



2025 Annual Report

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OUR FOUNDER



PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

I LIVE AND PROSPER WITH MY COUNTRY.

As long as
democracy exists
and thrives, so do
we.

We shall do
our utmost to
strengthen our
economy.

As our economy
prosper, so will
democracy and
our standing in the
world.

Vehbi Koç

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Vehbi Koç Foundation's approach is rooted in creating an enduring impact and ensuring its sustainability while maximizing social benefit.



As we approach the first centenary of the Koç Group, we continue to strive with the same commitment that has guided our foundation since its inception. We view economic development and social progress as an inseparable whole. We take great pride in witnessing the tangible impact of our contributions to our nation's development as reflected in the young people graduated from our educational institutions, in the scientific knowledge generated at our university, in the advances in healthcare developed at our hospitals, and in our endeavors in culture and art.

Vehbi Koç Foundation's approach is rooted in creating an enduring impact and ensuring its sustainability while maximizing social benefit. Guided by this philosophy, our institutions aim to set ever-higher benchmarks in their own endeavors each year.

Driven by our unwavering commitment and special support for the earthquake-stricken areas of our country's southeast, Vehbi Koç Foundation initiatives at the Umut Kent (Hope City) container cities are shaped by an all-inclusive approach. Programs designed to support the all-round development of youngsters from infancy through late teen are combined with capacity-building initiatives for teachers and specialists, all with the aim of fostering long-term social resilience.

Our efforts to strengthen equal opportunity in education continue without letup. Through our scholarship programs and endowment schools, we contribute to the educational journeys of young people in every part of our country. We have created knowledge-sharing platforms linking our endowment schools and Koç School to disseminate best practices and foster a culture of mutual learning. While ensuring the uninterrupted maintenance and renovation of our existing schools, we remain equally committed to building new ones. A new primary school whose foundations were recently laid in Kocaeli-Gölcük represents a potent example of public-private sector partnership.

In healthcare, early-phase studies and global research partnerships underway at the Koç University Hospital Clinical Research Center are driving scientific breakthroughs while unlocking access to pioneering therapies. The ongoing, highly successful collaboration between Koç Healthcare and the Mayo Clinic fosters a culture of quality across our healthcare services on an international scale. The Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice and Research Center (SANERC) continues to be a source of immense pride as the first and only internationally accredited post-graduate training and research center established for healthcare professionals in our country. Since its inception, SANERC has been pioneering nursing education in Turkey while also developing creative training models and delivering best practices. Nursing orientation programs and knowledge-sharing processes contribute not only to professional development but also to the reinforcement of standards of practice and evaluation. I see the acceptance of SANERC's application to be an accredited Joanna Briggs Institute Entity as a significant milestone

supporting the advancement of evidence-based nursing practices not just in our own country but regionally as well.

We have relocated the Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM), an academic platform that holds a unique place in our cultural life, from Vehbi Koç Bağ Evi in Keçiören to meticulously restored Büyük Apartman in Ulus. This is a Grade II listed cultural property originally commissioned as a commercial building by Vehbi Koç in 1928. VEKAM's shortlisting in the "Heritage Champions" category at the European Heritage Awards was a meaningful development, demonstrating that our work in cultural heritage is internationally recognized and appreciated.

Guided by a deep sense of stewardship for the legacy handed down from its founder, we are carrying the Vehbi Koç Foundation into the future. While doing so, our objectives must be to further strengthen the high-caliber institutions we have built, to ensure the permanence of the value we create, and to act under all circumstances with a profound sense of responsibility towards our country. We remain fully committed to maintaining this resolve, driven by the very same faith and shared dedication.

Semahat Arsel

Chair of the Board of Directors

Our objectives are to further strengthen the high-caliber institutions we have built, to ensure the permanence of the value we create, and to act under all circumstances with a profound sense of responsibility towards our country.

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

We address the physical, mental, emotional, and social development of Umut Kent youngsters holistically through a multidimensional support mechanism that ranges from education and sports to culture, arts, and psychosocial wellbeing.



In an age characterized by uncertainties, multidimensional crises, and rapid transformations, initiatives that focus on social benefit, enhance resilience, and have a lasting impact are more critical than ever. As the Vehbi Koç Foundation, we embrace an approach in education, healthcare, and culture that is not just about offering support but about learning in the field, pioneering new models, and creating sustainable value.

Our Umut Kent container city initiatives in the earthquake-stricken southeast continue to stand as the most powerful and comprehensive example of this approach. Our core principle is to ensure that the support initiated under the Disaster Relief Fund continues for as long as these cities exist and that all donations to the fund are flexibly deployed in line with the changing needs of children and evolving local conditions. We address the physical, mental, emotional, and social development of Umut Kent youngsters holistically through a multidimensional support mechanism that ranges from education and sports to culture, arts, and psychosocial wellbeing.

During 2025 we again continued to support thousands of young people, delivering targeted assistance that ranged from scholarships and entrance exam preparation to essential supplies like books, learning materials, sports gear, school uniforms, computers, and tuition assistance.

Alongside academic assistance, we supported children's wellbeing through targeted initiatives such as early childhood parent-child interaction education, arts and development workshops for the 3-6 age group, programs focused on privacy and peer bullying, psychological support for students preparing for exams, and summer schools. Summer programs run at the Hatay and Kahramanmaraş Umut Kent container cities—with the active participation of Koç School educators and volunteer teachers—strengthen participating youngsters' social bonds and academic motivation.

We continue to expand the reach of our initiatives in education. Since 1969, we have provided scholarships to more than 57,000 students—7,229 of them during the 2024-2025 academic year alone. Last year we further strengthened our partnerships with institutions of higher education by expanding our scholarship network to include seven more universities. While continuing to provide maintenance and improvement services at our 21 endowment schools across the country, we expanded our educational investment portfolio by breaking ground on a new primary school in Kocaeli-Gölcük.

Through the Endowment School Workshops organized as part of the Koç Endowment Schools Gatherings program, we have established a robust learning network focused on school

culture and leadership, technology and artificial intelligence in education, psychological resilience, and the sustainability of best practices. Highly rated for participant satisfaction, these meetings successfully provided opportunities for meaningful collaboration across our endowment schools.

Driven by a research-led philosophy and academic excellence ever since its inception, Koç University numbers among Turkey's top higher education institutions and upholds its reputation as the nation's leading research university. In 2025, the Vehbi Koç Foundation continued to channel robust, wide-ranging support into Koç University, with particular emphasis being given to the School of Medicine. We also continued our investments to expand campus infrastructure. We increased dormitory capacity to improve our students' quality of life and expanded faculty housing to support the recruitment and retention of academic staff. Koç University continues to maintain its leading position as a source of published research, as an international partner, and as a touchstone of academic excellence. As an educational institution, its rise in global rankings continues unabated. Ranked first in Turkey and the only Turkish university to break into the global top 50 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026, Koç University was also named among the top 10 universities in Asia in that category. By climbing from 41st place to 28th last year, Koç University further bolstered its leadership in interdisciplinary research. In the QS World University Rankings 2026, it shot up 78 places to secure the 323rd position globally. Building upon this strong foundation, we regard advancing our university to even higher levels in the international arena as a strategic priority; in line with this, we are focusing on sustainable and qualitative growth without compromising the quality of our education or research.

In line with our comprehensive vision of health and wellbeing for all life, we partnered with Tuzla Municipality to lay the foundation for the Koç Pati Rehabilitation Center on October 4th World Animal Day. Occupying 7.5 decares, the center will be conducting end-to-end treatment,

rehabilitation, and adoption programs. Once fully operational, the shelter will be capable of accommodating up to 1,400 dogs and 500 cats. With a service model encompassing everything from spaying and neutering to vaccinations, post-op recovery, and rehoming, the center is set to become a benchmark facility that is mindful of community sensitivities.

As the lifeblood of our collective social identity, culture and the arts remain a priority for our foundation, with sustained support being channeled directly through our own cultural institutions. Engaging broad audiences through exhibitions, educational programs, and enriched visitor experiences, these institutions are pioneering entities that shape our country's cultural and artistic landscape. The relocation of Sadberk Hanım Museum, Turkey's first privately-owned museum, to its new venue is an integral part of this cultural vision. By supporting this project, we are also strengthening one of our country's most enduring cultural institutions and deepening our long-term commitment to preserving and enriching Turkey's artistic and archaeological legacy.

Throughout 2025, we continued to effectively manage our foundation's assets, seamlessly channeling our resources into our projects. As of year-end, the market value of the foundation's assets was TL 57.3 billion. Total expenditures last year amounted to TL 3.4 billion. Budgeted expenditures in 2026 amount to TL 8.7 billion in value.

Driven by an adaptive mindset that embraces continuous learning and partnership, the Vehbi Koç Foundation optimizes its resource management to secure long-term, sustainable benefit for society. Guided by our core philosophy of "Our Duty" and amalgamating our founder's vision of contemporary philanthropy with the dynamics of this century, we will continue to invest in the future of our country.

Oğuz Toprakoğlu
General Manager

We regard advancing Koç University to even higher levels in the international arena as a strategic priority; in line with this, we are focusing on sustainable and qualitative growth without compromising the quality of our education or research.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION IN BRIEF

The first privately-owned charitable foundation to be chartered by the newly-established Republic of Turkey, Vehbi Koç Foundation was created to reinvigorate our country’s venerable charitably foundation traditions by increasingly fading tradition of institutional philanthropy. The foundation aims to play a leading role in improving the quality of life for the people of Turkey by focusing on the three cornerstones of a robust society: education, culture, and healthcare.

Dedicated to the advancement of a progressive, enlightened, and thriving Turkey, Vehbi Koç Foundation has served as an inspiration for philanthropists since its inception and has since achieved numerous significant firsts through the non-profit entities it sets up and manages. The foundation also plays a key role in promoting equal access to education through the scholarships it awards to talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through institutions that have each become centers of excellence, the Vehbi Koç Foundation continues to set an example for society as a whole. The foundation’s mission is to bring new insights into the realms of education, health, and culture in Turkey. In addition to its own institutions, which are central to its purpose, the foundation also serves the community through extensive project support in the areas of education, healthcare, and culture.

Established

17 January 1969

Objective

Taking inspiration from the words of its founder Vehbi Koç “I exist only if my country exists”, Vehbi Koç Foundation aims to set examples of excellence throughout its country through the most effective use of its resources and by creating sustainable, replicable models for social wellbeing in line with the principles of reliability, inclusivity, equality, and transparency.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Sources of Income

- Annual income derived from 7.26% of Koç Holding
- Annual donations by Koç Group Companies and the Koç Family
- Income from cash and real estate assets

ASSETS

Market value of foundation assets

TL 57.3 billion*

** Market value reached as of 31 December 2025

BALANCE SHEET DATA

2025 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

TL 3,350 million



2026 BUDGET

TL 8,724 million



EXPENDITURES AND INVESTMENTS

Period	USD million
1969-1982	2
1983-1992	29
1993-2002	336
2003-2012	495
2013-2025	896
Total	1,758

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Chair**
Semahat Arsel
- **Vice Chair**
Rahmi M. Koç
- **Members**
Ömer M. Koç
Ali Y. Koç
İpek Kırac
Prof. Üstün Ergüder
Prof. Celal Erkut
Hakan Aran
Temel Atay
Levent Çakıroğlu

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Chair**
Semahat Arsel
- **Members**
Temel Atay
Levent Çakıroğlu

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

General Manager

Oğuz Toprakoğlu

Accounting and Administrative Affairs Coordinator

Ahmet Özdirek

Project and Investment Coordinator

Mustafa Karataş

Consultants

Kayhan Dörtlük

Mesrure Tekay

Nevzat Tüfekçi

Headquarters Team

Aylin Urkan

Aysun Rana Bilge

Ayşenur Sencar Esmer

Beril Bilen Gürbüz

Bülent Tan

Çiğdem Toparlak

Devrim Hasar

Dilan Yavuz Aşık

Ebru Kılıç

Görkem Kurt Tunalı

Hakan Vatansever

Hasan Yelkenci

Hilal Şeman Demirtopuz

İrfan Gürbüz

Levent Özbarut

Neslihan Karaosmanoğlu Gür

Neşe Yohay

Nurcan Çakıllık Talay

Onur Yörüken

Orhan Işık

Seçil Kınay Yılmaz

Tuğçe Kutlu Serintürk

PRESENTATION

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBİ KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

- EDUCATION ■
- HEALTHCARE ■
- CULTURE ■
- CIVIL SOCIETY ■
- SCHOLARSHIP ●

5,936 university students

The Vehbi Koç Foundation and its institutions continued their support for education in 2025 by providing scholarships to 5,936 university students.

1,305 high school students

The Vehbi Koç Foundation and its institutions continued their support for education in 2025 by providing scholarships to 1,305 high school students.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION IN TURKEY

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION REACHES OUT TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY THROUGH THE INSTITUTIONS IT MANAGES, THE PROGRAMS IT CONDUCTS, AND THE PROJECTS THAT IT SUPPORTS IN THE THREE CORNERSTONES OF A ROBUST SOCIETY: EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND HEALTHCARE.

İSTANBUL

Vehbi Koç Foundation Institutions

- Koç School
- Koç University
- Koç University School of Nursing
- American Hospital
- American Outpatient Medical Center
- Koç University Hospital
- Koç University Health Sciences Campus
- SANERC - Koç University Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice and Research Center
- VetAmerican Pet Hospital
- Arter
- Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED)
- Meşher
- Sadberk Hanım Museum
- Vehbi Koç House

Endowment Schools

- Beyazıt Ford Otosan Koç Elementary School
- Beykoz Koç Middle School
- Beylikdüzü Koç Middle School
- Sarıyer Vehbi Koç Foundation Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

Supported Institutions

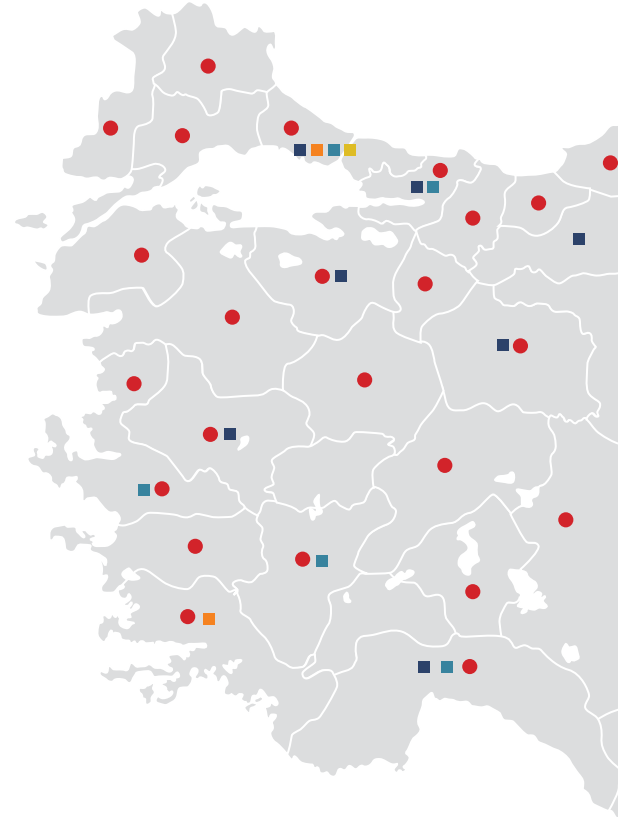
- Atatürk Library
- Boğaziçi University Superdorm Student Dormitory
- Boğaziçi University Foundation
- Galatasaray University Suna Kiraç Library
- Hisar Foundation
- Robert College Suna Kiraç Hall
- Haydarpaşa Numune Hospital Vehbi Koç Emergency Medical Center

Regularly Supported NGOs

- Darülaceze Institution

Supported Cultural Heritage Projects

- Saint Euphemia Church



ADIYAMAN

Supported Institutions

- Adiyaman University Faculty of Education Vehbi Koç Building

AKSARAY

Endowment Schools

- Ağzıkarahan Vehbi Koç Primary School

ANKARA

Vehbi Koç Foundation Institutions

- VEKAM and Ankara Orchard House

Endowment Schools

- Sincan Koç Primary School

Supported Institutions

- Ankara University Vehbi Koç Eye Hospital
- METU - Vehbi Koç Dormitories
- Ankara University Vehbi Koç Dormitories
- Supported Institutions
- The Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) Semahat - Dr. Nusret Arsel Education Park

ANTALYA

- Vehbi Koç Foundation Institutions
- AKMED and Kaleiçi Museum

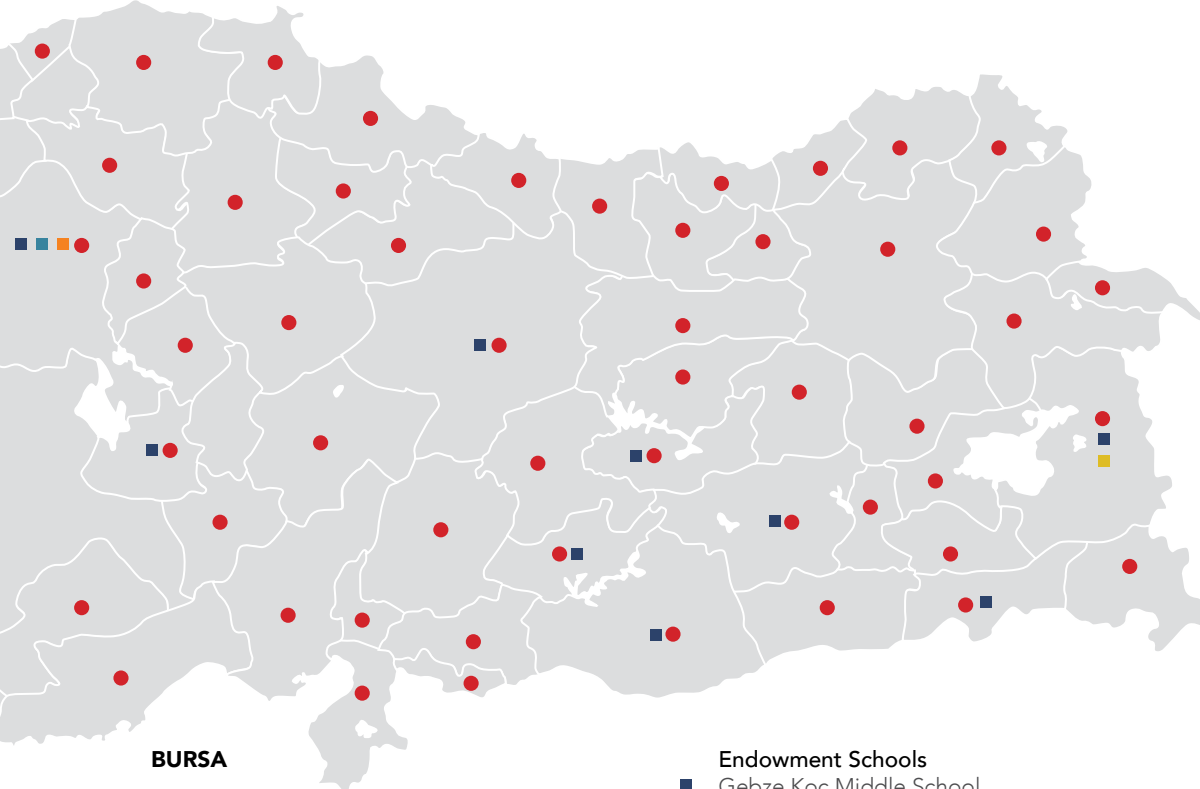
Supported Institutions

- TEGV Suna-İnan Kiraç Education Park

BOLU

Endowment Schools

- Bolu Koç Primary School

**BURSA****Endowment Schools**

- İnegöl Vehbi Koç Primary School
- Nilüfer Koç Middle School
- Orhangazi Koç Primary School
- Yenişehir Koç Middle School

