NATURELDER
Akdeniz Naturel Yaşam Derneği
Mediterranean Natural Life Association

Mersin, Türkiye
Founded in 2013

Our work & projects



naturelder.org @naturelder

Rooted in Mersin.
Working internationally.

From farmer education and local products to youth learning and civil society, we connect international cooperation with work in Mersin. Our projects combine practical training, shared resources and local partnerships.

- Agriculture and rural development
- Youth and learning
- Technology and digital skills
- Entrepreneurship and employability
- Participation, equality and rights
- Environment and climate



Citrus Farmer Education Project

2014

Citrus Farmer Education Project

We connected citrus farmers with production practices in Washington, D.C., California and Florida through training in the United States.

After returning to Türkiye, participating farmers shared what they had learned with other producers. This exchange brought knowledge from the visits into local farming communities.





Rural Development through Geographical Indications



Rural Development through Geographical Indications

With Erdemli's agricultural authorities and Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we work on geographical indications to protect local products and production heritage.

Lamas lemon is a registered result. Our cooperation also covers Erdemli sıkması, a traditional local food.

Geographical Indication Registration for Lemas Lemon

A registered local product: Erdemli Lamas lemon.

We worked with the district agriculture directorate on its recognition.





Project year: 2015



Rural Development with Local Products Project

2016–2017

Rural Development with Local Products Project

Led by NATURELDER, this project was recognised as a flagship project by the EU Delegation to Türkiye.

Prickly pear entered Türkiye's Farmer Registration System for the first time. Results included ice cream, marmalade, a new export category and grower resources. Producer training, product development and research support continued after 2017.





Biz4Fun – Let's Have Fun with the Business Start-Up

2018–2021



Biz4Fun – Let's Have Fun with the Business Start-Up

The partnership created a 10-topic entrepreneurship curriculum, open resources and a 3D game for practising business skills.

Our pilot in Türkiye involved about 35 participants. Their feedback helped refine the game, connecting the tools with the needs of young people and educators.



