



## Bridging Ages International Conference held in Turkey

**“ A highly qualitative conference- togetherness, professional, well organised and creative”**

### **“BUILDING TOGETHER BEYOND BOUNDARIES”**

Conference themes: How to use the Time Travel method and Applied Heritage to explore issues such as Peace Building and Democracy, Education and Learning, Environment and Climate Change. The theme of the conference set out to empower Time Travel advocates and new participants as a collective to enact positive changes across global issues. The Bridging Ages international conference 2022, held from 29 June to 1st July at Giresun, Turkey, was a major achievement.

The hospitality from the Turkish hosts was incredible, all of this was on a volunteer basis. The commitment and efficiency of those who planned this conference were fantastic, including translation into English and arranging transportation for each delegate. The conference venue, the Zifin hotel had panoramic mountain views. Every presentation was aligned with the Time Travel method as a means to address present and future challenges.



**Bridging Ages Board members, keynote speakers, Bridging Ages Turkey coordinating committee and participants from Rhodes, Greece**

#### **Participant's Reflections:**

Gustav Wollentz, Sweden *“The strong impression from the conference is the spirit of working together in a very collaborative environment, all giving and taking, a space where everyone can express and contribute.”*

Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa, Turkey *“Important to meet face to face again... this creates ideas.”*

Yola, Rhodes, Greece *“I now understand the importance of Time Travel: the events, discussions, solutions...to implement it in Rhodes' schools.”*

## Bridging Ages Conference marks a new milestone

The opening of the conference; traditional song and dance set the conference tone.

The 16th Bridging Ages conference was welcomed after 2 years of virtual meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It marked a new milestone in hosting a hybrid conference where both physical and online presentations were included.

Digital presentation is necessary but Bridging Ages organisation's development needs physical presence. Participating in a Time Travel event is a highlight of all conferences.

Meeting people creates bonds and interest spreads when people discuss and inspire one another. This was evident at this conference. The Time Travel topic;

*"To increase the awareness of the people of Giresun about the agricultural culture and the impact of climate change"* was most appropriate in 1938 and even more so today.

Part of the conference was the training of participants from Rhodes, Greece, and Turkey. They included educators and representatives from universities and museums. The trained participants assisted in planning the conference Time Travel event. Appreciation to Ebbe Westergren for leading and coordinating the Time Travel event, the training, and providing overall conference leadership together with the host and Bridging Ages conference committee.

Warm welcome by Bridging Ages Board member and host Hakan Adanir opened the conference. Other speakers, from Turkey whose support added value to the conference, were: Cemal BAŞ, City Council Member at Municipality of Kecioren, Dr. Birol Ekici, UMT General Secretary, Prof. Yilmaz Can, Rector of Giresun University,



Prof. Dr. Şirin Karadeniz, Rector of BAU University and Enver Yücel and BAU University Global President.

Three memorable keynote talks on the conference themes by Gustav Wollentz, Rueben Gounden, and Hakan Adanir were captivating.

These provided the participants with an opportunity to reflect on their past and help find solutions for the future using the Time Travel method.

Added to this, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) topics were also presented. Research Methodology and Sustainability of an organisation through finding funds concluded the conference as a way forward for Bridging Ages.

Bridging Ages thanks co-ordinator Cem Mutlu Türkseven, Hakan Adanir, and the many volunteers who have assisted in making this conference a huge success, including Meltem Uzun – Language Translator (Turkish and English).

*Gulshera Khan- President*  
*"I Am Because We Are"*



**Keynote Speaker Gustav Wollentz, Researcher Nordic Heritage Centre for Learning and Creativity, Sweden.** His focus:

*"How heritage can make a difference in conflict resolution, what effects heritage can have in conflict resolution and an attempt of concluding"* His presentation on current global conflicts kept the audience spellbound with his vibrancy and in-depth knowledge.

**Quote from his presentation:**

*"Rather than reacting to conflict over our heritage sites defensively, we could perhaps identify the issues underlying the conflict and offer our sites as a resource for addressing them. In as much as heritage sites have unique resources for helping people to deal with difference, examples of how people dealt with conflict in the past, a human connection to people in other circumstances and a trusted space for learning new perspectives."* (Sevčenko 2010: 21)



**Keynote speaker-Hakan Adair, is passionate about Environmental matters and the impact of climate change.**

*"As people with significant cultural heritage, the Turks have lived with many nations in Anatolia and witnessed many civilizations and cultures. Turkey, which blends with its cultural heritage, also wishes to increase its level of development. In this process, are we able to transform our cultural heritage from the near and distant past helped by an educational method in building a better future?"*