DENİZLİ**Supported Cultural Heritage Projects**

- Hierapolis Ancient City

DİYARBAKIR**Endowment Schools**

- Bağlar Vehbi Koç Primary School
- Kayapınar Vehbi Koç Primary School

ELAZIĞ**Endowment Schools**

- Elazığ Koç Primary School

ESKİŞEHİR**Endowment Schools**

- İnönü Vehbi Koç Middle School

İZMİR**Supported Projects**

- Ankara University Mustafa V. Koç Marine Archaeology Research Center

KOCAELİ**Vehbi Koç Foundation Institutions**

- Vehbi Koç Foundation Ford Otosan Gölcük Culture and Community Center

Endowment Schools

- Gebze Koç Middle School
- İzmit Ford Otosan Middle School

Supported Institutions

- Kocaeli University Vehbi Koç Foundation Ford Otosan Gölcük İhsaniye Automotive Vocational School

MANİSA**Supported Institutions**

- Celal Bayar University Soma Underground Training Pit Project

MUĞLA**Vehbi Koç Foundation Institutions**

- Bodrum American Hospital

SİVAS**Endowment Schools**

- Kangal Koç Anatolian High School

ŞANLIURFA**Endowment Schools**

- Şanlıurfa Koç Primary and Middle Schools

Supported Institutions

- TEGV Sevgi-Erdoğan Gönül Education Park

ŞİRNAK**Endowment Schools**

- Silopi Koç Primary School

VAN**Endowment Schools**

- Van Koç Primary School

Supported Institutions

- Vehbi Koç Foundation Ford Otosan Van Teachers' Housing Complex

NATIONWIDE**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- Endowment School Project
- Anatolia is Reading
- Educational Scholarships

SUPPORTED PROJECTS

- Science Academy Young Scientists (BAGEP) Scholarship Award
- TEGV - Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey
- Turkish Nurses Association
- TÜSEV - Third Sector Foundation of Turkey

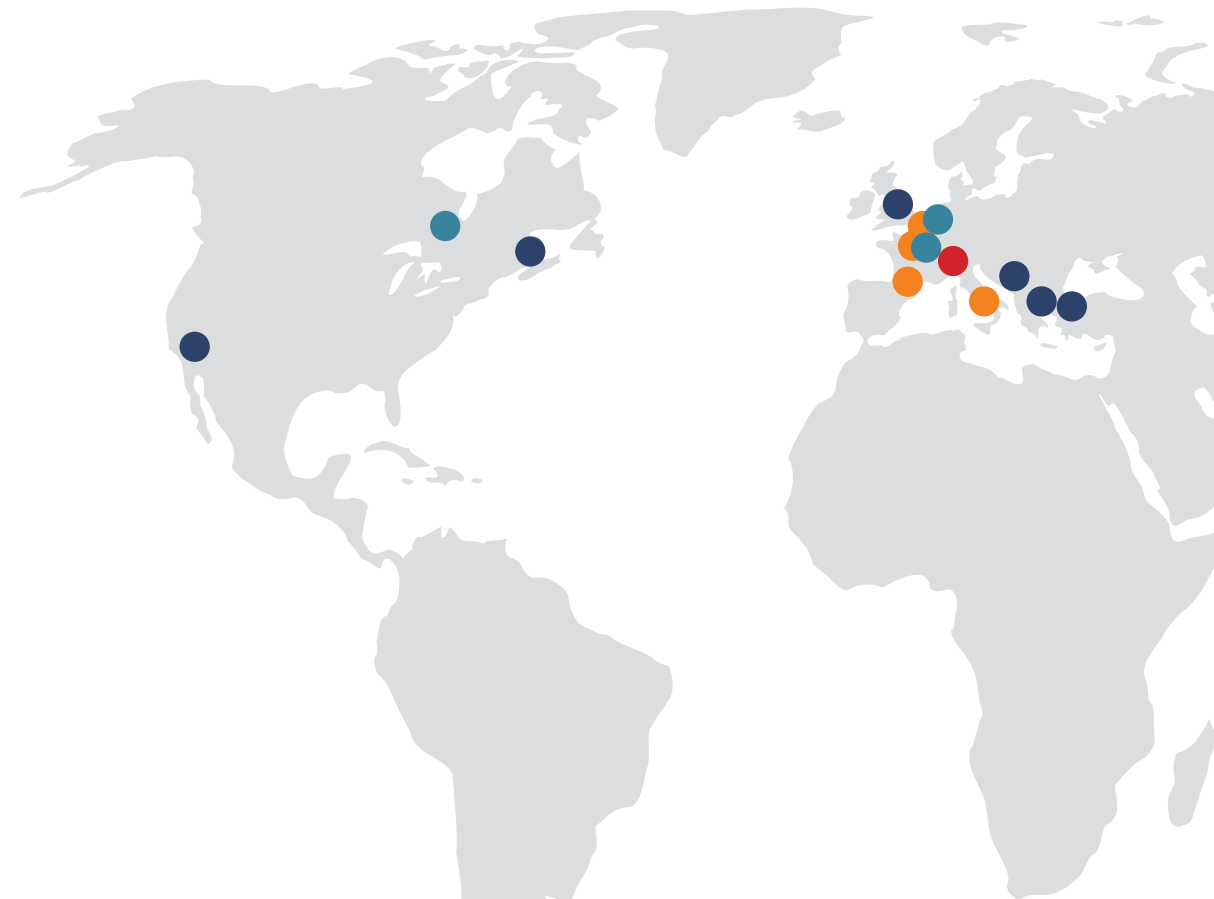
INSTITUTIONS**SUPPORTED THROUGH KOÇ GROUP COMPANIES**

- İnönü Family Foundation
- Rahmi M. Koç Museum and Culture Foundation
- Suna and İnan Kiraç Foundation
- TAPV - Turkish Family Health & Planning Foundation
- TEMA - Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of National Habitats

SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS IN 2025

- İstanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV)
- STDV - Civil Society Support Foundation
- Wild Fires Emergency Support Fund
- The Turkish Foundation for Underwater Archaeology
- TURMEPA Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION IN THE WORLD



- International Cooperations - USA**
 - Boston USA**
Harvard University Vehbi Koç Chair of Turkish Studies
 - New York USA**
The American Turkish Society
Award of Excellence in Philanthropy
World Monuments Fund
Hadrian Award
Iris Foundation Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Decorative Arts
Koç Family Galleries of Ottoman Arts at the Metropolitan Museum
Synergos Institute
 - Rhode Island - Providence USA**
Brown University
 - San Francisco - California USA**
Global Heritage Fund
 - Stanford USA**
The Carnegie Foundation
The Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy

- International Cooperations - EUROPE**
 - Sarajevo Bosnia-Herzegovina**
Mozaik Foundation
 - London United Kingdom**
Social Enterprise UK
 - Geneva Switzerland**
The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
 - Athens Greece**
Stavros Niarchos Foundation



Through projects and partnerships coordinated by its headquarters in Turkey, the Vehbi Koç Foundation is also active in many other countries worldwide.

● Affiliation - EUROPE

Brussels Belgium

Konektor
Philanthropy East Forum
PHILEA Philanthropy Europe Association

Paris France

BNP Paribas Grand Prix for Individual
Philanthropy

Den Haag Netherlands

Euclid

Europa Nostra Award for Conservation

Venice Italy

Venice Biennale Pavilion of Turkey

● Works from the Arter Collection were Exhibited at

Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
Museum für Neue Kunst

Lennik, Belgium

Kasteel van Gaasbeek

Chicago, Illinois, USA

The Art Institute of Chicago

Berlin, Germany

Hamburger Bahnhof

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION PROJECTS

Education	Healthcare	Culture
• The Teachers’ Network • Endowment Schools • BAGEP Awards • Earthquake-Resilient Cities: A Roadmap (Joint Vehbi Koç Foundation and Science Academy project) • Anatolia is Reading • Supporting TEGV Educational Parks and Points • Hope Cities Vehbi Koç Foundation TEGV Container Learning Units • Joint KODA and Vehbi Koç Foundation Mentoring Summer Camp • Gelecek Hayalim Project to Empower Women in STEM Disciplines • Koç Sınıflarında Sahne Var Project • Kahramanmaraş Dulkadiroğlu Psychosocial Support and Professional Resilience Project for Educators • Education Reform Initiative: Data-Driven Solutions for Inclusive and Quality Education • Collective Impact Assessment for the Teaching Profession • The Koç School Mathematics Festival	• Social Health Volunteers Project • Ankara University School of Medicine Vehbi Koç Eye Hospital • Haydarpaşa Numune Hospital Vehbi Koç Emergency Medical Center • Alz-PRO: Alzheimer’s Training and Capacity Building Project for Professionals	• Pamukkale Hierapolis Ancient City Excavations • İstanbul Biennial • KARMA XR LAB: Cultural Heritage Interactive Experiences • 26th Ayvalık Music Academy Masterclass

SCHOLARSHIPS

Designed to support the educational pursuits of high-achieving students in financial need, our scholarship programs include undergraduate, vocational training, nursing, assistantship, earthquake zone scholarships, scholarships for students attending endowment schools, and scholarships for the children of Koç Group employees.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

KoneKtor - Philanthropy East Forum

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION INSTITUTIONS

Education

- The Koç School (High School 1988, Elementary School 1998)
- Koç University (1993)
- Koç Elementary and Middle Schools (1998)
 - In 1998, when the 75th anniversary of the Republic was celebrated, the Foundation opened 13 primary schools throughout the country. New schools have been added to this project since 2006 and the total number has reached 21.

Healthcare

- Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice and Research Center (SANERC, 1992)
- Vehbi Koç Foundation American Hospital (1995)
- American Outpatient Medical Center (1997)
- Koç University School of Nursing (1999)
- Koç University School of Medicine (2010)
- Koç University Hospital (2014)
- Bodrum American Hospital (2019)
- VetAmerican (2023)

Culture

- Sadberk Hanım Museum (1980)
- Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM, 1994)
- Koç University Suna & İnan Kıraç Research Center for Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED, 1996)
- Antalya Kaleiçi Museum (1996)
- Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED, 2005)
- TANAS Art Gallery, Berlin (2008-2013)
- Arter, İstanbul (2010)
- Vehbi Koç Foundation Ford Otosan Gölçük Culture and Community Center (2010)
- Koç University Sevgi Gönül Byzantine Studies Center (GABAM, 2015)
- Meşher (2019)

AWARD PROGRAM

Vehbi Koç Award

Vehbi Koç Award, coordinated and financed by Vehbi Koç Foundation, is given annually for education, health and culture, respectively to individuals or organizations that have contributed significantly to the people and the development of Turkey. Vehbi Koç Foundation considers it a social responsibility and an honorable duty to embrace and support individuals and organizations that serve and contribute to our country; and aims to recognize exemplary services that add value to the society with the "Vehbi Koç Award".

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

SINCE 2002...

The Vehbi Koç Foundation Vehbi Koç award is intended to "highlight and honor exemplary services that contribute to society."

www.vehbikocodulu.com



Vehbi Koç Award in Brief

Vehbi Koç Award, coordinated and financed by Vehbi Koç Foundation, is given annually for education, health and culture, respectively to individuals or organizations that have contributed significantly to the people and the development of Turkey.

Vehbi Koç Foundation considers it a social responsibility and an honorable duty to embrace and support individuals and organizations that serve and contribute to our country; and aims to recognize exemplary services that add value to the society with the "Vehbi Koç Award".

The individual or organization to receive the award is chosen by the Vehbi Koç Foundation Board of Directors among three names nominated by the Selection Committee, consisting of leading scientists and experts in their fields.

Recipients of the Vehbi Koç Award

2025 - Healthcare: Assoc. Prof. Kivanç Birsoy

2024 - Education: Turkish Female Physicians' Education Support Foundation (KAHEV)

2023 - Culture: Genco Erkal and the Dostlar Theatre

2022 - Healthcare: Ord. Prof. İvet Behar

2021 - Education: Prof. Hüseyin Vural

2020 - Culture: Prof. İlhan Tekeli

2019 - Healthcare: Prof. Mehmet Toner

2018 - Education: Prof. Yılmaz Büyükerşen

2017 - Culture: Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay

2016 - Healthcare: Prof. Kamil Uğurbil

2015 - Education: Prof. Ali Nesin and the Mathematics Village

2014 - Culture: Prof. Zeynep Çelik

2013 - Healthcare: Prof. Gökhan Hotamışlıgil

2012 - Education: Prof. Nermin Abadan Unat

2011 - Culture: Prof. Filiz Ali and the Ayvalık International Music Academy

2010 - Healthcare: Prof. Turgay Dalkara

2009 - Education: Prof. Türkan Saylan

2008 - Culture: Prof. Mehmet Özdoğan

2007 - Healthcare: Prof. Aziz Sancar

2006 - Education: Nuri Okutan

2005 - Culture: Fazıl Hüsni Dağlarca

2004 - Healthcare: Bilkent University Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics

2003 - Education: Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV)

2002 - Culture: Topkapı Palace Museum

2025 VEHBI KOÇ AWARD



ASSOC. PROF. KIVANÇ BİRSOY RECEIVES 24TH VEHBI KOÇ AWARD IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE (2025)

Presented annually by the Vehbi Koç Foundation across the rotating disciplines of culture, education, and healthcare, the 2025 Vehbi Koç Award was bestowed on Assoc. Prof. Kivanç Birsoy. Assoc. Prof. Birsoy received the award in recognition of his groundbreaking research uncovering metabolic pathways which drive cancer progression and which could serve as potential therapeutic targets.

Assoc. Prof. Kivanç Birsoy was selected as the laureate from among three candidates proposed by the Selection Committee, which was chaired by Prof. Ahmet Gül and comprised Prof. Hayrunnisa Bolay Belen, Prof. Gökhan Hotamışlıgil, Prof. Tayfun Özçelik, and Prof. Murat Akova, alongside the Vehbi Koç Foundation Board of Directors. Assoc. Prof. Birsoy is known for his pioneering work aimed at understanding the role of metabolic alterations in cancer progression. In addition to directing the Laboratory of Metabolic Regulation and Genetics at Rockefeller University, Assoc. Prof. Birsoy leads a collaborative research team featuring prominent scientists from Turkey.

ASSOC. PROF. KIVANÇ BİRSOY

Assoc. Prof. Kivanç Birsoy is known for pioneering research aimed at deciphering the pivotal role of metabolic alterations in cancer progression.

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VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund supports a wide range of activities and programs to promote the cognitive and social-emotional development of children and young people living in the Umut Kent container cities set up by the Koç Group.



WE CONTINUE TO
NOURISH HOPE
THROUGH THE VEHBI KOÇ
FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND IN BRIEF

Guided by the vision of its founder Vehbi Koç, who famously said "I exist only if my country exists", the Vehbi Koç Foundation works to create social benefit. In the aftermath of the devastating Gölcük earthquake of 1999, the Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund was set up by the foundation to support disaster victims everywhere in Turkey. Following the 6 February 2023 earthquakes that laid waste to large areas of the country's southeast, donations made by Koç Group companies and their employees and by Koç Group dealerships were pooled in the Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. Seeking to foster the wellbeing of children and young people living in the Umut Kent container cities erected by Koç Group companies in Adıyaman, Hatay, İskenderun, Kahramanmaraş, and Malatya, the fund uses its resources to help them achieve their full potential

and be the very best they can be. The Vehbi Koç Foundation also plans to use its own resources to support activities aimed at the parents, teachers, and other adults who are essential to children's wellbeing.

The foundation's core principle is to ensure that the support initiated under the Disaster Relief Fund continues for as long as these container cities exist and that all donations to the fund are flexibly deployed in line with the changing needs of children and evolving local conditions.



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOCUS

Raising healthy, successful, and happy children is possible only by supporting them in all three key areas of development: physical, cognitive, and emotional-social. In the conduct of the Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund's efforts to support children and young people living in the foundation's Hope Cities, priority is given to two main issues:

- Fostering child wellbeing: Addressing the physical, cognitive, and emotional-social developmental needs of children and providing targeted programs for parents
- Helping children to realize themselves and their maximum potential: Determining children's areas of interest, curiosity, developmental orientation, and academic needs of and supporting them individually and through teachers via schools.

- The allocation of all fund resources is handled flexibly and is guided by periodic assessments of the children's evolving needs and prevailing local conditions.



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION COORDINATION CENTERS

Vehbi Koç Foundation Coordination Centers serve as common areas for the coordination and conduct of disaster recovery and relief efforts in the Adıyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş Hope Cities by Vehbi Koç Foundation organizations, Koç Group companies, and NGOs.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION COORDINATION CENTERS

Vehbi Koç Foundation Coordination Centers located in the Adıyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş Hope Cities serve as common spaces for activities in the areas of education, health, and culture. These activities are conducted in collaboration with Vehbi Koç Foundation organizations, Koç Group companies, and NGOs. They are designed to support the wellbeing of children and young people and to help them realize their potential.

All the Vehbi Koç Foundation Coordination Centers were designed using the same master plan and contain the following functional spaces:

- Office, training, or workshop space for the disaster-relief operations of Vehbi Koç Foundation and its organizations
- Short-term office, training, or workshop space for the activities of Koç Group companies in the area
- Short-term office, training, or workshop space for NGOs collaborating with Vehbi Koç Foundation
- Short-term supplementary training or workshop space for NGOs active in Hope Cities
- Study hall space for Hope City-resident middle school and high school students preparing for entrance exams.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION

Vehbi Koç Foundation conducts its socially beneficial activities in Hope Cities as guided by the needs of those living there. The foundation carefully plans its projects and scholarship support initiatives in line with the same principle.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES |

- More than 3,400 school-supply kits and more than 3,700 book sets (textbooks and story books) were handed out to children living in Hope Cities.
- Sports equipment was provided to 900 children enrolled in various sports schools opened by the Koç Group Sports Club (KTSK) in Hope Cities.
- For students living in Hope Cities, scholarships were awarded to 282 high school students by the Disaster Relief Fund and to 167 university students by the Vehbi Koç Foundation University Fund. Support was also provided to more than six hundred middle and high school students attending national school entrance exam prep courses at leading local education centers.
- During the 2025-2026 academic year, laptops were presented to 13 students residing in the region who scored within the top 10% percentile on the High School Entrance Exam (LGS) or ranked in the top 10,000 on the Higher Education Institutions Exam (YKS) and enrolled in a university.
- The foundation provided educational expense stipends to 58 first-year university students in 2025. The students' progress is being closely tracked.
- School uniform support was provided to 1,270 students.
- Vehbi Koç Foundation sponsored the establishment of Container Learning Units at the Adıyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş, Hope Cities by Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV). TEGV volunteers have been on hand and working with children in the 6-14 age group without interruption since the very beginning.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

449

high school & university
students

SCHOOL SUPPLY KIT RECIPIENTS

+4,500

students

PREP COURSE PARTICIPANTS

+3,400

middle & high school
students

BOOK SET RECIPIENTS

+3,700

students

RECIPIENTS OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY KOÇ GROUP SPORTS CLUB TO SPORTS SCHOOLS

900

children and youth

MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE KOÇ UNIVERSITY SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM (KUSIF)

The Koç University Social Impact Forum has published a Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis detailing the impact of scholarships and exam preparation initiatives funded via the Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund between 1 July 2023 and 31 August 2024. The study has received formal accreditation from Social Value International, a global standard-setting body for social value and impact management. These analyses serve two core purposes: enabling management to make impact-driven decisions that enhance value creation while also maintaining robust transparency and accountability for funding partners and external stakeholders.

The report has been utilized to evaluate the exact scale of impact across various stakeholder groups, driving data-backed decisions to amplify positive outcomes and optimizing the management of created value. The assessment was carried out strictly in accordance with SROI methodology, social impact management frameworks, and the core social value principles of Social Value International to ensure full compliance with applicable international standards. The methodology was applied to measure and account for the social value generated in stakeholders' lives as a result of these activities, in effect monetizing the social impact so as to be able to compare it directly with the financial investment.

