

Presenting **MURATHÈNES**



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Introduction

The Murathènes association, a non-profit organization under the French 1901 Law, is a community-based educational organization focused on promoting exchange, diversity, and inclusion. We collaborate with the Erasmus+ agency to offer European mobility opportunities to young people from Europe and Cantal, while also working to pool local expertise by building a comprehensive and diverse network of partnerships. We support organizations and informal youth groups in designing and implementing international projects centered around youth and culture. In addition, we offer training sessions and seminars for youth professionals, as well as for organizations and institutions working in the fields of youth and culture.

In a rural European context that is often isolated and limited in opportunities, we strive to energize the youth sector by offering innovative and comprehensive projects, as well as providing full support processes for young people and organizations or institutions wishing to develop international projects.



Murathènes, a community-based educational organization at the heart of European rural areas

Moreover, community education is a key practical tool in these rural European areas, particularly contributing to:

- **Developing new skills:** In various fields and areas of learning, community education provides opportunities for new learning experiences and concrete skill development, as well as enhanced understanding. We place great importance on encouraging the active participation of our young people, involving them in the design and implementation of projects.
- **Valuing local cultures:** Rural European regions are rich in cultural heritage and significant traditions. Community education can contribute to the preservation and transmission of these cultural elements, particularly through international cultural exchanges and various forms of showcasing and promoting them.



- **Strengthening active citizenship** and understanding of the broader European context: Community education indeed encourages and values active citizen participation, and promotes decision-making at the local level or within the framework of international cooperation.
- **Reducing inequalities:** Some areas are often faced with significant inequalities in terms of access to education, information, and more broadly, opportunities.
- **Fighting isolation and marginalization:** Our community education projects can serve as vehicles for meetings and cultural discoveries, which sustainably promote local and European partnership cooperation.

Timelapse

History of Murathènes :

Murathènes was born from an informal group of young people who formed an official association in 2019.

Key Steps :

2018

First Erasmus+ funding application with the 3rd best score nationally out of 250 applications.

2019

First youth exchange in Greece with 60 participants from Cantal and the Eleonas camp (Athens).

2020

Development of a comprehensive partnership network including key public institutions in the region, and continuation of exchange projects.

2022

- Diversification of projects and creation of development opportunities. Implementation of support for professionalization with a view to hiring the first employee.
- Obtaining the Service Civique accreditation to host young people on missions.

2023

- Organization of the Territorial Youth and Europe Meetings at the request of the Erasmus+ agency and the State.
- Expansion of European projects and support for departmental projects focused on skill-sharing.
- Hiring of a team and digital coordinator through the Fonjep Jeune program.

2024

- Obtaining Erasmus+ accreditation in the youth sector, granting an annual budget allocation for European projects until 2027.
- Acquisition of the Domaine de Gravières in Lanobre, an establishment with a capacity to host 85 people, following a call for expressions of interest.
- Integration into the national monitoring group 'Diversity and Inclusion' of Erasmus+.
- Opening of 3 additional positions for managing the reception area, coordinating European projects, and supporting the association's development.

Organization :

In terms of staffing, our organization has a 14-member Board of Directors, along with 13 permanent volunteers, and around fifty active volunteers. We place great importance on transparency in the organization and distribution of tasks within the core team. Roles are allocated based on each individual's skills.

Various committees structure our organization.

The **administrative and editorial committee** is responsible for project management, partnership building, and the administrative formalization of actions. This committee also centralizes the administrative processes related to the organization's operations. It is made up of the two founding members who originally established the organization, as well as several retired teachers who serve as editors and advisors.

The **animation committee**, which oversees the animation teams.

The **communication committee** is responsible for developing the visual identity and artistic direction of the various projects, as well as all audiovisual aspects and publications related to the association's communication strategy. This committee is made up of volunteer professionals, including a graphic designer and documentary filmmakers.

The **coordination committee** manages the relationship with the young people, their mobilization, and their engagement within the association. It is also this committee that oversees the follow-up and mentoring of young people volunteering through the Civic Service program. The committee is composed of young participants who are now volunteers within the organization, our team and digital coordinator, as well as qualified youth leaders.

The **educational committee** is responsible for drafting, updating, and implementing the association's educational charter. This committee is composed of a retired educational advisor, as well as the two founding members: a teacher and a professional youth worker.

