



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural Heritage: İzmir

Explore İzmir's layered heritage — from ancient Smyrna to its Ottoman bazaar and Levantine port-city past — and turn it into digital classroom resources, in this 5-day course.

DURATION 5 days · 25 hours	LANGUAGE English (B1+)	GROUP SIZE Max 20 participants
DAILY SCHEDULE 09:30–15:00 Monday to Friday, with a break for lunch	AUDIENCE All school levels No prior knowledge required.	CERTIFICATE Attendance + Europass Mobility
COURSE CENTRES İzmir Dates and cities of the scheduled sessions are listed on the course page.		

01 Overview

İzmir carries a Hellenistic acropolis, a Roman marketplace, an Ottoman clock tower and a 19th-century multi-ethnic port quarter, all in one city. This week reads them layer by layer and turns your own notes into a digital classroom activity.

- **Monday** — you work with your own school's needs and the question one landmark poses: which part of a shared building counts as "local"?
- **Tuesday** — you work through how art supports communication between cultures, and practise the digital tools you will use in the field.
- **Wednesday** — you read Konak Square, the İzmir Agora (from the outside) and Kemeraltı Bazaar side by side.
- **Thursday** — you visit Kadifekale, the historic Asansör and the Levantine quarter of Alsancak.
- **Friday** — you turn your own field material into a digital trail, quiz or mini virtual exhibit, with peer feedback.

You go home with a digital heritage activity built from your own İzmir material and your own record of two field days. Comfortable walking shoes and sun protection are worth bringing for the field days.

02 Course description

In the 19th century, İzmir was a port city that was home to Greek, Armenian, Jewish, Muslim Turkish and European-merchant ("Levantine") communities at the same time. This course follows that story, together with the much older layers of the city. Participants work at real historical sites — from the Hellenistic and Roman ruins of the Smyrna Agora, studied from its perimeter, to the Ottoman-era Kemeraltı Bazaar, which is still trading. They experience first-hand the history, art and architecture they'll bring back to their students.

İzmir has one of the longest recorded histories of any city on the Mediterranean, and its heritage reflects that. A Hellenistic acropolis on the hill of Kadifekale looks down over a Roman-era marketplace, an Ottoman clock tower and a covered bazaar. The bazaar is still selling goods after more than three centuries. The newest layer is the multi-ethnic 19th-century port city, and it is what makes İzmir distinctive in this course series. Much of it was lost in the Great Fire of September 1922 and the population exchange of 1923.

This layer gives İzmir a stronger, more concrete “shared heritage and diversity” story than a single-era city can offer. It is the thread the course follows all week. It is introduced on Day 1. Across Days 3–4 it is documented from the ancient and Ottoman city centre to the historic Karataş and Alsancak districts, where Levantine, Greek and Jewish traces survive alongside what is missing. On Day 5 the material is brought together. The course is built for teachers of any subject — history, art, citizenship, languages — who want a real, well-documented European example of cultural diversity to bring into cross-curricular teaching.

03 Learning outcomes

- 01 Compare two of İzmir's marketplaces — one excavated, one still trading — to explain what keeps a place of continuous use alive, and connect that to how İzmir's Hellenistic, Roman, Ottoman and Levantine-era heritage reflects Europe's complex, multi-ethnic cultural history.
- 02 Integrate cultural heritage topics into lesson plans, using digital tools and interactive resources built from a real multi-era, multi-ethnic case study.
- 03 Design classroom activities that build students' intercultural awareness, using İzmir's documented 19th-century Greek, Armenian, Jewish, Muslim Turkish and Levantine communities as a concrete historical example.
- 04 Connect teaching to the EU's cultural-heritage and common-values priorities using a concrete European example rather than an abstract one.
- 05 Reflect on how the İzmir experience can build students' intercultural awareness and active citizenship, and plan how to transfer it into their own school context.