Support provided by the Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund included monthly educational stipends for high school and university students, complimentary exam

preparation courses for middle school students, high schoolers, and recent graduates in partnership with local tutoring centers, the distribution of school supply kits and book sets to children, and the provision of psychosocial support alongside academic counseling. The primary stakeholders of the Disaster Relief Fund were children and youths aged 0-18 residing in the Hope Cities; secondary stakeholders included parents, educators and administrators at local tutoring centers, as well as the Vehbi Koç Foundation headquarters and field staff.

The SROI analysis revealed that every TL 1 invested generated the equivalent of TL 24.61 in social return. This result shows the substantial positive social impact and high capital efficiency achieved through the Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. The positive changes experienced by stakeholders included an enhanced forward-looking outlook, elevated academic performance and self-confidence, reduced stress and anxiety, increased sense of economic security, and heightened feelings of personal autonomy. The psychological wellbeing and recovery of students, parents, and educators also improved.

The Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund continues to drive substantial positive social transformation in the lives of stakeholders affected by the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes. SROI analysis also provides insights for optimizing the fund's operational efficacy, ensuring robust accountability, and fostering sustainable, positive change across affected communities.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Vehbi Koç Foundation Disaster Relief Fund has generated a meaningful positive social impact for stakeholders affected by the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes.



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE REGION ACTIVITIES IN
2025

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION: 0-3 INFANTS & THEIR CAREGIVERS

**CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINER-TRAINING AND
SUPERVISION PROGRAMS WERE CONDUCTED
TO ENHANCE PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION
DURING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT.**

A workshop program designed to support the development of infants and toddlers aged 0-3 living in Umut Kent container cities while providing psychosocial support to their caregivers reached 330 infant-caregiver pairs through pilot-phase trials in Hatay, Adıyaman, and Kahramanmaraş during 2024. In line with the needs identified and observations recorded during the pilot phase, the focus in 2025 shifted towards building educator capacity to ensure the program's sustainable implementation in the field. An onsite "Infant/Toddler-Parent Workshop Trainer-training" program held on 19 March 2025 was attended by 26 specialists from the Vehbi Koç Foundation and its partner non-governmental organizations. The training curriculum encompassed developmental milestones for the 0-3 age group, play-based approaches to parent-child relationships, the workshop implementation model, and frameworks for managing challenging scenarios in the field.

Following the trainer-training stage, an online planning and supervision meeting was convened on 7 May 2025 to structure the rollout of the workshops across the Hope Cities and for support field personnel. This meeting brought together 15 specialists operating in various cities to evaluate the field implementation processes, group launches, and targeted support requirements.

These efforts represent an important step forward in scaling the early childhood workshop program through localized delivery models and embedding it as a permanent, re-executable framework. During the 2024-2025 cycle, the program reached a total of 371 participants.

WORKSHOPS AND AUTHOR- INTERACTION SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-6

YEAR-ROUND, MULTI-PHASED WORKSHOPS PROVIDED ART-, PLAY-, AND DEVELOPMENT- FOCUSED ENGAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-6 AND PARENTS LIVING IN UMUT KENT CONTAINER CITIES.

The “Family-to-School Academy” program was set up to support the cognitive, emotional, and social development of preschool-aged (3-6) children living in Umut Kent container cities, while strengthening active parental involvement in the process. Workshop programs were conducted by specialist educators at the Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş, and Hatay Hope Cities during January, August, and November 2025.

January 2025 activities at all three Hope Cities were informed by an arts and creativity-based approach. Seventy-two children and sixty parents participated in workshops whose themes were “The Art of Miró” and “Drama & Storytelling”. While children expressed their emotions through drama, storytelling, and art, concurrently-organized parental sessions focused on sharing artistic and creative practices that can be replicated at home. “Creative Reading & Writing” and “Mathematics through Play” workshops organized during the same period engaged an additional 92 children and 81 parents. Visiting author meet-and-greet sessions hosted at the Hope Cities’ Vehbi Koç Foundation TEGV Learning Units were attended by a hundred children. Following this event, an online author session was also organized at the invitation of the Adiyaman Hope City kindergarten.

Activity programs at the Adiyaman and Kahramanmaraş Hope Cities during August 2025 focused on the preschool-to-primary transition process. A total of 214 children and 198 parents participated in workshops whose themes were “Mathematics through Play”, “School Readiness”, “Drama & Creative Reading”, and “Play & Breathwork”. The children’s workshops focused on attention, direction-following, early mathematics, and social communication skills while hands-on sessions with parents focused on equipping them with actionable learning and play methods useful in a home environment.

During workshops held at the Hatay Hope City in November, programs were further deepened and the focus on emotional regulation was significantly strengthened. A total of 103 children and 83 parents participated in workshops whose themes were “Mathematics through Play”, “Drama & Creative Reading”, “School Readiness”, and “Play & Breathwork”, with particular attention being given to emotional awareness, breathwork, and interactive reading. A visiting author meet-and-greet session hosted at the Hope City’s Vehbi Koç Foundation TEGV Learning Units was attended by twenty children.

Umut Kent container city activities targeting children in the 3-6 age group engaged more than 520 children while 461 parents/guardians took part in workshops. Observations indicated that children’s learning motivation and developmental competencies had been supported and that parents’ knowledge and confidence regarding their relationships with their children had been enhanced.



VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE REGION ACTIVITIES IN
2025



PSYCHOSOCIAL SKILL AND AWARENESS WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AGED 7-18

WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON PRIVACY,
PEER BULLYING, AND PSYCHOSOCIAL
SKILLS WERE CONDUCTED TO SUPPORT
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING
OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS.

In response to needs identified on the ground, targeted psychosocial skill development and awareness workshops were conducted for children and adolescents (ages 7-18) living in Umut Kent container cities. Because issues such as peer relationships, boundaries, privacy, bullying, and psychological wellbeing tend to become more pronounced under such living conditions and in post-trauma situations, activities were planned so as to focus on

reaching children directly. During 2025, the programs targeted primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary students, utilizing a dual-delivery model: classroom-based sessions during school hours and activities hosted within the container cities' communal spaces afterwards. The program curriculum was tailored to specific age groups, extending the same supportive framework to preschool and first-grade students aged 5-6.

The first round of workshops was conducted on 4-6 August 2025 as part of a summer school program. This phase reached a total of 492 students through three separate sessions focused on "Privacy", "Bullying", and "Psychological Wellbeing". The second three-day round of workshops took place 4-7 November 2025. These combined the themes of "Privacy" and "Bullying" into a single track and were attended by 1,412 students. All sessions aimed to balance the delivery of conceptual knowledge with real-world examples, helping participants to reflect on their own experiences while creating a safe space for open discussion.

In the course of all activities conducted during 2025, an age-sensitive and broadly-participatory intervention model was implemented to support the psychosocial development of children and adolescents living in Umut Kent container cities. The programs reached a total of 1,904 students in 2025.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR EXAM-YEAR STUDENTS

LGS AND YKS PREPARATION SEMINARS AND PLACEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR EXAM-YEAR STUDENTS WERE DELIVERED THROUGH ONSITE SESSIONS IN DIFFERENT CITIES.

During 2025, a total of 561 exam-year students were reached by national high school (LGS) and university (YKS) entrance exam seminars and YKS placement-counseling support programs conducted in Malatya and İskenderun. Activities focused on the issues of exam anxiety, motivation and discipline, time management, and future planning. It was observed that the seminars and counseling programs successfully equipped students with tools to cope with exam anxiety and navigate their placement choices with greater confidence and clarity.



HOPE CITY SUMMER SCHOOLS

CLASSES LED BY VOLUNTEER TEACHERS BENEFITED PARTICIPANTS' ACADEMIC AND SOCIOEMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

2025 Hope City Summer School activities took place at the Hatay and Kahramanmaraş Umut Kent container cities. The program was delivered with the participation of volunteer teachers from The Koç Schools of volunteer Change Ambassadors from the Teachers Network. In Hatay, four volunteer teachers led the five-day program from between 21-25 July 2025. Sessions drew a daily average of about thirty students ranging from primary to upper secondary.

In Kahramanmaraş, the five-day program took place from 28 July to 8 August 2025 with the support of seven volunteer teachers. These sessions were attended by about a hundred students a day on average. The program provided core academic support, focusing primarily on mathematics and Turkish. Alongside these subjects, the curriculum included "Philosophy for Children" (P4C), creative writing, chess, drama, and educational or strategy-based games to foster learning motivation and socioemotional wellbeing. Teacher observations and student feedback showed that the summer school provided a safe space for learning and socialization. The findings also indicate that the program successfully improved attitudes towards academic studies and that they had a lasting positive impact.

ACADEMIC AND ENGLISH- LANGUAGE SUMMER COURSES FOR HOPE CITY CHILDREN

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS CONTINUED TO FOSTER A SENSE OF NORMALCY AND HAVE AN ENDURING POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

Like their peers globally, many of the children and most of the youths currently living in Umut Kent container cities had previously experienced significant disruptions in their formal education due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, local conditions compounded these challenges,

placing the youngsters at a severe disadvantage. The Vehbi Koç Foundation sought to offset this handicap by collaborating with regional education centers during the winter term. This educational partnership delivered intensive preparation courses tailored for exam-year students and played a vital role in helping children and youth regain a sense of normalcy in their daily lives. To sustain this positive impact, the collaboration was extended into the summer term. A six-week English-Language Summer School program was conducted for primary and middle school students. The program was attended by 394 children: 104 in Adıyaman, 225 in Hatay, 32 in İskenderun, and 33 in Malatya.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE REGION ACTIVITIES IN
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PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR HOPE CITY TEACHERS

CAPACITY - AND MOTIVATION-BUILDING
TRAINING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES WERE
ORGANIZED TO SUPPORT THE WELLBEING
AND PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCE OF
TEACHERS.

A series of online and onsite capacity-building training programs were organized for teachers and school administrators during 2025. The training programs focused on critical issues such as psychological resilience in schools and effective feedback mechanisms. Additional

sessions targeted peer bullying and leadership development for school staff. Online sessions successfully engaged participants from various regions across the country. Teachers based in İstanbul also collaborated through the Vehbi Koç Foundation network. These programs reached a total of 252 people (244 teachers and 8 administrators).

During the week of November 24th Teachers' Day, special celebratory dinners were organized for 184 teachers and administrators serving in Hope City schools. These events aimed to honor their dedication and boost professional morale.

SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION RESOURCES FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SPECIALISTS WORKING IN Umut KENT CONTAINER CITIES

PSYCHOSOCIAL SPECIALISTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ON DUTY
IN HOPE CITIES ARE PROVIDED WITH
TRAINING AND SUPERVISORY RESOURCES TO
REINFORCE THEIR PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES
AND PRACTICAL SKILLS IN THE FIELD.

PORTA, a training and psychological counseling consultancy, has identified public, NGO, and school-based PCG specialists serving in Hope Cities as a priority group for targeted support. The capacity-building and psychosocial support initiatives that were initiated in 2024 were successfully upgraded in 2025 to a supervision-based, practice-oriented framework.

In 2025, training was reinforced through structured planning processes and regular supervision sessions. These efforts aimed to enhance the clinical competencies of specialists in the field, scale up pilot programs, and strengthen newly-established intervention areas. A total of 26 supervision sessions were conducted, bringing together psychosocial service specialists and administrative teams. The program was attended by 111 people.

One of the key new focus areas in 2025 was the expansion of psychosocial support initiatives tailored for adult males living in Umut Kent container cities, with particular attention being given to reaching fathers. To achieve this, a "Working with Men in Hope Cities Train-the-Trainer" program was organized for 30 field specialists. The curriculum directly addressed expressions of masculinity, the daily hardships of life in disaster-affected areas, emotional regulation, relationship building, problem-solving skills, and non-violent communication. After initial training, follow-up planning and supervision meetings were conducted. These meetings provided the critical support needed to successfully roll out these new programs across the container cities.

Activities targeting administrative staff were designed to address the needs of two different groups: NGO administrative personnel serving full-time in Hope Cities and Koç Holding employees temporarily in the region under field volunteer programs. Seminars conducted for Koç personnel in 2024 were attended by 48 people. In 2025, the scope of the program was broadened to include a module on communicating with students in the region. The year's seminars were attended by 124 Koç personnel. In 2025, sports coaches and NGO administrative personnel were also included as target audiences for the first time. A specialized Gender Equality seminar conducted for this group was attended by 14 people.

HOPE CITIES SYMPOSIUM

OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM HOPE CITY ACTIVITIES SHARED AT THE HOPE CITIES SYMPOSIUM LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN OPERATIONAL GUIDE FOR SCALING UP THE MODEL.

A Hope Cities Symposium was convened in İstanbul on 10 February 2025 to share the knowledge and institutional lessons learned from activities and operations at the Umut Kent container cities. The gathering was attended by 122 people.

The symposium opened with a launch panel for the book *Earthquake-Resilient Cities: A Roadmap*, published by the Science Academy with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

During the session, Prof. Naci Görür, Prof. Hakan Orer, and Dr. Defne Üçer Şaylan shared scientific and actionable approaches to developing disaster-resilient cities.

The subsequent panel discussion featured presentations on three documents: "Life in Hope Cities Impact Report" prepared by Mud on Shoes, "Social Return on Disaster Relief Fund Investments: 2023-2024 Analysis Report" by the Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF), and "Hope Cities Psychosocial Support Program Evaluation and Analysis Report" by the Porta Training and Consultancy.

During the symposium's workshop session, participants discussed the scope of a comprehensive guide for scaling up the Hope City model.

CIVIL SOCIETY, PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE SECTOR TRI-SECTOR MEETING

FIELD TEAMS AND REGIONAL PARTNERS COME TOGETHER FOR A THREE-DAY FORUM TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND BUILD COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

The Civil Society, Public, and Private Sector Tri-Sector Meeting organized by the Vehbi Koç Foundation was held on 13-15 June 2025 at Kahramanmaraş Başkonuş Yaylası. The forum brought together 50 participants including Koç Group Hope City field teams and representatives from NGOs and public agencies and organizations active in the region.

Over the course of the three-day gathering, attendees exchanged firsthand experiences of their activities in the field. They also participated in targeted group dynamics and practical workshops aimed at strengthening inter-team collaboration. The program included training aimed at strengthening motivation and building professional capacity along with teamwork, communication, and supportive leadership modules.

Supported by outdoor activities and joint evaluation sessions, the forum provided a collaborative space for sharing and learning, thereby enhancing interaction among stakeholders, facilitating collective reviews of field practices, and contributing to the development of a unified operational approach.

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE REGION ACTIVITIES IN
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VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION AND SCIENCE HEROES ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIP IN HOPE CITIES

STEM WORKSHOPS WERE SET UP
FOR HOPE CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENTS. ALGORITHMIC THINKING,
PROBLEM-SOLVING, TEAMWORK, AND
CREATIVE PRODUCTION SKILLS WERE
DEVELOPED FOR WORLD ROBOT OLYMPIAD
AND LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE EVENTS.

The Vehbi Koç Foundation forged a new partnership with the Science Heroes Association in 2025. This collaboration marked the launch of the “Unity Movement in Hope Cities” project, a targeted initiative led by the student-run Koç Unity Movement. The project aims to give children and youths living in Umut Kent container cities access to high-quality opportunities to learn and grow in the fields of science, technology, and creativity.

Under the project, STEM workshops were set up for middle school students at the Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, and Hatay Hope Cities. To support these workshops, classrooms were equipped with competition training tables, robotics kits, and specialized educational materials. Led by expert instructors, the robotics and coding program provided ongoing training to a total of 90 regularly attending students. Training focused on developing core skills such as algorithmic thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and creative production.

As the workshops progressed, a competitive track was formed for the most dedicated participants. Twelve students were selected and organized into three-member teams to prepare for the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) Turkey 2025 event, which was held by the Association of Science Heroes in İzmir in June 2025. In line with the 2025 season theme, “The Future of Robots”, the students developed robotics solutions for real-world challenges in transportation, sustainability, and artificial intelligence. They then pitched their projects to the jury in the “Future Innovators” category. The students also gained valuable social experience through cultural excursions in İzmir during their stay in the city.

The project’s second phase began in September 2025. A team was formed in each Hope City to prepare for the upcoming FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Challenge tournaments scheduled for February and March 2026. Consisting of a total of 36 students, the teams developed projects exploring the FLL Challenge’s UNEARTHED theme focusing on how technology helps uncover, map, and preserve historical and archaeological assets. The students visited active excavation sites and local museums to learn directly from experts in the field. Drawing on these firsthand observations, they developed innovative solutions aimed at preserving cultural heritage. In addition to providing continuous mentorship throughout the season, the program also plans to bring KoçSistem volunteers in to share their professional expertise with teams.



HOPE CITY SPORTS SCHOOLS AND SPORTS FESTIVAL

MANAGED BY THE KOÇ GROUP SPORTS CLUB, THE INAUGURAL HOPE CITIES SPORTS FESTIVAL AND TOURNAMENT ENGAGED NEARLY 600 YOUNGSTERS IN PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS AND CULMINATED IN A CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL FOR YOUNG ATHLETES AND ATTENDANCE AT THE KOÇ GROUP SPORTS FESTIVAL CLOSING CEREMONY AWARDS CEREMONY IN İSTANBUL.

Hope City Sports Schools based in the Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, Hatay, and Malatya Umut Kent container cities aim to provide children with regular access to physical education and athletic training. The entire program is managed and executed by the Koç Group Sports Club (KTSK). Offering training in athletics, basketball, volleyball, and football, the program goes beyond physical fitness to help children develop essential life skills like teamwork, discipline, and self-confidence.

A key outcome of these efforts was the inaugural Hope Cities Sports Festival and Tournament in 2025. The tournament kicked off on 23 March 2025 with local qualifiers held in all four provinces, during which nearly 600 young athletes from the Hope City Sports Schools competed in their respective disciplines. First-place teams from each province advanced to the final tournament, which was held in Kahramanmaraş on 19 April 2025. A total of 109 athletes competed in the finals, showcasing a wonderful spirit of fair play throughout the matches. Emerging victorious from the finals, the Adıyaman Hope City Sports Schools secured first place in the boys' football, athletics, and basketball divisions; the Hatay Hope City Sports Schools claimed victory in the girls' football and athletics divisions; and the Malatya Hope City Sports Schools took home the championship in girls' basketball. The final matches culminated in a medal-presentation ceremony, honoring the top three teams and athletes in each discipline.

All first-place teams and their coaches were invited to İstanbul to attend the 36th Koç

Group Sports Festival Closing Ceremony on 25 May 2025. Forty young athletes representing the four Hope Cities took the stage to receive their awards before an audience of nearly 10,000 people.

The youngsters' İstanbul itinerary was designed to be far more than just an award ceremony and was instead structured to be a rich cultural and social experience for them all. Setur, the Koç Group's travel and tourism agency, provided full organizational and sponsorship support, professionally managing the young athletes' flights, accommodations, transfers, and city tours throughout the trip. During their stay in İstanbul, the youngsters also toured the Rahmi M. Koç Museum and enjoyed a Bosphorus boat tour, giving them an opportunity to experience the city from different perspectives.

The Vehbi Koç Foundation played a key role in ensuring the program's seamless and secure operation, while also supplying the athletes' uniforms and providing organizational coordination. The Hope Cities Sports Festival represents an important milestone, effectively translating program training into field performance, providing high visibility for the children's achievements, and driving long-term motivation.



VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND AND EARTHQUAKE REGION ACTIVITIES IN
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GELECEK HAYALİM CENTERS

**A COMPREHENSIVE MODEL WAS
IMPLEMENTED TO SUPPORT THE
EMPOWERMENT, ACTIVE CIVIC
PARTICIPATION, AND RESILIENCE OF YOUNG
PEOPLE LIVING IN HOPE CITIES.**

The Gelecek Hayalim ("My Dream of the Future") Centers program set up by Ford Otosan and managed by the Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development Association with Vehbi Koç Foundation support continued during 2025 for youths aged 15-24 living in the Hatay, Adıyaman, and Kahramanmaraş Hope Cities. The program provides a comprehensive framework designed to build resilience in young people dealing with multiple post-trauma risks, to mitigate such risks, and to support their active participation in social life.

Through outreach activities conducted all year long in 2025, the program interacted with 10,464 young people; this included targeted, high-impact engagement with 1,097 individuals via one-on-one consultations and formal case management. Case-management efforts focused on protective and empowering interventions for youths identified as at-risk in such areas as gender-based violence, access to education, safety, addiction, and employment. This structured approach not only streamlined access to essential support mechanisms for the youngsters but also significantly enhanced their individual coping capacities.

The program was executed in three consecutive cycles over the course of the year. The curriculum featured specialized training in Resource Discovery & Insight Building, Digital Literacy & Digital Design, Cultural Heritage Awareness, and Project Management; these modules directly advanced participants' critical thinking, problem-solving, productivity, and digital competencies. The training tracks helped participants recognize their unique potential, empowering them to become proactive changemakers capable of driving solutions to social issues.

To strengthen interactions among the centers, a youth camp was organized in Cappadocia in August 2025, bringing together a total of 58 young people from Hatay, Adıyaman, and Kahramanmaraş. The camp enabled the youngsters to connect with peers from different provinces to share experiences, strengthen their sense of belonging, and develop a culture of co-creation.

In all three provinces, micro-grant support was provided to finance team projects developed and carried out by the youths themselves. In Hatay and Kahramanmaraş, the projects focused on stray animal awareness campaigns; in Adıyaman they focused on combating violence against women. Collectively, the projects strengthened the youngsters' advocacy skills, their capacity for social responsibility, and their ability to generate impact at a local level.

During 2025, the Gelecek Hayalim Centers project continued to deliver tangible outcomes as a protective and empowering intervention model for young people in a post-disaster context. The initiative not only enhanced participants' individual resilience but also amplified the program's potential to generate long-term, sustainable impact across the wider community.



KOÇ VOLUNTEERS HOPE CITY ONLINE TUTORING PROGRAM

KOÇ GROUP EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND TUTOR STUDENTS LIVING IN UMUT KENT CONTAINER CITIES TO SUPPORT THEIR EDUCATION.

The Education Support Project is a joint initiative of the Vehbi Koç Foundation and Koç Volunteers. Its goal is to support the academic development of secondary-school students living in Umut Kent container cities. Under this program, which also benefits from School Support Association resources, Koç Group employees volunteer their time to provide online tutoring across four core subjects: mathematics, science, English, and Turkish. The Education Support Project provides a sustainable, inclusive, and impact-driven framework for student learning support.

The program aims to strengthen students' academic skills, boost their motivation to learn, and support them in developing regular study habits. Aligned with the national curriculum, the weekly syllabus is enriched with gamification methods, open-ended questions, and interactive applications to make the learning process more effective and engaging. In addition to one-hour weekly live classes, students also benefit from complimentary access to the Vitamin and Kunduz digital learning platforms as a result of the project's partnership with the School Support Association.

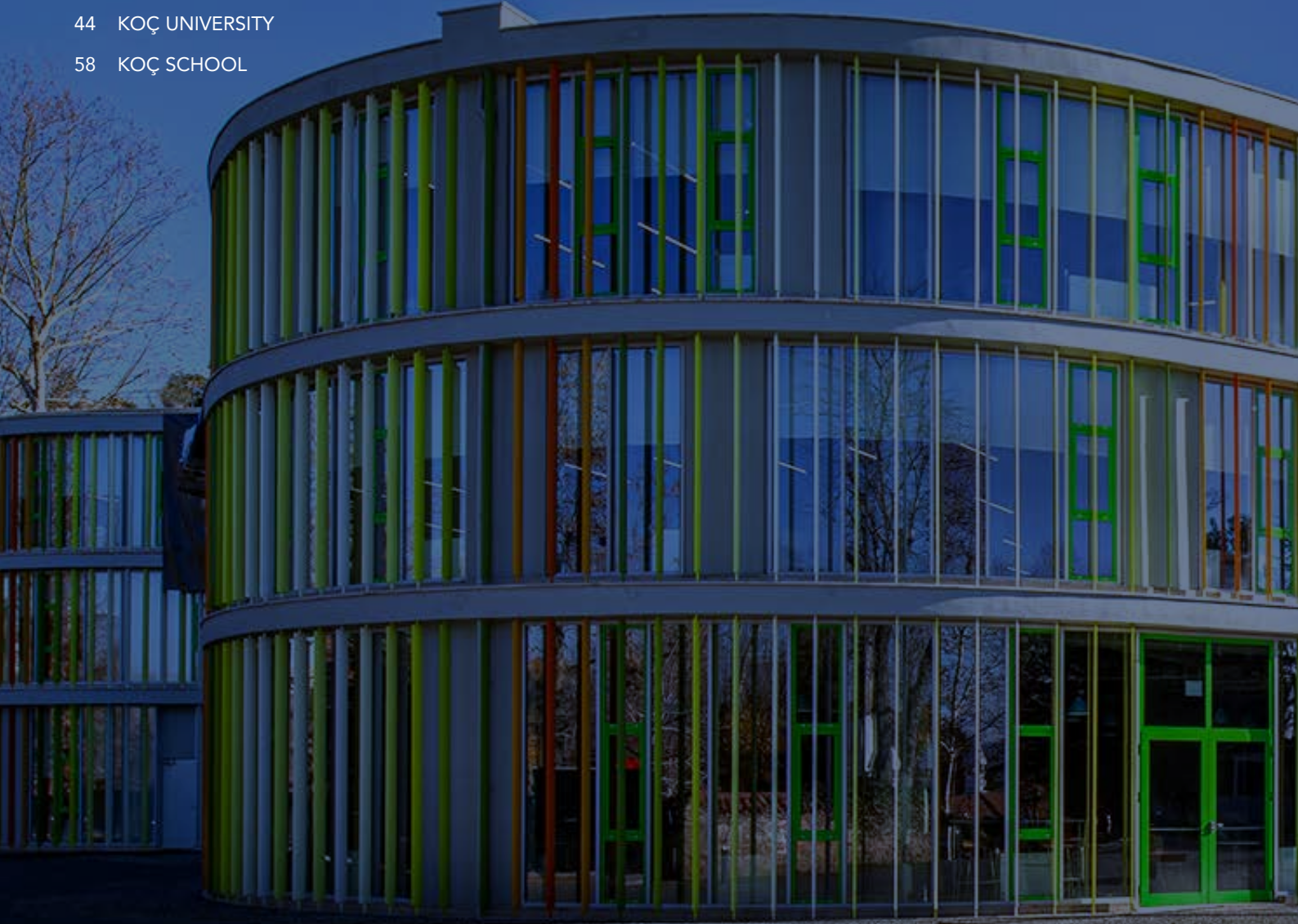
During the 2024-2025 academic year, the program reached a total of 197 students across four Hope Cities: Kahramanmaraş (90), Hatay (52), Adıyaman (45), and Malatya (10). Instructional support was most heavily concentrated in Mathematics and Turkish. Delivered by Koç Volunteers employed at Koç Group companies, these classes not only contributed to the students' academic development but also allowed the volunteers to serve as role models for them.

Driven by the ongoing participation of Koç Volunteers, the program continues to evolve as a sustainable and inclusive model for educational support. The Education Support Project is currently providing 2025-2026 academic year tutoring support to students living in Hope Cities in all four provinces.



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SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1969, the Vehbi Koç Foundation has provided scholarships to over 57,000 students with the aim of supporting equal access to educational resources. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the foundation awarded scholarships to a total of 7,241 students across Turkey. Designed to support the educational pursuits of high-achieving students in financial need, the foundation's scholarship programs include undergraduate, vocational training, nursing, assistantship, earthquake zone scholarships, scholarships for students attending endowment schools, and scholarships for the children of Koç Group employees. Scholarship applications are accepted annually in September through an online portal designed to streamline the process. As long as they remain eligible, scholarship recipients continue to receive financial support throughout their academic journey until they have completed their studies.

EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING KOÇ FOUNDATION-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

During 2025 the Vehbi Koç Foundation conducted a series of university visits and held meetings with university administrations to ensure the sustainability of its scholarship programs, broaden scholarship recipient diversity, and strengthen institutional collaborations with institutions of higher education. These meetings were conducted with institutions selected from among the top fifty public universities according to the annually published University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) report. Last year, seven more universities were included among those supported by the foundation's scholarship program.

The primary objectives of these university meetings are to raise broader awareness of the Vehbi Koç Foundation's initiatives in scholarships and youth development, to expand the number of supported universities, and to strengthen institutional ties with university administrations. During the meetings, it is always emphasized that the foundation's support for scholarship recipients extends beyond financial assistance and instead embraces a comprehensive approach that fosters their academic, social, and professional development.

One of the visits conducted last year was to Hacettepe University, during which Vehbi Koç Foundation representatives met with Hacettepe University Rector Prof. Mehmet Cahit Güran and university administrators. Discussions centered on the foundation's scholarship initiatives, scholarship recipient support mechanisms, and strategic pathways to deepen university-foundation collaboration. The meetings also addressed the academic and social impact of the scholarships on students, aiming to strengthen mutual communication and long-term collaboration.

A meeting of similar scope was conducted with İskenderun Technical University, which is ranked within the URAP top 50 and is also located in

the region affected by the 6 February 2023 southeastern Turkey earthquakes. During meetings with University Rector Prof. Mehmet Duruel, the critical importance of the foundation's scholarship support for students in the region was emphasized and collaborative pathways for student support and strengthening university-foundation relations were explored.

Meetings were also held last year with Ege University Vice Rector Prof. Mehmet Ersan, Karadeniz Technical University (KTÜ) Vice Rector Prof. Bünyamin Er, Gebze Technical University Vice Rector Prof. Elif Damla Arisan, and Trakya University Vice Rector Prof. Ahmet Muzaffer Demir. During each visit, insights were gained regarding the university's academic structure, student profile, and ongoing research programs while the interaction of the foundation's scholarship programs with the institution was thoroughly reviewed.

A campus tour conducted as part of the visit to Gebze Technical University provided a valuable opportunity to meet students individually and communicate directly with them. During the visit, insights were shared regarding the university's academic research and recent TÜBİTAK awards, with a specific focus on attending presentations by Aeronautical Engineering Department students for submission to TÜBİTAK competitions. This visit also provided a valuable opportunity for firsthand observation of Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarship recipients' academic productivity and the university's research capacity.

As a result of these university meetings and discussions with school administrations, the foundation successfully strengthened its relations with institutions of higher education, raised their awareness of Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarship programs, and expanded the Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarship network with the addition of more schools. Such efforts are regarded as being crucially important to the realization of Vehbi Koç Foundation's core mission of providing long-term, high-impact support for young people throughout their educational journey.



University Scholarships

The Vehbi Koç Foundation University Scholarship Fund is intended to provide financial assistance to talented but economically disadvantaged university students throughout their studies. Its resources consist of allocations from the foundation's primary assets and other sources of income. The seven new schools that were added to the list of state universities ranked among Turkey's top 50 whose students qualify for Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarship support in the 2024-2025 academic year has increased the total number of these academic institutions to 23.

Scholarships Offered for the Following Universities

Akdeniz University

Boğaziçi University

Dokuz Eylül University

Atatürk University

Fırat University

Gaziantep University

Harran University

İstanbul University (Faculty of Law)

İstanbul Technical University

Marmara University (Department of Economic and Administrative Sciences, Atatürk Education Faculty)

Mersin University

Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University

Ondokuz Mayıs University

Middle East Technical University

Selçuk University

Van 100. Yıl University

Uludağ University

Hacettepe University

İskenderun Technical University

Trakya University

Gebze Technical University

Karadeniz Technical University

Ege University



Marmara University Faculty of Health Sciences visit

A visit was conducted to the Department of Nursing at the Marmara University Faculty of Health Sciences to review and refine the scholarship recipient selection process for the Vehbi Koç Foundation Nursing Scholarship Fund.

Discussions with Nursing Department Head Prof. Ayşe Ergün focused on refining the scholarship recipient selection benchmarks, the interview frameworks, and the assessment criteria applied to nursing students. Given her unique perspective as both an alumna of the program and a current member of the Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarship interview committee, Dr. Ergün also shared her practical insights regarding the existing selection processes.

During the visit, questions were fielded from Marmara University nursing students regarding the scholarship application process and general insights were gathered concerning the school's student profile and academic structure. These insights were used to optimize and refine the candidate selection framework for the Nursing Scholarship Fund.

In addition to attending a faculty event organized as part of May 14th Nurses Day, Vehbi Koç Foundation representatives also made first-hand observations of students' academic activities.

Nursing Scholarships Offered for the Following Universities

Dokuz Eylül University

Atatürk University

Ege University

Hacettepe University

İstanbul University - Cerrahpaşa Florence Nightingale School of Nursing

Marmara University

Cumhuriyet University

Nursing Scholarships Offered for the Following Vocational High Schools for Health

Konya Selçuklu Atatürk Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

Merzifon Şehit Dursun Özsaraç Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

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Scholarships for Teaching Assistants

Vehbi Koç Foundation teaching assistant scholarships are provided to support post-graduate scientific and scholarly research. Recipients are chosen from among candidates designated by Boğaziçi University and İstanbul Technical University scholarship committees.

Vehbi Koç Foundation Endowment School Scholarships

Students who attend middle schools built by Vehbi Koç Foundation and subsequently turned over to the Ministry of National Education and who graduate in the top third of their class are awarded scholarships contingent upon their continued enrollment in high school.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, financial support was provided to a total of 102 graduates of Endowment School to enable them to continue their high school education.

City	School
Aksaray	Ağzıkarahan Vehbi Koç Primary School
Ankara	Sincan Koç Primary School
Bolu	Bolu Koç Primary School
Bursa	İnegöl Vehbi Koç Primary School
Bursa	Nilüfer Koç Middle School
Bursa	Orhangazi Koç Primary School
Bursa	Yenişehir Koç Middle School
Diyarbakır	Bağlar Vehbi Koç Primary School
Diyarbakır	Kayapınar Vehbi Koç Primary School
Elazığ	Elazığ Koç Primary School
Eskişehir	İnönü Vehbi Koç Middle School
İstanbul	Beyazıt Ford Otosan Koç Elementary School
İstanbul	Beykoz Koç Middle School
İstanbul	Beylikdüzü Koç Middle School
İstanbul	Sarıyer Vehbi Koç Foundation Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School
Kocaeli	Gebze Koç Middle School
Kocaeli	İzmit Ford Otosan Middle School
Şanlıurfa	Şanlıurfa Koç Primary and Middle Schools
Şırnak	Silopi Koç Primary School
Van	Van Koç Primary School
Sivas	Kangal Koç Anatolian High School

Vehbi Koç Foundation Vocational Education Scholarships

A fund, established through donations from Koç Group companies, aims to improve vocational and technical education by providing scholarships to deserving and financially needy students in vocational high schools or universities. Scholarship recipients are chosen through interviews conducted by a committee comprising representatives from the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the sponsoring company, and the school.

Fiat Laboratories Scholarships / Offered for Schools (High School)

Ankara Güvercinlik Industrial Vocational High School

Bursa Automotive Industry Exporters' Association Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

İstanbul Samandıra Technical and Industrial Vocational High School

İstanbul Şişli Technical and Industrial Vocational High School

İzmir Gaziemir Technical and Industrial Vocational High School

Yapı Kredi Bank Scholarships / Offered for Schools (High School)

Kocaeli Çayırova Yapı Kredi Bank Technical High School for Girls

Ford Otosan Scholarships / Offered for Schools (High School)

Bursa Veysel Karani Vocational Technical Anatolian High School

Eskişehir İnönü Vocational Technical Anatolian High School

İstanbul Bursa İstanbul Başakşehir Vocational Technical Anatolian High School

İstanbul Küçükaly Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

İstanbul Samandıra Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

İzmir Konak - Şehit İdari Ataşe Çağlar Yücel Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School

Otokar - "A Stronger Future with Otokar" Vocational Training Scholarship / Offered for Schools (High School)

Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry Motor Vehicles Technology Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School



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Ditaş Women Sailors Scholarships (University)

Ditaş and the Vehbi Koç Foundation teamed up to create the Women Seafarers Success Scholarship Program, aiming to increase female participation in the merchant marine. 30 scholarships were awarded during the 2024-2025 academic year. Eligibility for a scholarship requires a ranking within the top 100,000 on the national university admissions exam and enrollment in a public university-level Maritime Transport and Management Engineering or a Marine Engine Operation Engineering program.

Ditaş Women Seafarers Scholarship recipients' meeting

In the third year of the Women Seafarers' Development Program being conducted by the Vehbi Koç Foundation with the support of Ditaş, an event was organized to bring the scholarship recipients together. The occasion brought together 30 female students receiving scholarship support under the program for a meeting hosted at Arter. At the gathering, Vehbi Koç Foundation General Manager Oğuz Toprakoğlu and Ditaş General Manager Hakan Karaca met with the scholarship recipients to talk about the program's objective, scope,

and long-term targets. Discussions focused on the program's approach to supporting the education and professional development of women in the maritime sector. During sessions accompanying the meeting, students introduced themselves to one another and talked about their educational journeys, career goals, and professional lives. The meeting provided an opportunity for scholarship recipients to build connections and professionally network among themselves. Attending the meeting as a guest speaker was İTÜ Maritime Faculty member Dr. Esma Uflaz, a former Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarship recipient, who shared her insights on maritime career opportunities, professional development paths, and industry expectations based on her own academic and professional experience. The gathering also included an exhibition tour at Arter designed to foster greater cultural and artistic awareness among the scholarship recipients. This Women Seafarers' Development Program event successfully advanced the program's core objectives: enabling the scholarship recipients to share industry knowledge, build stronger professional networks, and engage more deeply with key stakeholders.



SCHOLARSHIPS

AKMED Scholarships

Within the scope of AKMED fellowships, which are awarded regularly every year in the fields of archaeology, history, art history and cultural heritage, 10 project support, 11 doctoral fellowships were awarded in 2025. Thus, the number of research projects supported by AKMED has reached 329, doctoral projects 202, and master's projects 211. In 2025, within the scope of the Library Research Accommodation Support Program, 11 graduate students and academics were given the opportunity to conduct research at the AKMED library.

ANAMED Scholarships

Koç University's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) provides support to researchers from both Turkey and abroad who are studying the history of Anatolia. The center offers doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships to an average of 25 researchers a year to support their academic work.

Koç University Scholarships

Koç University offers scholarships to current students who satisfy eligibility criteria so that they may pursue their further studies at an internationally-recognized institution of higher learning.

Koç School Scholarships

Koç School scholarships are awarded to qualified students enrolled at the school to allow them to continue pursuing their studies in Turkey while also gaining a global perspective.

Vehbi Koç Foundation Scholarship Recipient Meetings

A meeting for students studying at universities in İstanbul under Vehbi Koç Foundation scholarships was held at Arter's Sevgi Gönül Auditorium on 23 October 2025. The event was planned in line with a tradition established by Vehbi Koç Foundation's founder, Vehbi Koç, who believed in the importance of meeting with scholarship recipients on a regular basis. The gathering, which was attended by 120 people, was intended to help scholarship recipients get to know the Foundation better and to foster

connection and solidarity among them. To help create a sustainable ecosystem for ongoing alumnus-student interaction, former scholarship recipients were invited back to share their own educational and career journeys with the current students.

The program featured activities that encouraged current and former scholarship recipients to interact in dedicated spaces where they could network and connect with one another. Over dinner at Arter Divan, participants had an opportunity to mingle, chat, and connect with students from different universities. The event also gave the scholarship department team a chance to connect with the students individually and gather their feedback.