Save Our Planet

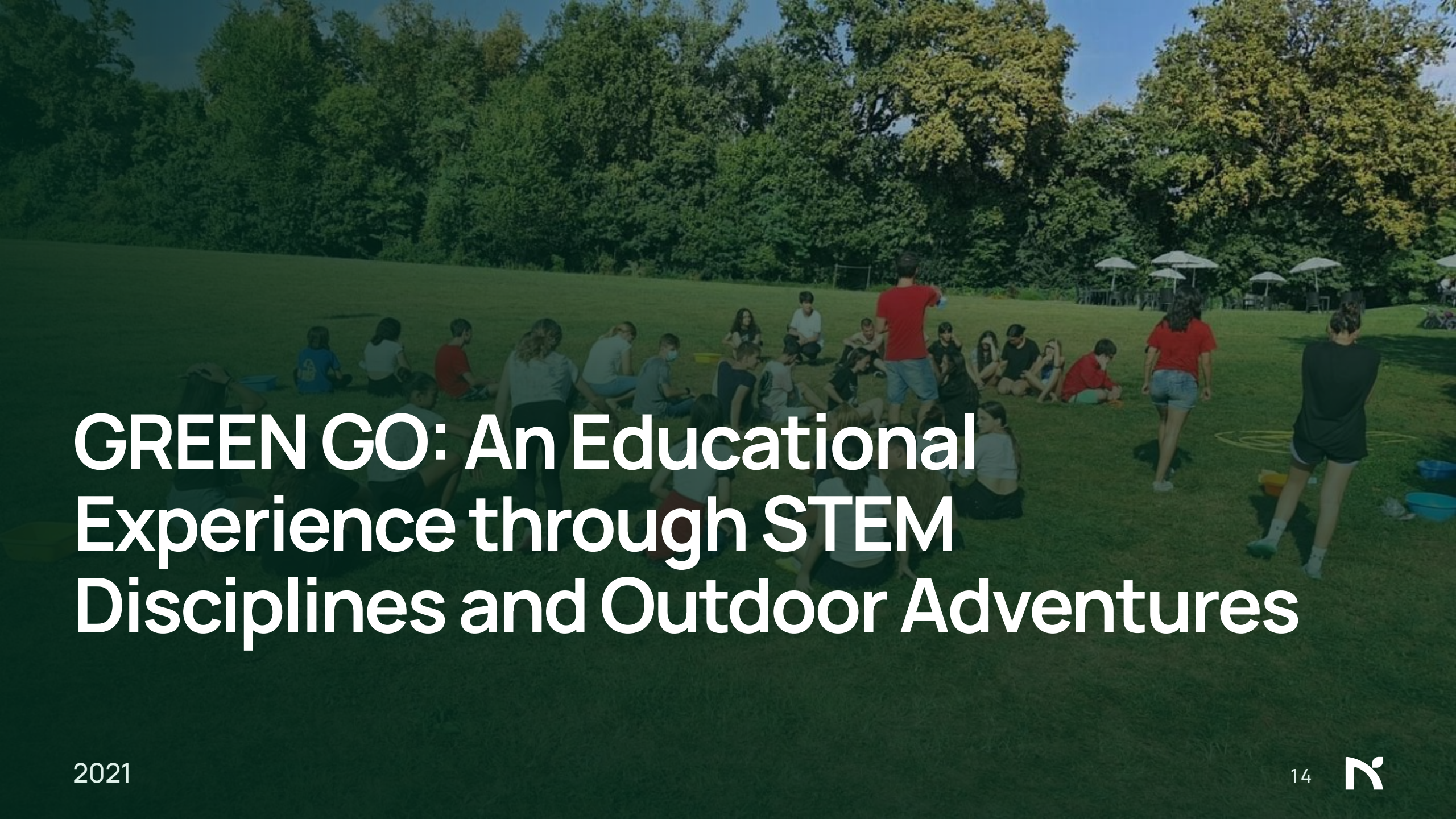
2020–2022

Save Our Planet

The project focused on helping youth workers discuss climate change with young people through clearer communication and critical thinking.

Our team joined the Ljubljana seminar in 2022 to practise these methods and plan environmental learning activities. The work connected climate knowledge with ways to engage young people in sustainability.





GREEN GO: An Educational Experience through STEM Disciplines and Outdoor Adventures

2021



GREEN GO: An Educational Experience through STEM Disciplines and Outdoor Adventures

Ten young people from Türkiye, aged 14–16, explored science and nature with peers in Italy.

River-water tests made STEM learning practical. The exchange included young people with disabilities and combined ecosystem studies, outdoor learning and intercultural activities.



Civil Society Development in Rural Areas

2021–2022

Civil Society Development in Rural Areas

We coordinated rural civil society work in Mersin: needs assessment, advocacy training and cooperation with local authorities.

Training on sustainable herbicide use entered the Ministry of Agriculture's Farmer Education Programme. Surveys of 39 producers supported a scientific paper on weed management.





Organic Beekeeping Project

2021



Organic Beekeeping Project

We brought beekeepers, researchers and agricultural institutions together to improve access to knowledge on bee health and organic production.

Our local partnership delivered honey bee health and biosafety training at Alata in 2021, with the district agriculture directorate, the Mersin Beekeepers Association and Eğriçayır.



Rural Boosters

2023

Rural Boosters

Rural Boosters explored how youth work can support entrepreneurship in areas facing depopulation, using local resources and cultural and natural heritage.

Two NATURELDER youth workers trained in Mollina, Spain. They examined digital tools, social innovation and sustainable business methods to help young people develop ideas rooted in rural life.





5MEL: Five Matters of Eco-Love

2023–2025



5MEL: Five Matters of Eco-Love

Across five countries, 5MEL involved more than 150 adults in environmental learning and produced the Eco-Love Guide in six languages.

NATURELDER led the science-and-nature sessions in Nitra and hosted a workshop in Tömük. Creative recycling, nature art and practical activities connected sustainability with everyday learning.



Growing Together

Growing Together

At La Borie Noble in France, 24 participants from 11 countries explored social permaculture as a way to support migrant inclusion and stronger communities.

Our team took part in practical learning and shared daily life in the ecovillage. We then brought the experience to Adana TAYEM through a local knowledge-sharing session.



Growing Together

Shared learning, outdoor activities and daily life at La Borie Noble.







Sustainability on Stage 2.0





Sustainability on Stage 2.0

We combined four weeks of online preparation with training in Spain to practise Sensorial Theatre and Social Theatre.

The project's toolkit gives educators reusable theatre activities for sustainability education. It connects environmental questions with participation and creative expression.



Zero Waste Project

Zero Waste Project

In Şahna, Erdemli, we turn surplus grape molasses into vinegar through traditional fermentation, giving unsold produce a useful second life.

The work uses our own resources and local cooperation. It values producers' labour, preserves production knowledge and demonstrates a practical way to prevent waste in rural communities.





BeeBridge: Strengthen of the Beekeepers Generation Bridging

2025–2028



BeeBridge: Strengthen of the Beekeepers Generation Bridging

Seven partners in six countries are developing training that connects generations of beekeepers.

We develop modules on apiary set-up, hive systems, management and marketing. Shared outputs will include multilingual videos, expert podcasts, updated curricula and apiary guides.



Save the mountain, Safe for you

2026–2027

Save the mountain, Safe for you

With eight organisations from eight countries, we are preparing youth workers to lead safer outdoor activities and protect mountain environments.

Our team practised first aid, navigation and emergency response in Asturias in 2026. Online learning, a pocket guide and local follow-up activities are planned to extend this learning.





OPEN FIELDS: Open and Inclusive Skills Development for Digital and Smart Agriculture

2026–2027



OPEN FIELDS: Open and Inclusive Skills Development for Digital and Smart Agriculture

Partners in four countries will combine four accessible digital farming modules with field practice.

We lead workshops and evaluation. We will deliver training in Türkiye and develop the inclusive entrepreneurship and community innovation module.

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Erdemli, Mersin
Türkiye

Let’s work together.

Work with us on rural development, youth learning and environmental education.

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