04 Methodology

From Ancient Smyrna to the Levantine Port City

Days 3–4 trace İzmir's heritage across three layers in one itinerary — Hellenistic and Roman Smyrna (the Agora, Kadifekale's ancient acropolis), Ottoman İzmir (Kemeraltı Bazaar, the Clock Tower) and the 19th-century Levantine port city (Karataş, Alsancak) — so participants can teach continuity and layered diversity, not a single frozen period. The Agora and Kemeraltı are the same thing twice, one dead and one still running — the course's central comparison, transferable to any classroom without needing İzmir at all: what does it take for a place to keep going?

Digital Tools Workshop, Built From What You've Seen

a hands-on session where participants turn photos and notes from Days 3–4 into a real digital output — a short digital storytelling piece, a simple interactive quiz, or a mini virtual exhibit — using straightforward tools they can realistically use with their own students.

Direct Classroom Transfer

strategies for teaching a multi-layered, multi-ethnic heritage city, ready to adapt to participants' own students and curriculum.

Shared Heritage, Layered and Interrupted

sessions connect what participants see in Karataş and Alsancak — Levantine, Greek and Jewish traces in a city whose 19th-century population was Greek, Armenian, Jewish, Muslim Turkish and Levantine together, before the 1922 fire and the 1923 population exchange — directly with the Erasmus+ priority on common values, civic engagement and cultural diversity, giving participants a concrete, historically documented case study of both shared heritage and its loss, rather than an abstract discussion of "diversity".

05 Daily programme

Day 1

Cultural Heritage and European Identity

- **Icebreaker:** each participant names one thing their town or region counts as its own — a dish, a word, a building style, a festival — that first arrived from somewhere else
- Introducing participants' schools
- The EU's role in cultural heritage, opened with a puzzle: İzmir's own Clock Tower was designed by a French-trained architect, commissioned by an Ottoman sultan, decorated in a style borrowed from Islamic Spain — so which part of it counts as "local"?
- Europe's cultural diversity and shared identity, previewing the five communities — Greek, Armenian, Jewish, Muslim Turkish and Levantine — whose traces, and whose losses, the course documents in İzmir on Days 3–4
- **Educational strategies:** integrating heritage into lesson plans
- Interactive learning strategies using digital tools

Day 2

Cultural Heritage and European Art

- **Warm-up:** in pairs, each participant shows or describes one pattern or decoration from home — on a building, a textile or a plate — and the partner says where they have seen something like it
- The role of art in cultural heritage and European identity, worked through the Clock Tower's own puzzle from Day 1: European architect, Ottoman patron, borrowed Andalusian ornament — whose style is it?
- How art supports communication between cultures
- **Workshop:** interactive learning with digital tools, virtual tours and online resources
- Building sensitivity and responsibility around cultural heritage

Day 3

Cultural Heritage of İzmir: Field-Based Learning I

- Konak Square and the İzmir Clock Tower (Saat Kulesi): an Ottoman-era Orientalist landmark, built in 1901
- **İzmir Agora (Smyrna Agora Örenyeri) from the outside:** the Hellenistic and Roman-era open-air marketplace and civic centre of ancient Smyrna — a marketplace that stopped, and was excavated
- **Kemeraltı Bazaar:** over three centuries of continuous trade — Ottoman-era caravanserais such as the Kızlarağası Han, mosques, churches and synagogues side by side — the same function as the Agora, still running
- **Field reflection:** what it takes for a marketplace to keep going for centuries versus stopping and becoming a dig — the comparison that carries into every site visited this week

Day 4

Cultural Heritage of İzmir: Field-Based Learning II

- **Kadifekale (ancient Pagos):** the hilltop acropolis of ancient Smyrna, with Byzantine and Ottoman-era additions, reached by taxi or dolmuş from Konak — panoramic views across the Gulf of İzmir
- **Asansör:** the historic 1907 elevator in the Karataş district, built as public infrastructure by a Jewish banker of the city, in a quarter with a large Jewish population
- **Alsancak and the Kordon promenade:** 19th-century Levantine, Greek, Armenian and Jewish heritage in İzmir's former cosmopolitan "La Punta" quarter
- **Field reflection:** collecting material for a heritage-based lesson idea