On the occasion of the gathering, Vehbi Koç Foundation General Manager Oğuz Toprakoğlu gave an overview of the foundation's founding philosophy, its scholarship programs, and its ongoing initiatives, before taking questions from the students to engage with them directly. Koç Holding Human Resources Director Umut Günel gave a presentation on career planning, the ongoing transformation of the business world, the impact of artificial intelligence on professions, and evolving skill needs.

Planned and executed by the scholarship department, the gathering was shaped by feedback from the students and designed with a collaborative approach. Discussions and interactions throughout the day brought the participants closer together while also drawing attention to the foundation's focus on building multi-dimensional relationships with and among them.

The event concluded as a highly productive experience that simultaneously contributed to scholarship recipients' social, academic, and professional growth while also supporting the exchange of knowledge and experience.

Targeted Scholarship Programs

A targeted scholarship program was initiated in 2023 for students living in areas affected by the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes last year. Information about these scholarships is presented on page 22 of this report.

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THE TEACHERS' NETWORK

Launched in 2016, The Teachers Network is a collaborative platform that brings educators together with their peers and experts from various disciplines to share knowledge and ideas. Backed by the Vehbi Koç, Aydın Doğan, Living Together Social Research and Education (BAYETAV), Ekol, ENKA, Mehmet Zorlu, and Sabancı foundations and coordinated by the Education Reform Initiative (ERG) at Sabancı University, the network's aim is to support teachers' professional and personal empowerment.

During 2025, The Teachers Network reached a total of 9,732 people through 461 events (267 online and 194 onsite). Driven by the initiative and leadership of 1,186 Change Ambassador teachers across 67 cities, these efforts were made possible by collaborating with over 400 partner institutions and individuals. An important feature of The Teachers Network is its "Adhocratic Communities" mechanism, which allows educators to collaborate and co-create in small groups around specific themes. In 2025, thirty of these communities focused on 49 different topics such as psychological resilience, creativity & critical thinking, STEM, and gamification as well as inclusion issues such as schooling for seasonal migrant farmworkers' children and social gender equality.

The Vehbi Koç Foundation and Koç Volunteers joined forces to deliver the 2025 summer school programs at the Hatay and Adiyaman Umut Kent container cities. Both programs brought together Change Ambassadors from The Teachers Network alongside Koç School faculty and administrative staff. Together, they engaged with primary, middle, and high school students to foster their academic, social, and emotional growth.

In the aftermath of the 2023 earthquakes, one of the most critical needs in the region was the provision of safe spaces in which teachers could gather and work together. To address this need, a Teacher Solidarity Space was opened in Hatay on 6 January 2024, with primary funding from the Sabancı Foundation and contributions from Bank ABC. In 2025, the venue's operations continued to be funded by the Sabancı

Foundation with contributions from the Turkish Philanthropy Funds and the Center for Disaster Philanthropy.

Under the "Value to Teachers" project, a joint initiative between Enerjisa Enerji and The Teachers Network, a variety of workshops and meetings have been organized since November 2024. The initiative successfully created a collaborative platform for teachers to champion educator wellbeing, engage in mutual support, and co-create solutions. The eight-month project delivered over 200 hours of programming, bringing together more than 500 educators from 49 provinces under a shared focus on wellbeing. The program concluded with a series of capstone events in 2025, including the Teacher Wellbeing Summit in Istanbul on 20 April 2025 followed by a Teacher Wellbeing Gathering in Hatay on 14 June 2025 that focused on Conflict Resolution through Creative Drama.

An important element of The Teacher Network's collaborative model is the annual Change Ambassadors Summer Gathering. This event celebrates the shared milestones achieved alongside peers and stakeholders, while strategically projecting goals for the year ahead. Işık University hosted the 9th annual Change Ambassadors Summer Gathering from between 2-4 July 2025 under the banner theme #BiziBirAradaTutan /#WhatKeepsUsTogether.

With over 26,000 members, the www.ogretmenagi.org website continues to expand its community of teachers and education stakeholders. It serves a platform for collaboration and shares open-source, free resources to support teachers in developing innovative teaching and learning solutions.



ACCESS TO 9,732 PEOPLE

In 2025, the Teachers Network, led by 1,186 Changemaker Teachers from across 67 cities reached 9,732 people through a series of 461 events.

www.ogretmenagi.org

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

KOÇ SCHOOL GATHERINGS: ENDOWMENT SCHOOL FORUM

The inaugural Koç Schools Gatherings: Endowment Schools Forum was designed to strengthen collaboration among the schools supported by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, build shared learning spaces, and facilitate the exchange of best practices.

ENDOWMENT SCHOOLS

Koç School Gatherings: Endowment School Workshop I

The inaugural Koç Schools Gatherings: Endowment Schools Workshop I took place in İstanbul on 10-11 April 2025, hosted by Beykoz Koç Middle School. The event was designed to strengthen collaboration among the schools supported by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, build shared learning spaces, and facilitate the exchange of best practices. Bringing together school administrators and teachers from all 21 endowment schools across Turkey, the workshop's goal was to establish a sustainable network for shared learning and mutual support among them.

The program was structured around key themes including school culture and leadership, sustaining best practices, technology and AI in education, psychological resilience in schools, and transforming schools into vibrant community hubs. In his presentation, "School Culture, Leadership, and the Sustainability of Best Practices", Assoc. Prof. Emre Er from Yıldız Technical University's Faculty of Education provided a framework for strengthening school climate and the transformative role of leadership.

Parallel sessions held throughout the workshop gave school administrators and teachers the opportunity to explore its thematic areas in depth. In "Transforming Schools into Vibrant Community Hubs" workshop led by In Common partners Suat Kardaş and Özlem Mecit, school administrators explored how campus facilities could be structured as shared learning environments for students, teachers, and parents outside of regular school hours. In a parallel session specifically for teachers, Prof. Yavuz Samur led a workshop on "AI Tools and Applications in Education", sharing practical examples of how to integrate artificial intelligence into lesson planning and classroom activities.

The program also highlighted education-focused projects carried out by Koç Group companies, with representatives from Opet, Tüpraş, Ford Otosan, Yapı Kredi, and Arçelik sharing successful examples of their own in-school applications. Best practices from all 21 endowment schools were highlighted through poster presentations complemented by interactive, peer-to-peer discussions in which school representatives shared their firsthand experiences. Sessions led by The Teachers Network, KODA, TEGV, and Suna's Daughters focused on cultivating educator communities and developing critical thinking skills.

The workshop concluded with a session on "Psychological Resilience in Schools". Led by clinical psychologist Serkan Kahyaoğlu, founder of PORTA Training and Consultancy, participants explored key issues such as adolescence, bullying, communication, and stress management. In a post-workshop evaluation survey, participants gave the event an average satisfaction score of 4.94 out of 5, with the great majority saying they intended to make use of what they had learned in their own schools. These results clearly demonstrate that the workshop successfully fostered sustainable learning while creating a tangible impact across all endowment schools.

Koç School Gatherings: Endowment School Workshop II

The Koç Schools Gatherings: Endowment Schools Workshop II was held in İstanbul on 17-18 October 2025. Bringing together school administrators and teachers from all 21 endowment schools across Turkey, this second gathering aimed to reinforce the foundation for shared learning and experience laid during the inaugural workshop.

The first day of the program took place at the Koç School Tuzla Campus. During these sessions, school administrators and teachers

presented and discussed school-based best practices developed at the Koç School. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, including curricula, student clubs, community service initiatives, interdisciplinary lesson designs, and internal communication tools like newsletters and podcasts. Following the presentations, discussion and ideation sessions allowed participants to exchange insights on how these approaches could be adapted to their own schools, fostering collective learning through shared experiences. The second half of the day featured best-practice sharing sessions tailored to specific school levels. Spanning the primary, middle, and high school levels, discussions focused on three core themes: enriching the learning process, boosting student engagement, and fostering a positive school climate. The first day concluded with a school tour and an information session on the collaborative processes between the Vehbi Koç Foundation and the endowment schools.

On the second day of the workshop, teachers from the endowment schools attended the 20th Good Practices in Education Conference at the Sabancı University Tuzla Campus, where they had the opportunity to explore current and innovative educational methods firsthand by visiting booths, viewing poster presentations, and attending workshops and oral presentations of best practices. As part of the conference program, the attendees participated in a session led by the Vehbi Koç Foundation titled “Post-Disaster Educational Resilience”, which explored approaches for ensuring the continuity of educational processes and resources during and after crisis situations.

Endowment School Maintenance And Repair Operations in 2025

During 2025, the Vehbi Koç Foundation continued to conduct maintenance and repair operations at all 21 endowment schools across the country, addressing both normal wear and tear needs and handling different schools particular requests.

Vehbi Koç Foundation Semahat Arsel Primary School, Kocaeli Gölcük

Under the Education Ministry’s “100% Support for Education” campaign, a protocol was signed on 26 April 2024 by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, Ford Otosan, and the Kocaeli Provincial Directorate of National Education covering the construction of a new 35-classroom primary school in Kocaeli-Gölcük. Funded by Ford Otosan donations and managed by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the project features a total construction area of 6,750 m². Construction began in January 2025; the school is scheduled to open for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Taylan Doğuer Special Education Kindergarten, İstanbul Kandilli

At the direction of Rahmi M. Koç, extensive maintenance, repair, and furnishing works were carried out at the Kandilli Taylan Doğuer Special Education Kindergarten in İstanbul. Coordinated by the Vehbi Koç Foundation Project & Investments Directorate, the project drew on insights from the Tohum Autism Foundation while also gathering direct feedback from teachers through online questionnaires.

Scheduled around the academic calendar, the project was completed in two phases:

1. Semester break: Interior furnishing and outfitting works were carried out.
2. Summer break: Comprehensive spatial reconfiguration, remaining furnishing tasks, and extensive renovations were completed.

With the completion of the project, the school’s student capacity increased from 25 to 30, and the teaching staff grew from 10 to 12. The learning spaces were also improved to enhance safety, accessibility, and functionality, creating a significantly more conducive educational setting.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION SEMAHAT ARSEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Construction work on a new 35-classroom primary school in Kocaeli Gölcük began in January 2025. The school is scheduled to open for the 2026-2027 academic year.

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

CUMULATIVE
BAGEP AWARD
COUNT
REACHES 513 IN
2025

Vehbi Koç
Foundation has
been supporting
the Science
Academy's Young
Scientist Awards
Program (BAGEP),
which receives no
state funding, since
2013.

OTHER SUPPORTED EDUCATION PROJECTS

BAGEP Awards

The Young Scientist Awards Program (BAGEP), started in 2013 by the Science Academy Society of Turkey, was awarded for the 13th time in 2025. This program aims to recognize, support, and showcase exceptional young scholars while also providing them with the opportunity to stay informed about their peers' work. With 38 young scientists receiving the award in 2025, the total number of BAGEP awards granted has reached 513. BAGEP Awards are granted without any public funding and are sustained solely by the support of donors. The Vehbi Koç Foundation has been supporting the BAGEP Awards Program since 2013.

For detailed information about all awards given so far:
<https://bilimakademisi.org/bagep-odul-sahipleri/>



ÖDÜL KAZANANLAR 2025

SERAP AKSU Fizik Kocaeli Üniversitesi	ASLI AKTAN ERÇİYES Psikoloji Kadir Has Üniversitesi	NEFİZE EZGİ ALTINŞIK Antropoloji Hacettepe Üniversitesi	C. CEYHAN ARSLAN Edebiyat Kocaeli Üniversitesi
UFUK BALAMAN Eğitim Bilimleri TÜİİ Üniversitesi	BURAK BAŞARANLAR Tarih Kadir Has Üniversitesi	VEYSEL BAY Ziraat Mühendisliği Aga Üniversitesi	ATA CAN BERTAY Ekonomi Kocaeli Üniversitesi
KRISTEN SARAH BIEHL Antropoloji Sakarya Üniversitesi	SİMGE ÇINAR AYĞÜN Makine Bilimleri ve Mühendisliği Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi	SEMA DUMANLI Elektrik ve Elektronik Mühendisliği Bogazici Üniversitesi	DUYGU EGE Makine Bilimleri ve Mühendisliği Bogazici Üniversitesi
H. ATAKAN EKİZ Moleküler Biyoloji ve Genetik Ezgi Bilim Akademisi	EZGİ ELÇİ Siyaset Bilimi Çukurova Üniversitesi	DAMLA EROĞLU PALA Kimya Mühendisliği Bogazici Üniversitesi	TUĞCE NİHAL GEVREK Kimya Çukurova Üniversitesi
HAYDAR GÖRAL Matematik Ezgi Bilim Akademisi	AHMET ALPEREN GÜNAY Makine Mühendisliği Bilgi Üniversitesi	EMRE GÜRSOY Bilgisayar Bilimleri ve Mühendisliği Kocaeli Üniversitesi	YAGHOUB HEYDARZADE Fizik Bilgi Üniversitesi
GÜLŞAH KARAKAIA İşletme Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi	ERMAN KARAKUŞ Kimya T.C. MİTAT ÜNALP MÜHÜRÜLÜ ENSTİTÜSÜ	ÖZLEM KARSU Endüstri Mühendisliği Bilgi Üniversitesi	JAMES KINKAID Felsefe Bilgi Üniversitesi
YENER KOÇ Tarih Kadir Has Üniversitesi	ZEYNEP OKTAY Edebiyat Bogazici Üniversitesi	SEVİNÇ FİGEN OKTEM SEVEN Elektrik ve Elektronik Mühendisliği Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi	AYKUT ÖZDÖNMEZ Astrofizik Anadolı Üniversitesi
ERDAL SAG Tıp Hacettepe Üniversitesi	HALİS SAKIZ Eğitim Bilimleri Marmara Araştırma Üniversitesi	BELGİN SEVER Kırsal Kalkınma Anadolı Üniversitesi	SANIYE SÖYLEMEZ Kimya Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi
ERDİNC TATAR Elektrik ve Elektronik Mühendisliği Bilgi Üniversitesi	ZİHNİ ONUR UYGUN Tıp Kocaeli Üniversitesi	CEM VEZİROĞLU Hukuk Kocaeli Üniversitesi	ALARA EFSUN YAZICIOĞLU Hukuk Kadir Has Üniversitesi
İDİL YET Moleküler Biyoloji ve Genetik Hacettepe Üniversitesi	MUSTAFA ERDEN YILDIZDAĞ Makine Mühendisliği İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi		

**BAGEP**
Bilim Akademisi
Genç Bilim İnsanları Ödül Programı

Joint Vehbi Koç Foundation and Science Academy Project: Earthquake-Resilient Cities: A Roadmap

The Vehbi Koç Foundation supported the publication of Earthquake-Resilient Cities: A Roadmap, a book edited by Prof. Naci Görür and released by Bilim Akademisi Yayınları, the Science Academy's publishing house. The study aims to provide a scientific, comprehensive, and actionable framework for making cities more resilient in the face of Turkey's seismic realities.

The book emphasizes that making a city earthquake-resilient goes far beyond structural safety alone; it requires a comprehensive approach that unites every component from local government and infrastructure to building stock, ecosystems, the economy, and the business community. Contributions from experts focusing on different components and systems that make up a city set out specific policy and implementation recommendations for each one. The study aims to guide decision-makers while also encouraging individuals to bolster their own earthquake-preparedness.

The publication utilizes strategic information design to transform complex scientific data into highly accessible content for the general public. Through key quotes, original infographics, and maps that visualize data compiled from various sources, the book seeks to deepen the reader's understanding and awareness of each issue.

The publication was officially launched at an event hosted at ANAMED on 11 February 2025, during which scientific approaches for preventing earthquakes from turning into disasters and practical measures that can be taken at the municipal level were shared with the public. Backed by support from the Vehbi Koç Foundation, a companion "How do we build an earthquake-resilient Turkey?" poster compiled from Science Academy Publications' earthquake-themed books was also showcased at the Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF25) on 1-3 October 2025.



EARTHQUAKE-RESILIENT CITIES: A ROADMAP

Earthquake-Resilient Cities: A Roadmap, a book jointly prepared by the Vehbi Koç Foundation and the Science Academy, was released by the academy's publishing house.



Scan the QR code to download posters and books or to purchase printed books:

Anatolia is Reading

The Vehbi Koç Foundation has been donating sets of books, selected from among prominent Turkish and world literary works, as well as titles by Vehbi Koç Foundation Publications appropriate for young readers, to the libraries of all the elementary, middle, and high schools in a chosen city each year. The program was begun in 2011 in reply to the great demand for books from numerous schools across Turkey. To date, book sets have been sent to schools in Hakkari, Van, Şırnak, Ağrı, Muş, Bitlis, Siirt, Batman, Iğdır, Şanlıurfa, Hatay and Kahramanmaraş. In 2025, Adıyaman was selected as the province where book sets will be distributed to schools. This brings the total number of schools that have received book sets to 4,562.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

"AS EACH CHILD CHANGES, TURKEY FLOURISHES"

the Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) supports the state public education system. It aims to raise primary school children to become well-educated, highly qualified individuals who embrace contemporary, universal values and the core principles of the Turkish Republic. Backed by ongoing support from the Vehbi Koç Foundation, TEGV conducts its nationwide operations in line with its motto "As each child changes, Türkiye flourishes".

TEGV EVENT SUPPORT

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR TEGV PROJECTS

Founded in 1995 under the leadership of Suna Kiraç, the Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) supports the state public education system. It aims to raise primary school children to become well-educated, highly qualified individuals who embrace contemporary, universal values and the core principles of the Turkish Republic. Backed by ongoing support from the Vehbi Koç Foundation, TEGV conducts its nationwide operations in line with its motto "As each child changes, Türkiye flourishes".

Driven by its highly effective and transformative educational programs and by its sustainable organizational structure, TEGV has mobilized over 100,000 volunteers to provide quality educational support to more than 3.3 million children to date. The foundation conduct both long- and short-term, onsite and distance learning programs with clearly defined educational objectives. These programs cover STEM, Computing and Coding, Reading, English, Art, and Socioemotional Learning issues and all are designed to raise well-rounded individuals who take responsibility for the environment, innovate through science and technology, and possess advanced socioemotional skills.

In 2025;

- 3,460 children supported by 520 volunteers at the Semahat Dr. Nüsret Arsel Education Park in Ankara,
- 3,290 children supported by 734 volunteers at the Suna-İnan Kiraç Education Park in Antalya,
- 4,582 children supported by 315 volunteers at the Sevgi-Erdoğan Gönül Education Park in Şanlıurfa,
- 1,138 children supported by 104 volunteers at the İpek Kiraç Learning Unit in İstanbul.



HOPE CITY VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION TEGV CONTAINER LEARNING UNITS

In the aftermath of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, TEGV partnered with the Vehbi Koç Foundation to install Vehbi Koç Foundation-TEGV Container Learning Units in the Umut Kent container cities set up by Koç Group companies in Hatay, Adıyaman, and Kahramanmaraş. Drawing on its extensive experience in disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery, TEGV initiated operations in the affected region from day one, quickly reaching children through these rapidly-deployed learning units. Each learning unit has 105 m² of enclosed space consisting of five standard shipping containers laid out with one Dreams Workshop, one Activity Room/Library, a break room for volunteers, an office, and 70 m² or 100 m² of landscaped grounds.

During 2025:

- 55 volunteers interacted with a total of 680 children in Hatay
- 48 volunteers interacted with a total of 524 children in Kahramanmaraş
- 96 volunteers interacted with a total of 460 children in Adıyaman.

Through its TEGV Academy digital platform, the foundation provides children, parents, teachers, and volunteers access to free, specially-designed interactive and entertaining online content and resources such as videos, games, magazines, books, experiments, and interesting bits of knowledge. The TEGV Academy also gives children, parents, and teachers access to the online content and resources of the Ministry of National Education's Education Information Network (EBA).