The **advisory committee** ensures the sustainability of ongoing projects and anticipates future initiatives. Composed of active volunteers, this committee's mission is to foresee the development of the organization, gradually adapting its internal structure, and facilitating the continued prioritization of the goals and values upheld. The committee is made up of volunteers located in different regions, each specialized in their field. For example, one of the volunteers has completed a doctoral thesis on the organization and internal management of third places (community spaces).



Key Actions and Programs

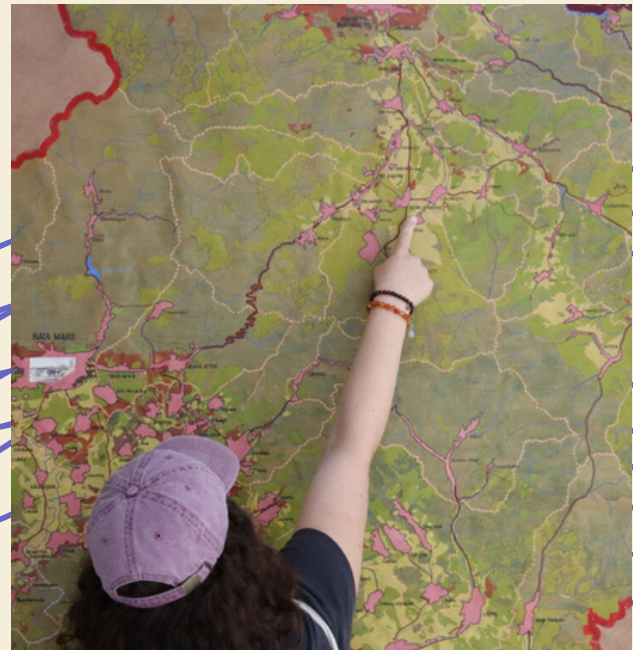
European mobilities:

2019

- First 'Murathènes' exchange in Greece: 60 participants, including 30 young people from Cantal and 30 residents of the Eleonas refugee camp in Athens, along with around twenty European and international volunteers.

2022

- New edition of the exchange with the 'Murathenes European Week 2022' program, involving the same profiles and numbers of participants.



2023

- Organization of the 'Euroteam Cantal 2023' exchange between young people from Cantal and the Maramureş region in Romania. This project led to the creation of the collaborative program 'MATAL, Cultural Odyssey,' which is currently being implemented.

2024

- Coordination of the 4th youth exchange, 'Murathenes European Week 2024'.



Youth Professionals Mobility Project

Starting in 2025, Murathènes plans to launch mobility programs for professionals, volunteers, and employees in the youth sector. We are already involved in several SALTO-Youth training programs, facilitating the sending of volunteers and active members to events such as job-shadowing in Lapland and Partnership Activities (PBA) across Europe and worldwide.



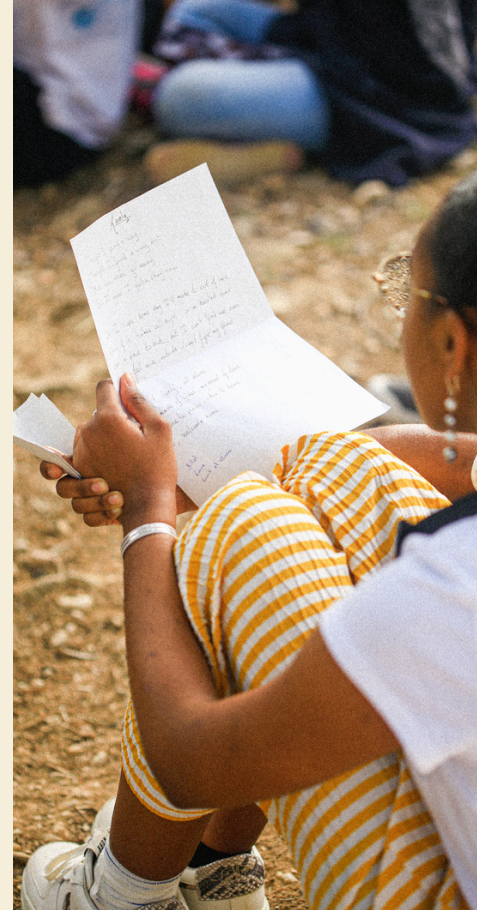
Training and Services

The Murathènes association shares its expertise through training sessions and seminars for youth professionals, mobility organizations, and cultural and civic institutions.

These initiatives help organizations launch innovative projects, with our support in project organization and management. We aim to address the organizational gaps faced by many institutions, offering both confidence and expertise.



