



**Grundtvig
Learning
Partnership
(Inter)national
Days**

May 19th
YOUTH AND SPORTS DAY
IN TURKEY



Proposal to celebrate the Youth and Sports Day in Turkey

Introduction:

We propose to carry out a series of interrelated activities in order to allow for the participation of the highest possible number of learners of a typical Adult Education Centre. In this particular case, some of the students are learning Catalan language, but the same activities can be done with learners of Spanish (for example immigrants) or Italian or English or French... as a foreign language, etc.

Objectives of the activity:

1. To gain knowledge about Turkish geography, society and politics.
2. To find out the reason or origin of the celebration of the Youth and Sports Day in Turkey.
3. To research into the sports practised in Turkey.
4. To learn about Turkish cuisine; to learn how to cook a traditional dish.
5. To learn about the importance of spices in Turkish cuisine and history.
6. To learn Turkish tales and legends.
7. To promote reading habit and reading aloud.
8. To learn new vocabulary.

Target groups:

This proposal is addressed to:

- Learners of the Adult Education Centre:
 - Students of Secondary Education for Adults
 - Students of Culture courses
 - Students of Catalan for non-Catalan speakers (or any other languages)
 - Literacy
 - New ICT
 - Handicrafts
 - Cooking



Preparatory activities, prior to the celebration

To plan and coordinate the activities between the teachers of the different courses.

The students of the subject Social Sciences in Secondary Education will search for information about Turkish geography, society and politics in the Internet, the library and any other source at hand, and will write down the information they gather. Then, they will prepare a brief presentation with visual support (pictures, recordings, PowerPoint etc.)

The students of Culture courses will do research into the reason and origin of the celebration of the Youth and Sports Day in Turkey (May 19th) and they will prepare a brief presentation on the subject and about the most widely practised games and sports in Turkey. They will use pictures and any other support they can find (passages of documentaries, or television news, etc.)

Cooking sessions on Turkish cuisine. First, the students of Cooking courses will find out about Turkish cooking habits and traditions and then they will choose one recipe to prepare in class (for example "[Boreks](#)"). Tales and legends will also be used to speak about Turkish cuisine in general, stressing the importance of their spices not only in their cuisine but also in the history.

In Catalan classes (or whatever other language classes) for beginners, the same recipe will be used to learn basic vocabulary (the recipe will be translated by the students into the language they are learning).

In Catalan classes (or whatever other language classes) for advanced students, a traditional Turkish tale (for example the one at the end of this activity) will be translated and read aloud by the students.

To prepare the call for celebration: posters, leaflets...

Activities proposed for the celebration programme (with references to the document *Inventory of creative strategies*):

Strategy 16	Presentation about Turkey by the students of Social Sciences with the material prepared in class
Strategy 16	Presentation about the Youth and Sports Day in Turkey by the students of Culture courses



Strategy 12	Public reading of Turkish tales and legends in several languages by the students of language courses
Strategy 15	Social luncheon: the students of Cooking courses will offer a lunch of Turkish traditional dishes prepared by them
Strategy 19	Party with Turkish music; Turkish traditional folk dances will be shown on a big screen and then danced (or tried to!) by the participants
Strategy 19	Practise of Turkish games and sports; their rules will be explained to the participants by the students of Culture courses



Nasreddin Hodja and the third shot

One day, as Nasreddin Hodja was chatting with the emperor Tamerlane, he chanced to see archers practicing in a nearby field. *Ha! So those are your archers!* he exclaimed. And a reminiscent gleam came into his eye. *Not an archer in that whole field can shoot as well as I,* he boasted.

In my youth, I was champion archer of this whole area of Turkey.

Hmmm, murmured Tamerlane. *Champion, eh? Well, if you were champion, you can certainly teach my men something. Come along, I was just about to ride out and inspect the practice.*

At this, the Hodja began to tremble. In truth, he was no archer at all, and never had been. But to boast before the great Tamerlane and then fail to make good on one's boast could be a very expensive mistake. Deeply regretting his rash statement, the Hodja mounted his little grey donkey and trotted out after the emperor to the field.

Calling his men to him, Tamerlane bade them attend closely, for they were to receive an archery lesson from a real champion. The Hodja was then given a bow and three arrows, and motioned to position.

In an effort to gain time, the Hodja gravely studied the target. By Allah, he could barely see it! He shook his head thoughtfully. "If



only I had remembered to practice what I so often preach to my students: "Listen a hundred times; ponder a thousand times; speak once!" he mourned.

But Tamerlane was becoming impatient, and well the Hodja knew the cost of further delay. He could do no more than try. Taking careful aim, the Hodja released the first arrow. It wavered, and fell just a short distance ahead of him. The Hodja smiled confidently. *That, sir, is the way your captains' shoot.*

With even greater care, the Hodja placed and aimed the second arrow. Alas, it travelled very little farther than the first one. Here and there among the archers a chuckle was heard, speedily silenced by the baleful glance of Tamerlane. But the Hodja beamed, and proclaimed, *That, sir, is how your generals shoot.*

With infinite care, the Hodja fitted the third arrow to the string. Calmly he spat to ward off the evil eye. Then he aimed the arrow. Allah help him, the bow slipped in his trembling hand, and the arrow, released with a surprising force, flew straight to its goal, lodging itself neatly, exactly in the centre of the target.

Hodja, cleverer with his wit than his hands, said: *And that, sir, is how your faithful and humble server, Nasreddin Hodja, used to shoot when he was champion archer!*