SUPPORT FOR MORE THAN 3.3 MILLION CHILDREN OVER THREE DECADES

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, TEGV has mobilized over 100,000 volunteers to provide quality educational support and hope for the future to more than 3.3 million children since its inception.



TEGV WEBSITE:
www.tegv.org

TEGV ACADEMY DIGITAL PLATFORM:
www.tegvakademi.org



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

THE BASIC EDUCATION MENTORING SUMMER CAMP

One of the most important components of the ASKDEP program, the Basic Education Mentoring Summer Camp, was again organized during the 2025-2026 academic year with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

JOINT KODA AND VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION MENTORING SUMMER CAMP

Launched by the Village Schools Change Network (KODA) in 2023 and now in its third year of operation, the Post-Disaster Rural Education Support Program (ASKDEP) is a comprehensive initiative aimed at improving education in earthquake-affected areas. In line with KODA's overarching strategy, the program aims to safeguard educational continuity even in times of crisis and to create a learning environment that is more responsive to the actual needs of local children. The core components of the program consist of mentorship and socioemotional learning resources for teachers and teleconference meetings with parents and guardians. Within this overall framework, teachers are the primary target group and parents are the secondary target group; however the ultimate goal is always that of empowering children through education.

One of the most important components of the ASKDEP program is the Basic Education Mentoring Summer Camp, introduced in 2024. The camp was again organized during the 2025-2026 academic year with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. Because ASKDEP launches with a new cohort of educators each year, the camp serves as a critical onboarding phase that prepares all participating teachers for the program ahead.

Held in Ankara on 18-20 August 2025, the three-day camp brought together 96 young teachers already working in or preparing for assignments in Turkey's rural and/or earthquake-affected regions. The camp curriculum featured hands-on workshops covering classroom management, holistic education, disaster-related psychosocial support, and music & movement. Throughout the camp, participants had the opportunity to enhance both their pedagogical skills and their own socioemotional resilience while also gaining the vital knowledge and experience required to thrive as educators in rural communities.

Feedback from participants revealed that the camp made significant contributions across several key areas. Notably, it boosted professional motivation, encouraged the adoption of innovative classroom practices, enabled teachers to respond more effectively to their students' emotional needs, and enhanced school-family engagement. By building professional resilience among these young teachers, the camp has empowered them to cultivate more effective and inclusive learning environments in their classrooms.



Far more than just an isolated training event in ASKDEP's annual cycle, the Mentoring Camp serves as the essential preparatory phase. It establishes the shared culture, knowledge baseline, and motivational foundation needed for the program's mentorship networks, online training sessions, socioemotional learning activities, parental support initiatives, and field visits to successfully move forward. Immediately following the camp, the mentor-mentee pairings were finalized and a schedule of regular meetings that will continue throughout the year was launched. Moving forward, the plan is for both mentors and mentees to use the skills they gained during the camp in their classrooms and community outreach initiatives.

In tandem with the expanded scope of the 2025-2026 cycle, the supervision meetings, themed online training sessions, and parental engagement initiatives are all driven by the common ground established during the camp.

The support provided by the Vehbi Koç Foundation for this camp has both deepened the ongoing efforts to empower young teachers in rural and earthquake-affected areas and paved the way for the program to scale effectively. Thanks to this collaboration, ASKDEP has reached a much broader community of teachers during the 2025-2026 cycle, reinforcing its commitment to driving sustainable impact in rural education.

GELECEK HAYALİM PROJECT TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN STEM DISCIPLINES

Led by Ford Otosan and jointly conducted by Mikdao Impact with Vehbi Koç Foundation support, the Gelecek Hayalim project aims to strengthen the presence of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through the promotion of social gender equality. The project aims to empower women such as university students, recent graduates, active professionals, and those on a career break and to help them enter the STEM workforce, regardless of their academic background or current field of employment.

The project plans to reach 100,000 women and girls in the course of a thirty-month period. Launched in 2024, the project initially reached 35,551 women; it reached a total of 73,103 women and girls in 2025. To achieve its objectives, the project collaborated with numerous stakeholders during its second

year in 2025. These included the Association for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development, the Kodluyoruz Association, Microfon, the Turkey Artificial Intelligence Initiative (TRAI), Up School, the Women in Technology Association (WTech), the Junior Achievement Education Foundation (GBEV), the Turkish Informatics Foundation (TBV), Başlangıç Noktası, Coderspace, SistersLab, Bilim Sende, and the Bir İZ Association. These collaborations aimed to support the personal and professional empowerment of women, while simultaneously fostering STEM awareness and delivering foundational skills to support the professional growth of young girls. Specialized training and mentorship programs were provided for women looking to specialize in STEM fields. The programs conducted within this overall framework are detailed below.

GELECEK HAYALİM PROJECT

Launched in 2024, the Gelecek Hayalim Project plans to reach 100,000 women and girls in the course of a thirty-month period. By end-2025, the project had already reached 73,103 of them.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

6,045 WOMEN

The Holistic Empowerment Program for Women reached 6,045 women during 2025.

1. HOLISTIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

Designed with a multidimensional approach to take an in-depth look at women's empowerment, the Holistic Empowerment Program for Women consists of two modules. The Personal Empowerment Module encompasses a mentorship program, personal development training, job-readiness webinars, and a Leadership Academy. The Professional Empowerment Module comprises technical skill-building tracks and specialized English language training. Program activities during 2025 are outlined below.

- Under the Personal Empowerment Module, the Association for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development onboarded 1,113 new members into the Gelecek Hayalim network and added 271 mentors to the program. A total of 1,087 women took part in personal development training, 275 benefited from the Leadership Academy, and 437 received one-on-one mentorship support.
- Under the technology tracks of the Professional Empowerment Module:
 - o In collaboration with Up School, the AI Skills and AI First Developer training programs were delivered across three terms, reaching a total of 255 women.

- o A total of 824 women participated in the Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Front-End Web Development, and Mobile Application Development workshops conducted in partnership with the Kodluyoruz Association.
- o The Power BI Data Analytics training programs, conducted in partnership with the Turkey Artificial Intelligence Initiative (TRAI), reached 334 women across seven separate cohorts.
- o A total of 1,307 women were enrolled in four-year English language training programs conducted by Microfon.



2. STEM AWARENESS-BUILDING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

Designed to encourage more women to enter STEM fields, this program features short-duration panel discussions and presentations, training sessions, and webinars that are open to the general public. The program's aims are to provoke curiosity about technology and innovation, connect women with inspiring role models, and build foundational digital literacy. Program activities during 2025 are outlined below.

- The Association for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development reached 983 individuals through various training sessions on topics such as Career Management in STEM, Project Management, Social Entrepreneurship, and Transformational Leadership.
- A total of 1,395 women participated in the artificial intelligence and career-themed

training sessions delivered during the second-year summit program organized in collaboration with Coderspace.

- A total of 7,194 women participated in a variety of training sessions organized by the Women in Technology Association (WTech) that covered such topics as Artificial Intelligence & Big Data, Design Thinking, the Digital World & Cybersecurity, and Financial Literacy.
- Through its Workplace Readiness Programs tailored for women and girls, the Junior Achievement Education Foundation (GBEV) reached a total of 14,452 participants. This was achieved through a wide range of onsite and online training sessions covering Sustainability & Innovation Management, Agile, Soft Skills, the Circular Economy, and Smart Cities.
- Various training programs such as Design 101, E-Commerce, Data Analytics, and Software 101 organized in partnership with Microfon were attended by 3,799 women.

- A project conducted in collaboration with the Turkish Artificial Intelligence Initiative (TRAI) reached 4,075 women through training sessions focused on cutting-edge topics like Big Data Technologies, AI Methodologies, Workplace Adaptation in the AI Era, Prompt Engineering, and Agentic LLMs.
- Through training programs organized in partnership with the Turkish Informatics Foundation (TBV), a total of 453 individuals were reached on topics such as Technology & Law, AI, Digital-Age Communications, and Data Analytics.
- In partnership with the Kodluyoruz tech-education NGO, 1,056 women took part in training about dealing with digital violence, cyberbullying, and the safe, ethical use of AI.
- A total of 1,582 women participated in the training programs organized by SistersLab covering essential tech tracks such as Git/ GitHub, Basic Excel, No-Code AI Applications, and Introduction to Back-End Development with Java.



3. PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

To build STEM awareness among the girls welcomed into the project's target group this term, deploying effective guidance mechanisms from early childhood is of critical importance. Both parents and teachers play an especially vital role in this process. To support this, school-based science shows, hands-on experiments, and interactive workshops for girls were added to the project's curriculum in the second year.

- Through theatrical performances organized in schools by its "Bilim Sende" team, the project delivers targeted programming for students in grades 5 through 8 in İstanbul, Kocaeli, Eskişehir, Edirne, Bursa, Sakarya, Ankara, Hatay, Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Malatya, and Tunceli. These activities continued until 27 February 2026. A total of 9,022 girls were reached by the program during 2025.
- A project aimed at expanding the effective use of virtual reality (3D/VR) technologies in educational settings was carried out by the Bir İZ Association at 84 pilot schools in 27 provinces. After the completion of teacher-training modules to familiarize instructors with the program and its materials, classroom implementation got under way in December 2025 and continued until 31 January 2026. A total of 22,196 girls and 979 female teachers were reached through this program during its run.

Driven by its multi-stakeholder framework and holistic approach, the Gelecek Hayalim

project aims to create enduring change by increasing the participation of women and girls in STEM disciplines. The training, mentorship, and awareness-raising programs ensure that participants acquire more than just technical competencies; instead, they actively reinforce self-confidence and redefine long-term career trajectories. Introducing girls to science and technology at an early age lays the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable ecosystem in the future. This project serves as an important example of how impactful efforts can lead to sustainable change driving towards gender equality.



PRESENTATION

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBİ KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

35,265 WOMEN

The STEM Awareness-Building Program for Women reached 35,265 women during 2025.

31,793 GIRLS

A total of 31,793 girls were reached by various awareness-building projects and programs designed for them during 2025.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

CHILDREN'S- THEATER PERFORMANCES HAVE REACHED 42,959 STUDENTS.

The Post-Disaster Rural Education Support Program launched by the Village Schools Change Network (KODA) is especially intended to support the professional and personal development of teachers in rural schools. One of its core components is the Basic Education Mentoring Summer Camp, inaugurated with Vehbi Koç Foundation support in 2024.

KOÇ SINIFLARINDA SAHNE VAR PROJECT

Driven by the Vehbi Koç Foundation's belief in the transformative power of culture and art in social development, the "Koç Sınıflarında Sahne Var" project continues to bring classroom theater to schoolchildren. Supported by Koç Holding and implemented by the Arsız Kumpanya troupe, the project is conducted both in Vehbi Koç Foundation endowment schools and in Umut Kent container city schools. The program utilizes a unique and sustainable model that transforms any standard classroom environment into a live stage. This low-logistics, high-impact approach gives students direct, high-quality access to culture and art.

The project features a repertoire of four plays written to appeal to children aged 7 to 14. The scripts were developed individually to align with the developmental stages of primary and middle school students, ensuring that the content performed in every school and classroom is suited to the specific age group. Consisting of a series of sketches, each about 10 minutes long, these performances utilize an interactive approach designed to spark students' imaginations, develop their communication and empathy skills, and foster an early connection to culture and art. By encouraging active student participation, this approach moves the artistic experience beyond passive observation and transforms the classroom into a dynamic space

that strengthens shared learning and peer interaction.

During 2025, the program was conducted at Vehbi Koç Foundation endowment schools in İstanbul, Elazığ, Kocaeli, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Bursa, Eskişehir, Ankara, Aksaray, Şırnak, Van, and Bolu and also in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, and Adıyaman Umut Kent container city schools. The performances were staged in 681 classrooms at 25 schools in 15 cities and reached a total of 22,323 students. Conducted deploying the same structural framework and pedagogical approach at all schools, these performances provided a safe and inclusive culture and art experience that supported students' social and emotional skills.

By comparison during 2024, the "Koç Sınıflarında Sahne Var" project's Arsız Kumpanya troupe staged performances in 674 classrooms at 24 schools in 15 cities and reached a total of 20,636 students. Over the last two years, the project has benefited a total of 42,959 students. Through its innovative and cost-effective classroom-based theatrical performance model, the program is capable of achieving a broad and sustainable impact on children's access to culture and art.



KAHRAMANMARAŞ DULKADİROĞLU PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCE PROJECT FOR EDUCATORS

In 2025, the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the Kahramanmaraş Dulkadiroğlu Township Directorate of National Education, Porta Education Consulting, and the Teachers Network collaborated to carry out comprehensive initiatives designed to strengthen educators' professional capacity and psychosocial resilience during the post-earthquake recovery phase. Project programs were designed to strengthen school-based psychosocial support mechanisms and establish a foundation for sustainable professional solidarity among teachers.

On 5 February 2025, Kahramanmaraş Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü, a state institute specializing in traditional Turkish arts and crafts, hosted the "You Are My Hope, Teacher" event for newly appointed teachers. Guided by the principle that "Change Begins with the Teacher", the event introduced participants to the Teachers Network's core philosophy, its teacher-driven working model, and its solidarity-based structure. Using interactive methods, activities focused on promoting knowledge-sharing among teachers and fostering a culture of co-creation. A "Culture of Peace and Dialogue in Schools Workshop"

organized on the same day aimed to raise awareness among teachers regarding conflict resolution while nurturing a dialogue culture and fostering a positive school climate.

Building on these efforts, a "Case Formulation in the New Normal: Psychological Counselor Support Workshop" was conducted on 24-25 March 2025. A total of 130 professional psychological counselors and school guidance counselors participated in the two-day program. The workshops were conducted in small groups of approximately 30 participants, utilizing a hands-on and interactive approach. The program curriculum covered core topics including case formulation, the concept of "new normal" post-trauma, communication and transference in the counseling process, psychosocial resilience, and professional self-care.

Through such activities, the program aimed comprehensively to empower teachers to deliver more structured and effective responses to heightened post-earthquake psychosocial needs, to establish a shared professional vocabulary for school-based support, and to support long-term wellbeing across educational environments.

"YOU ARE MY HOPE, TEACHER"

At the "You Are My Hope, Teacher" event in Kahramanmaraş, newly appointed teachers were introduced to the Teachers Network's core philosophy, its teacher-driven working model, and its solidarity-based structure.



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE

During 2025, ERG produced evidence-based research revealing the impact that overlapping crises, deepening inequalities, and economic conditions are having on the national education system.

EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE: DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION

Founded in 2003, the Education Reform Initiative (ERG) is an independent, non-profit NGO that champions structural transformation in education to foster child and societal development. ERG actively works to ensure that education policies and practices across Turkey's K-12 levels are structurally informed by up-to-date, scientific, and objective evidence. In addition to these efforts, which are carried out through its Education Observatory and Education Laboratory units, ERG also serves as the institutional host for the Teachers Network.

During 2025, ERG produced evidence-based research revealing the impact that overlapping crises, deepening inequalities, and economic conditions are having on the national education system. Through research papers, monitoring reports, and data and policy briefs, the initiative provided comprehensive analyses of the key issues of access to education, school climate, teachers, educational content, and governance. These studies emphasized that schools should not be treated merely as spaces for academic output but rather as safe and inclusive environments that nurture the wellbeing of both children and teachers.

Published during the 2024-2025 academic year, Education Monitoring Report 2025 comprehensively examined the impact of overlapping crises on education, offering policy recommendations to reduce inequalities of opportunity and strengthen children's access to the protective environment of schools. Additionally, policy briefs on upper secondary education emphasized that the dialogue must shift from school duration to quality, framing secondary education as a fundamental public right that encompasses housing, nutrition, guidance, and safe learning environments.

Moving forward, ERG aims to further strengthen and sustain its rights-based, inclusive approach that places the voices of children and teachers at its very center by engaging ever broader audiences in education-related debate by means of blog posts, campaigns, and media partnerships.



GOOD PRACTICES IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION AFTER DISASTERS SESSION

ERG continued to host the Good Practices in Education Conference to showcase and scale experiences born in classrooms and schools, creating vibrant spaces for interaction and collaborative learning among educational stakeholders through workshops and shared practices from different parts of the country.

A “Continuity of Education after Disasters: What should we be prepared for? Public and civil society experiences after the February 6th Earthquakes” meeting hosted by the Vehbi Koç Foundation during the conference brought together public sector and civil society perspectives on sustaining education during crises. Teachers who participated in a workshop organized by Vehbi Koç Foundation also joined the meeting, ensuring that insights and experiences from the field were brought into a broader environment of sharing and learning.

A panel discussion featured Mehmet Nesip Mahir (District Governor of Gömeç and Coordinating District Governor of Hatay Umut Kent during the February 6th earthquakes) and Gülen Naz Terzi (Education Reform Initiative) as speakers. The two talked about initial post-disaster decision-making processes, public-civil society cooperation, the roles of teachers during crises, and re-integrating children into education.

The workshop segment featured hands-on activities led by İrem Ünal (TEGV), Melike Çorlak (TİDER), and Sevim Kahraman (Afet Platformu) that focused on practical approaches to strengthen teachers’ disaster preparedness.

GOOD PRACTICES IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

At the Good Practices in Education Conference, Vehbi Koç Foundation organized a session titled “Continuity of Education after Disasters: What should we be prepared for? Public and civil society experiences after the February 6th Earthquakes”.



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECTS

By making the social impact of teacher-focused NGOs visible, this collective impact assessment strengthens the culture of data-driven learning and collaboration in the teaching profession.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Launched in 2020 and facilitated by the Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF), the Collective Impact Assessment of Non-Governmental Organizations Working with Teachers project aimed to measure the social impact of NGOs active in the field of education using a unified approach and methodology. Published at the conclusion of this comprehensive five-year initiative, the study was conducted with the contributions of the Village Schools Change Network (KODA), the Teacher Academy Foundation (ÖRAV), the Education Reform Initiative (ERG), the Teachers Network, the İstanbul Bilgi University Center for Sociology and Education Studies (SEÇBİR), and the Another School is Possible Association (BBOM), alongside the Sabancı Foundation and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, both of which allocate resources to support teacher wellbeing.

The primary objective of the research was to comprehensively determine the impact and social value generated by the participating organizations through their work with teachers, ensuring that the findings serve as a benchmark for future planning and policy development. To achieve this, the joint measurement process was structured around five key phases: building interorganizational mutual trust, conducting a needs analysis, developing a shared Theory of Change, designing data collection tools, and final reporting. Supported by the results of surveys, focus groups, and pilot studies, all data was independently collected and analyzed by KUSIF in order to ensure process impartiality.

The study deployed a mixed-methods approach, analyzing primary data compiled from an online survey sample of 445 K-12 educators. The study's findings revealed that teachers participating in civil society activities experienced professional growth, initiatives empowerment, and developed peaceful attitudes and behaviors, while making significant strides towards becoming agents of change themselves. The study observed that these behavioral changes structurally lessen professional isolation among educators, reinforce a culture of solidarity, and significantly enhance educators' feelings of self-worth, baseline happiness, and long-term hope for the future.



KOÇ SCHOOL MATHEMATICS FESTIVAL

The 2025 Koç School Mathematics festival was held at the Bedii Sabuncu School in Hatay on 5-6 December 2025. Jointly organized by the Koç School Mathematics Department, the Parent-Teacher Association, and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the festival's aims were to serve as an engaging, multi-stakeholder learning environment that takes mathematics beyond the classroom and fosters positive learning experiences by bringing mathematics to children from different backgrounds, particularly those living in Umut Kent container cities.

The festival's opening day commenced with workshops and interactive events at the Koç School Hatay Hope City campus. About 150 students from the Hope City branch of Koç Middle School participated in these interactive maths workshops. The same day, more than 260 children of various ages and school grades—including 117 students brought in for the occasion from the Kızılay and Taş Bina sites—had the opportunity to experience mathematics through games, problem-solving, and co-creation exercises.