Day 5

From Cultural Heritage to Classroom Practice

- Designing a digital heritage-based classroom activity — a digital trail, quiz or mini virtual exhibit — using material gathered during the İzmir site visits
- Peer feedback and discussion
- Course evaluation and reflection
- Sharing course documents and records
- Awarding the Certificate

PLEASE NOTE

Sessions run from 09:30 to 15:00, Monday to Friday, with a break for lunch. Timings can shift a little to suit the venue and the group.

Course activities and content may vary depending on participants' needs and the trainer leading the session; any changes are at the trainer's discretion. If there is a specific topic you would like included, please let us know — content-related requests must reach us at least 3 weeks before the course start date so we can confirm them in time.

06 Materials

- Virtual-tour and interactive-map tools for exploring the İzmir Agora, Kadifekale and İzmir's other heritage sites beyond a single visit
- Digital image and archive resources for building heritage-based lesson materials, including İzmir's Levantine and multi-ethnic 19th-century history
- A printed and digital course pack covering İzmir's ancient, Ottoman and Levantine-era heritage
- A simple template for turning a heritage-site visit into a classroom-ready lesson plan
- A heritage-based classroom activity template, completed using material gathered during the İzmir site visits and finalised on Day 5

07 How to prepare

- Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for Kemeraltı's uneven historic streets on Day 3; the Day 4 visit to Kadifekale is reached by taxi or dolmuş for this course, not on foot.
- İzmir summers (roughly June–September) are hot and dry — sun protection, water and a hat are recommended on both field days.

08 After the course

- Participants will receive their Certificate of Attendance and the co-signed Europass Mobility document.
- Participants will complete a general course evaluation and event survey.
- Participants will receive course materials, videos, photos, and PDF documents in both digital and print formats.
- Follow-up support: self-evaluation materials are provided. Depending on the group, an email group may be set up so that participants can keep exchanging ideas.
- Use the classroom activity developed on Day 5 as the basis for a short staff-room briefing, sharing how İzmir's layered, multi-ethnic heritage can support cross-curricular teaching in history, art and citizenship — and provide a concrete input for the school's Erasmus+ objectives.

09 Why this is Erasmus+ eligible

This mobility supports the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 School Education objective of "promoting knowledge about shared European heritage and diversity", and the horizontal priority on participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement, which highlights participants' understanding of their social, cultural and historical heritage. İzmir gives this priority an unusually concrete form: through structured sessions and trainer-led field days around the city's Hellenistic and Roman Agora, its Ottoman-era Kemeraltı Bazaar, and the 19th-century Levantine, Greek, Armenian and Jewish heritage of Karataş and Alsancak, participants gain first-hand material on a city that was genuinely multi-ethnic and multi-faith — material they can bring directly into intercultural dialogue and citizenship lessons.

10 What the course fee covers

INCLUDED IN THE COURSE FEE

- 25 hours of training and course materials
- Certificate of Attendance + Europass support
- On-site local support throughout the week

ARRANGED SEPARATELY BY THE PARTICIPANT

- Travel to the host city — invitation letter on request
- Accommodation — we share recommended options
- Travel & health insurance

ISSUED BY

Erasmus Mobility Academy

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COURSE PAGE

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ABOUT ERASMUS MOBILITY ACADEMY

Erasmus Mobility Academy (OID: E10304561) is an Erasmus+ training provider offering professional development courses for educators, school staff and youth workers across Europe. Our courses are designed for international mobility — open to participants travelling from a country other than the host country — and support schools in building lasting institutional capacity. We provide structured learning, logistical guidance and certification with Europass.