- *Can the Time Travel method and Applied Heritage work in making ecological heritage sustainable in Anatolia, a place of great biological diversity?*
- *Can we develop our cultural heritage with new generations and also in the field of tourism?*
- *And while doing all this, can we contribute to the society we live in and the future of our planet, engaging local people?"*



**Presenter, Dr. Mildred Ayere, Maseno University, Kenya**

Her focus on **"Significance of Researching the Time Travel Method"** was thought-provoking. This is important for those wanting further study on the impact of the method. She emphasized the academic processes:

*"A new method needs practice over time, Results analyzed, evaluated & reported, proof of outcome supported by empirical facts for it to be accepted in any formal curriculum, Findings from practicing the new method in different environments & situations shared broadly, Its outputs make a contribution to pedagogy and Need to contextualize findings within the larger body of research."*



**Presenter, Ebru Iltenmis from, Manisa, Turkey .**

She has been engaged in coordinating and implementing the Time Travel method for almost fifteen years. She gave an awe-inspiring presentation on her experience in Time Travel and Education.

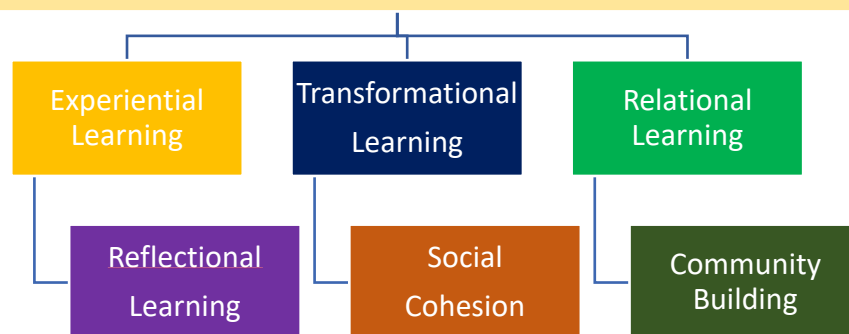


**Key Note Speaker. Dr. B. Gounden (Rueben), Port Shepstone Twinning Association, South Africa**

**Topic: Time Travel, Education, and Learning**

***Dr. Gounden unpacked different learning theories which underpin the Time Travel method.*** These theories and approaches provide a basis to understand how learners learn in multiple ways and different contexts. Illustration below. His presentation is documented in the Time Travel Educational Handbook.

### **TIME TRAVEL IS UNDERPINNED BY CONSTRUCTIVE THEORIES**



**Launch of the Time Travel Educational Handbook at the conference.**



This book provides the developmental spread of the Time Travel method. Chapter two deals with the multifaceted nature of learning and pedagogical theories that underpin the Time Travel method. Chapter three outlines the Time Travel process in terms of its planning, implementation, reflection, and evaluation. The final chapter provides **EXEMPLARS** of lesson plans.

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## ONLINE PRESENTATIONS



**Linda Liljeberg -Vice President of Bridging Ages**

**"How Kalmar County museum works with Time Travels."**

She presented how the museum works with topics on cooperation, democracy, gender equality, and climate change. All of these topics are curriculum linked.



**Agrita Ozola Director of Tukums museum, Latvia Baltic Museums: Contribution to Peace Building and Solidarity with Ukraine.**

"How should the past be told and whose stories and perspectives are important to contemporary society? In what way can turning points in the past promote social cohesion and peace today? What is the role of museums today? "



**Zafer Derin, Ege University, Turkey, Faculty in Archaeology**

Dr Zafer Derin presented the Yesilova Huyück Visitor Centre in Bornova municipality, Izmir. The visitor centre is based on archaeological excavations of a settlement from the Neolithic Stone Age, about 8000 years ago. Connected to the visitor centre is a reconstructed Stone Age village, where a lot of educational programs are organized, among others Time Travels to 6000 B.C. with focus on ecological and social changes. The impressive visitor centre opened for the public in 2014.



**Pille Rohta from Estonia together with the National Museum of Estonia has been successful since 2018 in hosting national Time Travel events, held at schools on the same day.** A proposal to Bridging Ages countries to host an international Time Travel event, on the same day, on a common topic globally in 2023. More information will follow.



**Kimendran Gounden, a Mechanical Engineering student, South Africa**  
**Topic: Four emerging global crises**



There were several other interesting presenters. View on: [bridgingages.com](https://bridgingages.com)

## Time Travel at Kulakkaya Plateau, Giresun - Hazelnut Co-operative 1938



Turkey is the largest producer of hazelnuts and accounts for 75% of world production. **Kulakkaya Plateau 1938** "Some hazelnut farmers in Giresun have been invited to an event. The purpose is to convince hazelnut farmers and other guests of the need for more cooperation and to work together."



The Time Travel event was vibrant, engaging, and spontaneous. Participants: people from the local hazelnut farm industry, musicians, learners, invited guests and conference delegates.