The second day of the festival was held at The Museum Hotel Antakya. 120 Hatay Hope City students transported to the festival venue attended the day's opening speeches and presentations and took part in Street Mathematics events open to the general public. By highlighting the real-world relevance of mathematics, these activities successfully sparked the students' curiosity and boosted their motivation to explore more.

Parallel with the festival program, a "Teaching and Mathematics: New Pathways, New Questions" panel discussion was organized by the Teachers Network. The two hour gathering was held on Friday, 5 December 2025 at 8:00 PM at the Hatay Teachers Solidarity Space. Moderated by Teachers Network Change Ambassadors Ali Gür and Öykü Ulutaş, the discussion featured talks by Burak Karabey, Haluk Memili, Kemal Akoğlu, and Uğur Mert about new approaches to mathematics education, classroom experiences, and teachers' current needs.

By reframing mathematics not just as a school subject, but as a tool that fosters critical thinking, collaborative learning, and co-creation, the Koç School Mathematics Festival served as an inspiring occasion for both students and teachers.



The two-day Koç School Mathematics Festival brought students, teachers, and educational stakeholders together in Hatay for an event bridging mathematics and real-world relevance.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY



KOÇ UNIVERSITY IN NUMBERS

OVER 9,000 STUDENTS



1 SUPPORT CENTER (EÇADEM)



636 FACULTY MEMBERS



22 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS



OVER 22,000 ALUMNI



44 MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS



7 COLLEGES



30 PHD PROGRAMS



4 GRADUATE SCHOOLS



OVER 225 RESEARCH LABORATORIES



27 RESEARCH CENTERS



5 RESEARCH FORUMS



EXCHANGE PROGRAM AGREEMENTS WITH OVER 300 UNIVERSITIES



IDENTITY

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www.ku.edu.tr

PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

KOÇ UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

Established in 1993 in İstanbul, Koç University is a nonprofit foundation university with a mission to become a center of excellence, bringing highly talented young people together with competent faculty to contribute to science on a universal scale. Koç University graduates are equipped with impeccable moral values and are socially responsible individuals dedicated to protecting the values of democracy. The University contributes to the advancement of science in Turkey and the world through 22 undergraduate, 44 master's, and 30 doctoral programs delivered by its College of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Administrative Sciences and Economics, College of Sciences, College of Engineering, Law School, School of Medicine, and School of Nursing.

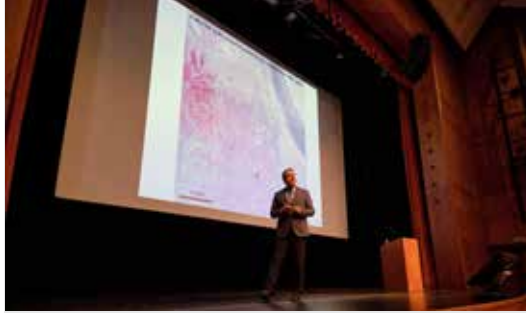


KOÇ UNIVERSITY

SILVER MEDAL TO KU CARES

KU Cares - Koç University Day of Service, has won the Silver Medal at the Circle of Excellence Awards.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES



KOÇ UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES

Organized by Koç University under the auspices of President Prof. Metin Sitti, the Presidential Lectures continued in 2025 with remarkable interest, bringing together distinguished scientists from around the world and fostering an inspiring platform for academic dialogue on the global progress of science.

The 2025 program featured prominent researchers including Prof. Aydoğın Özcan — a pioneer in biomedical technologies and digital health, recipient of the 2016 Koç



University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science, and Member of the Koç University Board of Trustees; Prof. Kamil Uğurbil, a leading architect of advanced neuroimaging methodologies and Member of the Koç University Board of Trustees from the University of Minnesota; and Prof. David W. C. MacMillan from Princeton University, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

The speakers delivered a wide range of lectures spanning AI-enhanced health technologies, cutting-edge brain research, modern catalysis, and chemical transformation mechanisms.

2025 KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCIENCE FAIR: CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF QUANTUM

The Koç University Science Fair, held on 22 October 2025, brought together science enthusiasts to explore laboratories, participate in Faculty of Science demonstrations, solve puzzles, and compete in a prize-winning treasure hunt.

Celebrating 2025 as the Year of Quantum, the event featured a special "Quantum Panel" with interdisciplinary discussions. Inspiring seminars, student presentations, and engaging club activities made for a vibrant, interactive celebration of science, discovery, and collaboration across the Koç University community.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCIENCE & SOCIETY GATHERING - SCIENCE CAFÉ

Koç University continues to bring researchers and curious minds together in warm and interactive settings through its "Science Café" events, organized with the vision of "Science for Everyone."

The first gathering, held on 7 August 2025 at Koç University Hospital, featured Prof. Halil Kavaklı, Dean of the College of Sciences. In his talk, "The Biological Clock in Health and Disease," he discussed how our internal biological clock functions, its influence on sleep patterns and the immune system, the disorders associated with disruptions in this mechanism, and his team's current research on small molecules aimed at restoring circadian balance.

As part of UNESCO's International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, the second event hosted Prof. Özgür Müstecaplıoğlu from the Department of Physics. In his presentation, he introduced participants to the quantum technologies we unknowingly use in daily life and offered a broader perspective on humanity's position at the threshold of the second quantum revolution. The event, held on 27 September 2025 at the Sarıyer Municipality Rifat Ilgaz Cultural Center, brought together science enthusiasts of all ages from Sarıyer and neighboring districts.

In the final Science Café event of the year, on 4 December 2025, Assoc. Prof. Herdem Aslan Genç from the School of Medicine offered participants a distinct and insightful experience with her talk titled "Emotional and Behavioral Challenges in Neurodevelopmental Disorders," delivered as part of the 4th EÇADEM (Support Center for Children with Disabilities and Their Families) Symposium.

Koç University will continue to extend science beyond the boundaries of its campus, organizing events that connect the public with researchers and foster a shared culture of curiosity and discovery.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY DAY OF SERVICE - CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD PRESENTED TO KU CARES BY THE COUNCIL FOR ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION (CASE)

Koç University social responsibility initiative, KU Cares - Koç University Day of Service, has won the Silver Medal at the Circle of Excellence Awards by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), one of the world's leading education and development organizations.

From environmental initiatives to educational workshops, social support programs and support efforts for stray animals, this journey is a powerful step toward our goal of making volunteerism a lasting culture.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

KOÇ UNIVERSITY IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES I

2,088
GRADUATES

At Koç University's
31st graduation
ceremony, 2,088
students were
awarded their
diplomas.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ITS 31ST GRADUATING CLASS

Koç University held its 31st Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremony at the Rumelifeneri Campus. In 2025, a total of 2,088 students graduated from the university's undergraduate and graduate programs. The 2025 valedictorian was Ilgın Sezer, a double major student in Psychology and Molecular Biology & Genetics.

Following the opening remarks by Chair of the Board of Trustees Prof. Nur Yalman and

President Prof. Metin Sitti, the ceremony's guest speaker, Lord William Waldegrave (Lord Waldegrave of North Hill) — a member of the UK House of Lords and Senior Adviser at Coutts — addressed the graduates. In recognition of his impactful contributions to public service, international policy, and global education, Koç University conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate during the ceremony.

As Koç University proudly sent off its 31st cohort of graduates, the ceremony reaffirmed the institution's commitment to academic excellence and meaningful contributions to society.



HOMECOMING 2025: ALUMNI REUNITED ON CAMPUS

Koç University's annual Homecoming event took place on 12 October 2025 at the Rumelifeneri Campus with a remarkable turnout, bringing together alumni, students, and faculty throughout the day. This year's program also included the Crystal Ceremony, held for the first time at the Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center. Rector Prof. Metin Sitti presented crystals to alumni celebrating their 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, and marking a milestone in the University's history—the 30th graduation anniversaries. The ceremony created touching and memorable moments, as long-standing friendships and shared memories were celebrated once again.

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed a variety of activities, including a Red Bull Event Car DJ performance, Latin, swing, and tango sessions with KUDANS, fitness and zumba activities with Macfit, fun games, and the popular "Time Capsule" activity. As every year, the Time Capsule drew great interest, with the Class of 2025 lining up to leave messages and memories for the future—highlighting the strong sense of community that defines Koç University.

Homecoming 2025 once again strengthened the bond between alumni and the campus, offering a joyful day filled with reconnection, celebration, and new memories.



KURAGEOUS TALKS 2025: ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERS AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY

Organized by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI), the KUrageous: Conversations with Entrepreneurial Leaders series continued in 2025 to bring prominent figures from the business and innovation ecosystem together with the Koç University community. Moderated by Vice President Prof. Hakan Ürey, the series aims to inspire students and staff with strong entrepreneurial potential by connecting them with impactful role models and real-world leadership experiences. All sessions attracted great interest from Koç University students and employees.

This year, Cem Sertoğlu from Bek Ventures (Founding & Managing Partner), İ. Renay Onur from Spor İstanbul (General Manager), and Hakan Bulgurlu from Arçelik/Beko (CEO) shared highly insightful perspectives and their professional experiences through their talks titled, respectively, "Venture Capital, Technology Investments, and the Formula for Success," "Social Entrepreneurship, Sports, and Social Impact," and "Leadership, Innovation, and Sustainability Vision."



All speakers offered diverse perspectives on technology, sustainability, artificial intelligence, social impact, and innovation culture, providing valuable insights for students and researchers.

Throughout 2025, the KUrageous series stood out as a platform that supports entrepreneurial thinking, fosters innovation, and brings students together with influential leaders shaping the future.

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE THROUGH "BROWN BAG SEMINARS"

Koç University's Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) has launched a new initiative bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines: the Brown Bag Seminars. Designed to turn the lunch hour into a moment of lively exploration and intellectual exchange, these seminars offer an engaging and informal academic gathering.

Strengthening interdisciplinary dialogue, the Brown Bag Seminars encourage participants to think beyond the boundaries of their own fields

through discussions shaped around broad, thought-provoking themes. By engaging with different perspectives, researchers are able to fuel their intellectual curiosity while discovering opportunities for collaboration.

Developed with the belief that meaningful academic interaction flourishes through curiosity, inspiration, and cooperation, the Brown Bag Seminars have become a meeting point that not only supports scholarly discussion but also emphasizes the importance of communicating science effectively and fostering interdisciplinary knowledge sharing across diverse audiences.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

KOÇ UNIVERSITY IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES I

THE YEAR OF QUANTUM As part of UNESCO's designation of 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, Koç University marked the occasion with two major events that attracted national and international attention.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE (KUOS) LAUNCHED.

Koç University took an important step in advancing its global sustainability vision by launching the Sustainability Office (KUOS) on 17 November 2025. KUOS aims to strengthen the university's sustainability efforts across four core areas: research, education, operations, and community engagement.

The Koç University Sustainability Office seeks to promote interdisciplinary research, expand responsible campus practices, enhance sustainability literacy, and encourage student participation. This initiative aligns with Koç University's strong performance in the newly released QS Sustainability Rankings, where the university ranked 1st in Türkiye and 329th globally—its highest position to date.

As a central coordinating structure, the Sustainability Office will lead efforts to enhance the university's long-term environmental and social impact.

More information: <https://www.ku.edu.tr/en/sustainability/>

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SİNAN DERELİ BUILDING

Koç University has taken an important step by naming the Faculty of Medicine Building on its Rumelifeneri Campus after philanthropist and businessperson Sinan Dereli, who is known for his contributions to education and science and for touching the lives of many students through the Anadolu Scholars Program. At the ceremony held on 13 October 2025, at Koç University's Rumelifeneri Campus, Rahmi M. Koç, Honorary Chair of the Koç University Board of Trustees, Board Members, Rector Prof. Metin Sitti, faculty members, and students came together to mark the occasion. The naming of the Faculty of Medicine Building after Sinan Dereli stands as an expression of gratitude for his outstanding and long-standing support of the Anadolu Scholars Program, which was launched by Koç University in 2011 and has since provided more than 1,600 students from various regions of Anatolia with access to education at international standards.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF QUANTUM: INTERNATIONAL QUANTUM SUMMIT AND WORLD QUANTUM DAY PANEL

As part of UNESCO's designation of 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, Koç University marked the occasion with two major events that attracted national and international attention.

On World Quantum Day, April 14th, a special panel brought participants together to explore how quantum technologies are transforming computation, communication, and sensing. Dr. Sevil Sarıkurt from TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM, Dr. Barış Malcıoğlu from METU Department of Physics, and Prof. Özgür Müstecaplıoğlu from Koç University shared key insights into the national and global trajectory of quantum research and innovation. The session drew strong interest from researchers, students, and technology enthusiasts alike.

The highlight of the Quantum Year celebrations was the "Quantum Technologies and the Future of Innovation Summit", held on 6 November 2025.

As one of the most comprehensive events on quantum science and technology ever organized in Türkiye, the summit brought together leading quantum scientists, industry representatives, public institutions, and students.

The program covered major developments in quantum computing, quantum communication, sensing technologies, data security, and artificial intelligence. Distinguished international speakers included Prof. Mete Atatüre (University of Cambridge), Prof. Gerd Leuchs (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light), Prof. Luis L. Sánchez-Soto (Complutense University of Madrid), and Prof. Mauro Paternostro (Queen's University Belfast). In addition, Özlem Salehi from Finland-based Algorithmiq delivered an applied talk on quantum optimization.

Representing Koç University, Prof. Özgür Müstecaplıoğlu highlighted Türkiye's growing potential in quantum research and the university's pioneering role in shaping the national quantum ecosystem. The event also featured a dedicated session on originality and ethics in scientific publishing.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY

KOÇ UNIVERSITY IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES I

NUMBER 1 IN TURKEY AND THE ONLY TURKISH UNIVERSITY IN THE GLOBAL TOP 50

Ranked first in Turkey and the only Turkish university in the global top 50 in the Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026, Koç University was also named among the top 10 universities in Asia.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY ACHIEVES CONSECUTIVE SUCCESSES IN GLOBAL RANKINGS.

Koç University has once again demonstrated its research excellence and international impact through a series of consecutive achievements in global rankings. In the Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026, Koç University ranked first in Türkiye and became the only Turkish university placed within the world's top 50. The University was also listed among the top 10 institutions in Asia. Rising from 41st to 28th place in just one year, Koç University further strengthened its leadership in interdisciplinary research.

Building on this strong performance, Koç University also showed remarkable consistency in the URAP 2025-2026 results. For the fourth consecutive year, it secured the top position in Türkiye. By leading in all major indicators—scientific publications, citations, academic documents, international collaboration, and TÜBİTAK project scores—the University once again underscored the strength of its comprehensive research ecosystem.

These achievements align with Koç University's continued rise in global recognition. In the THE World University Rankings 2026, the University ranked first in Türkiye and placed within the 301-350 band worldwide, marking its highest-ever global standing.

Combined with the University's record-breaking climb of 78 positions in the QS World University Rankings 2025—and its distinction as the only Turkish university to remain in the world's top 500 for four consecutive years—this performance highlights Koç University's steady and significant growth as a research leader on both national and international levels.

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY MEMBERS

Koç University's strong standing in research, innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and academic leadership continues to be reinforced by recent awards and accolades across its faculties. These achievements highlight the university's scientific impact and further enhance its prestige among global academic circles.

Awards and recognitions received by Koç University faculty members in 2025 are summarized below.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- **Prof. Füsün Can** - Nature MDx Impact Award with "Rapid Detection of ViruResist Klebsiella pneumoniae" project
- **Prof. Ceyda Açılan Ayhan** - International Women's Forum Leadership Fellows Program (The first person selected for this program from Türkiye) and Prof. Altan Günalp Research Award
- **Dr. Buse Cevatemre** - 2025 Mustafa Genç Outstanding Scientist Award
- **Prof. Yavuz Gürkan** - ESRA Outstanding Achievement in Regional Anesthesia Education Award
- **Assoc. Prof. Erkan Kalafat** - Dru Carlson Memorial Award (SMFM, 2026)
- **Prof. Barış Ata (Dean)** - ASRM Star Award 2025
- **Prof. Uğur Selek** - ASTRO Ambassador of Türkiye and International Steering Committee membership

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

- **Prof. Önder Metin** - IUPAC Division of Inorganic Chemistry membership
- **Assoc. Prof. Safacan Kölemen** - 2024 Young Scientist Award (Science Heroes Association)
- **Assoc. Prof. Elif Nur Fırat Karalar** - "Academic Star" Award (Female Legends Türkiye)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- **Prof. Metin Sitti** - 2025 Frontiers of Science Award
- Nature article: "Small-Scale Soft-Bodied Shape-Programmable Robots With Multimodal Locomotion"
- **Prof. Seda Kızilel** - Dr. Nejat F. Eczacıbaşı Medical Awards
- **Asst. Prof. Levent Beker** - Elginkan Foundation Technology Award
- Wearable Microneedle Technology for Continuous Disease Monitoring
- **Prof. Seda Keskin Avcı** - Ömer Şifai Chemistry Award (2nd International Turkic World Science Awards)

COLLEGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES AND ECONOMICS

- **Prof. Şener Aktürk** - APSA Outstanding Article Award
- **Asst. Prof. Sevcen Yeşilaş** - Young Scientist Award 2025
- **Asst. Prof. Eda Aksoy** - Best Reviewer Award (Academy of Management, HR Division)

N2STAR - NANOFABRICATION AND NANOCHARACTERIZATION CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH

- **Dr. Çağdaş Dağ** - Established Researcher Award Johanna Quandt Young Academy, Goethe University

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

- In a recent global ranking based on research productivity, Koç University's International Relations Department was ranked among the top political science departments in Asia. A study published in the American Political Science Association's journal, PS: Political Science & Politics, evaluates departments based on such criteria as research output and impact. The ranking covers leading political science and international relations departments in countries such as China, India, Israel, Japan, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Taiwan.
- Covering the 2018-2022 period,, this global study includes more than 115,000 journal articles and over 12,600 books authored by upwards of 5,500 political science faculty members active across 178 departments worldwide. The study's results clearly reflect the Koç University International Relations Department's unwavering commitment to producing high-impact research and its ongoing efforts to foster academic excellence on a global scale.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

KOÇ UNIVERSITY RAHMI M. KOÇ MEDAL OF SCIENCE

RAHMI M. KOÇ MEDAL OF SCIENCE AT A GLANCE

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science was launched in 2016 to celebrate exceptional Turkish scientists under the age of 50 who have achieved international recognition for their research. The medal is intended to be a source of inspiration for future generations of scientists and to promote scientific excellence in Turkey.

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science Selection Committee comprised of experts from diverse disciplines draws up a shortlist of each year's potential recipients. Since 2016, the medal has been awarded in rotation to those involved in Science, Engineering, and Medicine and to those involved in the fields of Administrative Science, Sociology, the Humanities, and Law.

"FOR
GROUNDBREAKING
THEORETICAL
AND EMPIRICAL
RESEARCH IN
THE AREAS OF
INNOVATION,
PRODUCTIVITY,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
INCOME
DISTRIBUTION, AND
SOCIAL MOBILITY"

The 2025 Rahmi
M. Koç Medal
of Science was
awarded to Prof.
Ufuk Akçığit.



2025 RAHMI M. KOÇ MEDAL OF SCIENCE

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science —established in 2016 to honor outstanding scientists under the age of 50 who contribute to the global advancement of knowledge—was presented for the 10th time this year. The 2025 medal was awarded to Prof. Ufuk Akçığit, recognizing his pioneering contributions to economics at the international level, particularly his influential theoretical and empirical work on innovation, productivity, entrepreneurship, income distribution, and social mobility.

Presented alternately each year across scientific and social science disciplines, the medal celebrates researchers who advance universal knowledge in Türkiye or abroad.

