and encourage intercultural understanding among young participants. Below, Alba y Soledad share their experience and the activities they took part in during our volunteering project.

Alba:

My Experience in the Remembrance Trails Project

Participating in *Remembrance Trails* was a unique experience that allowed me to learn about the history of Greece and the crucial role that local communities have played in preserving their memory. From the very first day, the atmosphere was welcoming and motivating, with a diverse team of young volunteers from different European countries, all sharing the same goal: to promote historical awareness by restoring and maintaining historical trails.

The project consisted of restoring ancient hiking routes that were used as historical paths by the people of the region during key events in Greece's history, such as the War of Independence. We didn't just carry out physical work, like clearing trails, restoring signs, and planting native trees, but we also had the opportunity to learn from local experts about the history and significance of these trails.

Additionally, the cultural exchange activities with other volunteers were essential to enriching our experience. We had the chance to present our cultures and traditions in workshops and events organized throughout the project. This interaction was very enriching, as it allowed me to better understand my teammates' perspectives and share my own.

Personally, this experience has given me a deep appreciation for volunteer work and the importance of preserving historical memory for future generations. The interaction with local residents and collaboration with other volunteers allowed me to grow as a person and motivated me to participate in similar projects in the future.

Soledad:

Reflections on My Volunteering Experience in Kryoneri Korinthias

My participation in the *Remembrance Trails* project in Kryoneri Korinthias has been an extremely enriching experience. At first, I didn't know exactly what to expect from a short-term volunteering project, but from the moment I arrived, the welcome was incredibly warm. The local hosts did everything they could to integrate us and show us their culture, history, and the traditions surrounding the trails we were restoring.

The work in the field was intense but rewarding. We participated in the restoration of old trails that connected different points in the region, some of which were marked by important historical events. This allowed me to understand the significance of these places not only for Greeks but for all Europeans, as they represent the collective memory of significant events.

In addition to the practical work, we also enjoyed talks about the local history and workshops on how historical memory is essential for a nation's identity. In the afternoons, we organized activities to exchange stories and experiences with other volunteers, which resulted in invaluable mutual learning.

On a personal level, this experience allowed me to step out of my comfort zone, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and discover the value of working for a common cause. The interaction with people from different nationalities and backgrounds was very enriching, as it allowed me to broaden my horizons and see the world from different perspectives.

In conclusion, the *Remembrance Trails* project has not only allowed me to get involved in the preservation of cultural heritage and historical memory but has also offered me a life lesson about the importance of solidarity and intercultural understanding.

Conclusion

The *Remembrance Trails* project has been a transformative experience. The combination of hands-on work, cultural exchange, and historical learning provided us with a deeper understanding of the value of historical memory and the need to preserve the trails and places that bear witness to important events.

This project, supported by the European Solidarity Corps, allowed us not only to contribute to the restoration of cultural heritage but also to create lasting friendships and solidarity among young people from all over Europe, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration that transcends borders. Without a doubt, this experience has left a significant mark on our lives, motivating us to continue working on cultural preservation and building a more united Europe.

Alba and Soledad

Volunteers in the *Remembrance Trails* Project

Kryoneri Korinthias, Greece