### The goal was to understand:

- the agriculture and hazelnut production
- the use of the environment
- the founding years of the Republic and development of democracy
- value of world peace
- strategic importance of agricultural production in times of war.

### Key questions!

1. How to organize a democratic and strong cooperative among hazelnut growers, to make every farmer involved in the process and benefits?
2. How to make quality agricultural production without harming the natural environment and people?
3. How to develop democratic systems in the country after Atatürk's death?
4. How to promote peacebuilding, respect, and tolerance between people and countries?

**These are questions even for today - 2022 and for the future!**

## Evaluations



*My name is **Doğa Sevrâ Aksu**. I never knew the Time Travel method. We haven't had it at school either. But here we went to 1938 with this method. We dressed according to that time. We prepared meals at that time. Nut butter, cornbread, buttermilk... we tried to make felt clothes... And we made it all by hand. We have never used machinery. An old lady was knitting a rope with the patterns we saw in math class. This was very interesting for me. Time Travel was so much fun"*

*"The conference was very useful, and enjoyed the presentations, I feel more confident now to organize a Time Travel event in Rhodes and also to be able to disseminate the Time Travel method in our country"*  
**Eleftheria Binikou**



*"What impressed me at the conference was as always in Bridging Ages, the engagement. The last session, Friday afternoon, included discussing a road map for the future. This discussion was intense and creative, everybody involved, and with so many good and interesting ideas, that it went on for one hour more than planned. These ideas must be taken seriously and be part of the coming Action Plan". Ebbe Westergren- Honorary President*





Time Travel Training - 24 May  
and from 24 June to 2 July 2022



The goal of the course: To understand the Time Travel method and its benefit for learning and development in school and community.

The training was attended by educators, universities, and museum professionals from Rhodes, Greece, and Turkey. An implementation plan of a Time Travel program at their own school/organisation was the way forward for the training participants. Certificates were handed out. The participants also planned and assisted in the implementation of the conference event. This was part of the practical training experience. Time Travel is very much an experiential learning process.

**The conference ended on an impressive point for continuity. The following working groups were established.**

1. Research, pre-event, and post-assessment: Gustav (convenor) Rueben, and Mildred
2. Project cooperation and proposals ("Tools for Change", Erasmus+, Anna Lindh Foundation, country funding) Ebbe and Cem
3. Strategic meetings (i.e. next action plan, sustainability, membership, development of the organization, Global Time Travel, conference 2023) Gulshera

***Members of Bridging Ages are welcome to contribute!***



**Anna Achiola**, from Rhodes, Greece was one of the participants who used the Time Travel Educational Handbook during the training from 24 June – 2 July 2022.

**Anna is the Director of The Medieval Rose Association.**

The Association is based on the maintenance of the unexploited, intangible medieval cultural heritage of the place while highlighting and utilizing the medieval architectural monuments as the natural setting. She and the team are planning their first Time Travel, after this training.

***Thanks and Acknowledgement to many who have made this conference a great success. We made such beautiful memories and friends. The Giresun community is incredibly unique!***

**goperatif**  
Karadeniz Ekolojik Kalkınma Derneği



## TRIBUTE TO HELEN EKLUND



Helen Eklund, an educator, and employee at Kalmar lans museum retired in March 2022. She worked at the museum for twenty-seven years.

Helen has made a significant contribution to promoting the Time Travel method to institutions in South Africa and several other countries. Her passion, dedication, and working with everybody as equals are her biggest attributes. We wish her well in her retirement.

## BRIDGING AGES DIGITAL NETWORK MEETING 12 SEPTEMBER 2022



**Gabriella Johansson, Bridging Ages Administrative Secretary writes:**

"The need for a platform on which members of Bridging Ages can meet and discuss issues connected to Time Travel became clear after the digital Annual General Meeting (AGM). Many members stayed behind after the AGM, to meet and discuss issues connected to Time Travel. Therefore, we are testing digital network meetings in the Bridging Ages community during the autumn and winter of 2022. The idea is to have an open platform where members can meet other members working with the Time Travel Method.

The agenda of the network meetings are created by the participants. Gulshera Khan, President of Bridging Ages emphasized the importance of the digital AGMs: s in keeping members of the Bridging Ages network together. Bridging Ages now needs to keep the momentum going and find a more "informal" platform to continue meeting and sharing ideas. We now have a channel, through these network meetings, to reach a wide range of people, including museum employees, members of civil society, educational institutions, and people generally interested in the Time Travel Method and its implementations."

**Next digital webinars are scheduled for:**

- Network Meeting Monday 14 November
- Webinar Monday 12 December 2022. The suggested theme is "Time Travels and the Climate"

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