A concrete example is our support for the Euroteam project, as part of the European Year of Youth. In collaboration with various partners, we are helping a group of young people develop a European project, strengthening cooperation between Cantal and the Maramureş County in Romania. The first mobility took place in August 2023, with a reciprocal exchange scheduled for 2024, ensuring the sustainability of this strategic partnership.



BAFA trainings

The Murathènes association is an organization authorized to provide BAFA training. (French Youth and Popular Education Diploma). This project is part of a sustainable approach to the education and training of future youth leaders.

By developing the skills of future youth leaders, Murathènes ensures high-quality supervision for its projects. This commitment enhances the quality of services offered to young people, contributing to their personal, social, and educational development through the training of qualified youth leaders.

Service Offering

The association also offers artistic workshops in targeted institutions, making art accessible to a wider audience and fostering a form of community education and inclusivity for isolated or marginalized groups.

Currently, actions have been carried out in Greece at the Eleonas refugee camp in partnership with the Project Elea association, in Cyprus at the Hope For Children shelter for unaccompanied minors, and in France at various schools and medico-educational institutes in Cantal.

Territorial Positioning



Institut Beliashe :

The Beliashe Institute of Aurillac, the headquarters of our association, provides an ideal setting for the development of our activities. Our long-term partnership with the institute allows us to create synergy in our projects.

The institute has a theater hall that we use for preparing our participants and organizing working sessions, especially for young people on civic service missions. For over thirty years, this artistic center has enriched the cultural life of the region by hosting international artists and producing renowned works and exhibitions. It is a prime space for the association, placing it at the heart of the Cantal's vibrant artistic community.



Domaine de Gravières :

Nestled in the heart of the largest forest in the region, our welcoming space offers an exceptional setting for a wide range of activities and projects. With its design compliant with ERP (Public Access Establishments) standards, our site can accommodate up to 85 people, providing an ideal infrastructure for group stays and large-scale events.

The facilities include:

Modular Dormitories: Flexible sleeping spaces that can be adapted to the specific needs of different groups.

Accessible Dormitory (PMR): A fully accessible dormitory designed to accommodate people with reduced mobility, ensuring the inclusivity of our space.



- **Sanitary Facilities:** Modern and well-maintained sanitation facilities, ensuring comfort and hygiene for all residents.
- **Professional Kitchen:** A fully equipped kitchen to professional standards, allowing for the preparation of meals for large groups during scheduled events at the venue.
- **Professional Laundry:** A dedicated laundry area for optimal linen care and ensuring compliance with current sanitary regulations.
- **Large Outdoor Spaces:** Spacious and well-designed grounds, ideal for a variety of outdoor activities.
- **Specialized Buildings:** A barn, a bread oven, a forge, and a buron (traditional shelter from Cantal), offering unique possibilities for specific installations and workshop projects.
- The domain benefits from immediate proximity to several key sites of interest in the region, enriching the experience of our visitors and participants with easy access to cultural activities and nature.

The Occupation Project

To ensure the success of our welcoming space, we have highlighted the key elements of its development, emphasizing the aspects that are particularly important to us.

Partnership with Local Authorities

The geographical location of the domain offers a wide range of possibilities for partnerships, particularly with local authorities, to integrate our projects into the community. By occupying a physical space, we collaborate with local stakeholders to support community projects, organize events, and meet the needs of residents.

Design of a Community Education Center

The rural setting we have chosen for our community education center provides an ideal environment for immersive learning. The expansive grounds and accommodation facilities allow for a variety of educational activities and help create a dynamic community focused on education and nature.

Espace d'Incubation pour Projets Européens

With the support of the SDJES15 and the Ministry of Education, we facilitate access to European funding and provide support for international projects. The Domaine de Gravières is an ideal place to launch and develop these projects, while also enabling local communities to get involved.

Educational and Exchange Programs

The Domaine des Gravières is well-equipped for our educational and exchange programs at the European level. It offers spaces for workshops, outdoor classes, immersive stays, and artist residencies, perfectly aligned with our values by fostering the creation and sharing of knowledge.

Domaine de Gravières represents a major strategic hub for the development and expansion of our initiatives. We plan to transform it so that it fully reflects the values and spirit of our association. This space is designed to embody our principles of diversity and exchange, while offering areas suited for our cultural and international activities. We want it to become a true meeting point and center for engagement.