Prof. Akçığit, who has been a faculty member in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago since 2020, stands out as one of the leading figures shaping contemporary economic research, and his work exemplifies the spirit of scientific excellence that the award seeks to honor.



KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ
RAHMİ M. KOÇ
BİLİM MADALYASI

**RECIPIENTS OF THE KOÇ UNIVERSITY RAHMİ M. KOÇ MEDAL
OF SCIENCE**

- 2025 - Prof. Ufuk Akçığit
(Economy)
- 2024 - Prof. Mete Atatüre
(Physics)
- 2023 - Prof. Ayşe Zarakol
(International Relations)
- 2022 - Prof. Bilge Yıldız
(Nuclear Science and Engineering, Materials Sciences and
Engineering)
- 2021 - Prof. Ali Hortaçsu
(Economy)
- 2020 - Prof. Hatice Altuğ
(Bioengineering)
- 2019 - Prof. Filiz Garip
(Sociology)
- 2018 - Prof. Metin Sitti
(Mechanical Engineering)
- 2017 - Prof. Daron Acemoğlu
(Economy)
- 2016 - Prof. Aydoğan Özcan
(Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Bioengineering)

KOÇ UNIVERSITY

KOÇ UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

UP 26%

In a year marked by unprecedented crises in the publishing industry, KUP's sales were up by 26% year-on.



During 2025, operations at Koç University Press (KUP) focused on three main areas: adding new books to the catalogue, effective marketing and sales, and reorganizing the publishing house.

Last year KUP continued to enhance its collaborations with prestigious university presses and academic publishers worldwide, expanding its pipeline of upcoming titles to 110 books for the years ahead. Of these books currently undergoing translation and editorial review, 50 have been scheduled for publication in 2026.

KUP will be expanding its collaborations with Oxford UP, Cambridge UP, and other prominent university publishing houses again in 2026.

Although it is primarily an academic press, KUP also gives great importance to publishing quality books for children, focusing especially on books that speak to and expand young readers' emotional, imaginative, and intellectual worlds from an early age on. Priority is also given to captivatingly entertaining books that make their readers curious about and receptive to basic scientific principles and better prepared for school life. When selecting titles, the utmost attention is given to those that aim to help children discover their individual creativity

and guide them through the world of reason and science. In line with this, KUP maintained and extended its licensing and distribution agreements with the world's premier and largest publishing houses during 2025.

Including reprints, a total of 119 titles were published in 2025: 55 for children and 64 for adults. In a year marked by unprecedented crises in the publishing industry, KUP's sales were up by 26% year-on.

The publishing industry's main challenges—gaining sufficient visibility across distribution and sales channels and ensuring books successfully reach readers—were largely resolved by creating a dedicated Marketing & Sales department in 2024. KUP began to reap the benefits of this new approach in 2025. During the year, commercial agreements were finalized with the market's premier bookstore chains and largest online retailers, alongside the continuous onboarding of established distributors into the existing portfolio.

Promotional campaigns across social media—especially Instagram—generated strong audience engagement, culminating in reaching KUP's targeted 25,000 followers in 2025.



25,000 FOLLOWERS

Promotional campaigns across Instagram and other social media generated strong audience engagement, culminating in reaching KUP's targeted 25,000 followers in 2025.

Marking their third appearance at the annual TÜYAP İstanbul Book Fair, KUP's stand and publications attracted substantial visitor interest and led to a 57% increase in sales compared to the 2024 fair. KUP also took part in regional book fairs across the country last year through its network of local dealers and distributors.

With the goal of providing readers with access to the entire KUP catalogue—including titles from Koç Group research centers—a decision was made to open a boutique bookstore in VEKAM's new building in Ankara. Similarly and due to the increasing concentration of cultural activities in the area and its growing appeal in recent years, a KUP bookstore will also be opened in the Arçelik Building in Kadıköy, İstanbul. Both venues are scheduled to become operational in 2026.

In 2025, KUP introduced high-profile book launch events to increase marketing effectiveness. To mark the fourth edition a book by Prof. Ayşe Zarakol's book—a Cambridge University faculty member whose title was first published by KUP in 2024—she was invited to Turkey in 2025 for an author talk and discussion at the ANAMED building. Given the considerable public attention that launch events can generate, it has been decided to continue organizing them.



As part of KUP's ongoing restructuring efforts, three additional editors joined the team after midyear, completing the reorganization of the editorial department. A newly-established graphics design department will become fully operational in early 2026.

press.ku.edu.tr/kitap/



KOÇ SCHOOL



INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE



CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAM AT K-5 LEVEL



KOÇ SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

The Koç School was initially founded as a high school by the Vehbi Koç Foundation in 1988. In 1998, it added an elementary school within the framework of the eight-year education program made compulsory by the Turkish Ministry of Education (MEB). Within only a few years, The Koç School became one of the most prominent schools in Turkey. With the introduction of the so-called “4+4+4 system” announced by the MEB in 2012, it continues to provide education as a K12 school composed of primary, middle, and high schools. The Koç School’s academic team is composed of local and international teachers, and its bilingual educational programs enhance its global perspective and culture. From kindergarten to Grade 12, The Koç School aims to enhance the intellectual and personal qualities of its students, raising global citizens who are self-confident, ethical, and responsible and who have leadership qualities. The Koç School is an Accredited International Baccalaureate World School, as well as a member of the Educational

Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS) and the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), USA. As of the 2023-2024 academic year, the Cambridge International Program has started to be implemented at the K-5 level. The program, which has been prepared in accordance with the identified themes, aims to help students learn the concepts of communication, research, analysis, evaluation, reflection and cooperation. Furthermore, our school has been following the Eco-Schools Program. The program, which is implemented to teach environmental awareness, environmental management and sustainable development in preschool, primary and middle schools, aims to familiarize our students with environmental issues through its participatory approach. In 2025, the Koç School secured Council of International Schools (CIS) accreditation, demonstrating full compliance with all applicable global standards ranging from teaching and learning methodologies to organizational governance frameworks.

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PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS



2,169 STUDENTS



Primary School	500
Middle School	673
High School	996
Total Number of Students	2,169

548 TEACHERS



Local	503
International	45
Total Number of Teachers	548

156



ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

KOÇ SCHOOL IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES



KOÇ HIGH SCHOOL 2025 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Celebrated with immense joy and pride, Koç High School's 2025 graduation ceremony took place on campus on 24 June 2025. The ceremony, which witnessed 241 students successfully complete their high school education, was attended by İpek Kırıç, Chair of the Koç School Board of Directors, and Oğuz Toprakoğlu, General Manager of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

On hand as the ceremony's guest speaker was Berkun Oya, a 1995 Koç School graduate and a well-known playwright, screenwriter, and director. His moving address, which drew on his own student experiences and the moments that shaped his life, was a source of inspiration for both students and guests alike.

The ceremony concluded with a performance by the Class of 2025 orchestra and the traditional cutting of the graduation cake.

KOÇ SCHOOL

KOÇ SCHOOL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

2025 GRADUATES

In 2025, once again making Koç School proud, 241 high school graduates received a total of 295 acceptances from 141 universities in 16 countries. 103 of the graduates, who received a total of USD 2,251,000 in annual scholarships from universities abroad, decided to continue their education in 15 different countries. Among the graduates who took the Higher Education Institutions Exam (YKS), 110 students who were admitted to select universities in Turkey received a total scholarship of 20,587,047 TL per year.

2025 LIVE@KOÇ

As is customary for this annual Koç Middle School event, Live@Koç took place on Sunday, 19 January 2025 at the school. With members of the 8th Grade Student Union acting as presenters, about a hundred students took the stage and showcased their impressive skills in musical composition, digital music, solo instrument, vocal, dance, photography, and cartooning to an enthusiastically appreciative audience. Live@Koç concluded with a mini-concert by Koç Philharmonic before the students headed off on their winter break.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECTS

- In a creative approach to social responsibility, Koç School primary school fourth-graders traded their handmade crafts directly for physical goods needed by charitable organizations. Through this barter-based donation drive, Class 4E provided vital support to the Kurtaran Ev Animal Shelter, while Class 4C supplied sports equipment to Adapazarı Çökekler Primary School. Both projects served as exemplary initiatives, fostering a sense of solidarity, empathy, and civic responsibility among the youngsters.
- A "Wishing Tree" project carried out by 10th-grade high school students aimed to raise social awareness by identifying and fulfilling the wishes of underprivileged children. Wishes attached to the tree by students at the Tuzla İçmeler Special Education School were collected and shared among high school student donors, resulting in the preparation and delivery of 215 personalized gifts. The pure joy shared by the

children, parents, and teachers alike during the visit proved to be the project's most rewarding outcome.

- To mark International Childhood Cancer Day, the Koç School community partnered with KAÇUV to host an on-campus "Hope Shop" pop-up on 19 February 2025. Students and staff rallied together to raise awareness by donning vibrant yellow attire, official KAÇUV ribbons, and "Sharing Day" t-shirts. The accompanying digital campaign successfully raised public awareness, engaging hundreds of users across social media platforms. In recognition of these impactful efforts, KAÇUV formally presented the Koç School with a certificate of appreciation.
- Under the banner of the "The Koç School Explores Its Campus Habitat" initiative, students across multiple grade levels teamed up with the TEMA Foundation for a series of campus ecology workshops. High school prep students kicked off the activities in May, followed by primary and middle school students in June,

295 ACCEPTANCES

In 2025, Koç School high school graduates received a total of 295 acceptances from 141 universities in 16 countries.



all gaining hands-on environmental literacy while exploring the rich biodiversity of their own campus ecosystem. TEMA experts led an engaging presentation on how the campus's unique habitat and rich biodiversity have evolved over the years. Guided by their teachers and the environmental specialists, students then put their commitment into action by conducting a conservation cleanup and nature walk, getting a close-up look at various indigenous plant species along the way.

- Now in its eighth consecutive year, the Koç School's flagship "Anadolu Education Project" focused its efforts on Samsun this term. Students traveled to Bafra to visit Sürmeli Middle School, where they conducted a series of interactive enrichment workshops designed to spark early curiosity, nurture personal enthusiasms, and help young students discover their potential. Alongside a series of hands-on science experiments, the final day featured a special event. The Koç School's student project leaders and TURMEPA volunteers delivered an engaging, interactive presentation focused on environmental sustainability and the vital importance of protecting oceans.

- On 19 September 2025, ninth-grade students at the Koç School kicked off their preparations for the İstanbul Marathon by meeting with representatives from TEGV, KAÇUV, and TOG. The interactive session allowed students to explore the vital work of these organizations and discover how athletic advocacy can drive real social impact. Adding a powerful layer of

peer mentorship, upperclassmen who ran the previous year joined the discussion to share their own fundraising insights and success stories, deeply inspiring the new runners. When race day arrived at the 46th İstanbul Marathon, the entire Koç School community swung into action. While staff members took to the course to run on behalf of TEGV, ninth-grade students took over Barbaros Boulevard, manning the KAÇUV and TOG cheer zones to rally the runners. In total, the school's campaign brought together 31 TEGV runners, 35 student volunteers, 6 faculty advisors, and 11 freshman leads, successfully raising funds for 10 different non-governmental organizations.

- In 2025, 29 middle school Eco-Team representatives planted pignoli nut pine trees on the school grounds. This hands-on initiative gave the students a first-hand understanding of environmental stewardship, showing them that even the smallest local actions can grow into a lasting global impact for future generations.



KOÇ SCHOOL

KOÇ SCHOOL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES



NASA SCIENCE TRIP

During the NASA Science Trip organized by Koç School's Middle School Science Department, students gained inspiring insights into space exploration while getting an up-close look at the rockets and Atlantis space shuttle on display at the Kennedy Space Center. A major highlight was a private Q&A session with veteran astronaut Kathryn Thornton. Students also stepped into the shoes of real astronauts

during hands-on ATX simulations, learning complex scientific principles in a fun, interactive environment through simulated Mars and space missions. Enriched by visits to the Frost Science Museum, Miami Metro Zoo, Universal Studios, and Disney World—along with the excitement of a live NBA game—the trip provided students with an unforgettable scientific and cultural journey that actively shaped their future career aspirations.

VEHBI KOÇ COMMEMORATION DAY

In remembrance of the 29th anniversary of his passing, Vehbi Koç, the founder of the Koç Group and the Koç School, was honored with respect across all campuses on 25 February 2025. Held in the Mehmet Yurdal Hall, the commemoration ceremony included a guest address by Erdal Yıldırım, a former general manager of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. During a Q&A session, students actively engaged with the guest speaker to discover the foundational principles and life of Vehbi Koç. Students across all grade levels from kindergarten through high school honored Vehbi Koç's memory through a range of creative expressions that included portraits, poetry, letters, presentations, and special projects, each reflecting Vehbi Koç's core values.





18TH SUNA KIRAÇ SHORT STORY CONTEST

The 18th Suna Kiraç Interscholastic Short Story Contest for high school students, whose theme this year was "Color", attracted widespread participation from students at the Koç School and across the İstanbul region. Organized by the Koç School High School Literature Department, the competition aims to promote the art of writing as a powerful vehicle for self-expression and to instill a lifelong passion for storytelling among students. By inspiring more students each year to collaborate with their literature teachers and dive into creative writing, the competition has become a vital literary milestone. This year's celebration culminated in an awards ceremony hosted at the Koç School on Wednesday, 9 April 2025.

THE KOÇ SCHOOL EXPLORES ITS CAMPUS HABITAT: BIOBLITZ EVENT

Designed to map and celebrate the school's rich biodiversity, the second annual "The Koç School Explores Its Campus Habitat - BioBlitz" was held on 3 May 2025. This collaborative field day brought together students, faculty, and ecological experts alongside the Roots & Shoots Association and the TEMA Foundation. A total of 121 observers recorded 477 observations, resulting in the identification of 141 species on campus. A 2025 Biodiversity Booklet, cataloging the documented species is now in preparation. During nature-focused workshops and fieldwork, students observed various plant, animal, and fungi species and had a first-hand look at how their campus ecosystem functions.



KOÇ UNITY DAY

Established by Koç School students, the Koç Unity Movement held its first-ever Koç Unity Day on 10 April 2025. The event was designed to comprehensively strengthen student and teacher solidarity and to promote a sense of social responsibility within the school community. Koç Unity Day's student-led

program featured a wide range of day-long activities that included a course of Survivor-style challenges, tournaments, workshops, and talks that created a shared experience. The social impact of the day's activities was expanded by donating all proceeds to support the education of earthquake-affected students and to expand opportunities in STEM disciplines.

KOÇ SCHOOL

KOÇ SCHOOL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES



THE KOÇ SCHOOL HOSTS JMUN

The Koç School hosted over 200 delegates during an intensive, three-day Koç Junior Model United Nations (JMUN) conference, providing a platform for the students to discuss critical global issues. Delegates debated an agenda of international challenges ranging from the political unrest in Haiti to sustainable urbanization, culminating in the drafting of formal resolutions. Debates conducted after initial presentations of each issue ultimately resulted in consensus-based solutions. The conference concluded with a high-energy closing celebration.



4TH ANNUAL VKV KOÇ SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS WEEK

On 6-7 May 2025, the VKV Koç School Middle School Mathematics Department hosted the 4th Annual Koç Mathematics Festival in collaboration with İzmit Ford Otosan Middle School. Centered around the theme "Mathematics: The Code of Our Lives", the event featured a special appearance by Oğuz Toprakoğlu, General Manager of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. During the two-day event, students participated in a variety of workshops and competitions, giving them the opportunity to sharpen their math skills while building new friendships. While highlighting the fun side of math, the festival also helped students develop life skills like empathy, collaboration, and collective creativity.



MUSTAFA V. KOÇ STORY AND OPINION WRITING CONTEST

Organized by the Koç School Turkish Department in memory of the late Mustafa V. Koç, the theme for the 2025 "Mustafa V. Koç Story and Opinion Writing Contest" was "Kindness". Exploring the concept of kindness from various perspectives, the young authors used the power of words to advocate for a more compassionate world.



MAKER CLUB STUDENTS AT THE CODEAVOUR 6.0 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Showcasing their innovative “Smart Recycling Station” project, middle school students from the Maker Club proudly represented our country at the Codeavour 6.0 International World Championship in Qatar. In a competitive field featuring 280 teams from 19 nations, the Koç School students attracted considerable attention for their innovative work aimed at promoting ecological responsibility. Codeavour 6.0 is a leading international platform where young minds develop projects in AI, robotics, IoT, and STEM while also sharpening both their technical expertise and their 21st-century skills.



KOÇ SCHOOL

KOÇ SCHOOL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

RAMFEST JR AND RAMFEST EVENTS

Held on 3 June 2025 on the Koç High School campus, Ramfest 2025 offered a vibrant festival atmosphere filled with music and entertainment, providing a welcome breather for the entire school community following year-end exams. Packed with art workshops, live stage performances, and sports competitions, the day's biggest surprise came when pop star Simge Sağın took the stage for a concert. The festival wrapped up with the school's traditional, high-energy water fight. Spearheaded by the Student Union, volunteer students, and various school departments, the event also benefited from the support of corporate sponsors.

In the middle school division, Ramfest Jr took place on 16-17 June 2025, providing an immersive artistic experience that enabled students to showcase their creative talents.



The event featured a keynote address by illustrator Meral Bilkay and specialized workshops led by painter Sait Günel. Both festivals drew to a close, leaving behind unforgettable moments that strengthened school spirit, a sense of sharing, and collective creativity.

VKV ENDOWMENT SCHOOLS GATHERING

Hosted by the Koç School on 17 October 2025, the year's VKV Endowment Schools Gathering brought together about 100 participants including Vehbi Koç Foundation General Manager Oğuz Toprakoğlu for a productive day of collaboration and shared insights. Bringing together school principals from various grade levels, teachers, and representatives from both Koç Holding and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the event fostered a culture of collective learning through best-practice presentations and a campus tour. The day continued with a mutual exchange of knowledge that led to ideas for future collaboration.

KOÇ VOLUNTEERS: BOOK BANK AND MY BOOK HERO PROJECTS

Throughout the year, the Koç School supported the various events and initiatives organized as part of Koç Volunteers programs. As part of the "My Book Hero" project spearheaded by Koç Volunteers, the Koç School's primary school teachers gathered with more than 40 volunteers on 1 November 2025 to provide specialized training on how to engage children in reading. The teacher-designed program helped volunteers master effective reading techniques and discover ways to support children's individual development.

Under another Koç Volunteers initiative, more than 800 books collected in two book banks were donated to village schools. High school students helped sort the donations, a process carried out with the meticulous guidance the Koç School library team, which also played an important role in the Book Bank initiative by vetting every single item collected across all Koç Group subsidiaries, carefully verifying the suitability of each author, publisher, and book, and even inspecting board games and test prep materials to ensure they were suitable.



HOMECOMING

Held this year on 14 September 2025, the traditional alumni homecoming brought graduates back together for a delightful day that kicked off with a brunch and continued with engaging activities throughout the afternoon. After opening speeches, the HotShots Band took the stage, followed by the presentation of milestone alumni plaques and the highly anticipated Homecoming raffle. The day continued with a packed lineup of activities for children, including a ceramic workshops, a campus bike tour, and a football tournament. The event was hosted by theater artist and actor Murat Eken, a member of the Koç High School Class of 1998.

SUNA'NIN KIZLARI SUMMER INSTITUTE

For its third Summer Institute, the Suna'nın Kızları initiative brought together 44 girls aged 14-18, hosting them in Şanlıurfa on 11-17 June and in İstanbul on 30 June - 1 July 2025. By participating in Wellbeing and Girl-Centered Design programs, exploring regional cultural heritage, and engaging with inspiring female role models, the participants strengthened their sense of sisterhood and pride. Organized in collaboration with the Koç School and supported by the Şanlıurfa Governor's Office and the Harran District Governor's Office, the program celebrated a major milestone this year. Under the "Transition to Adulthood" initiative, five Summer Institute graduates joined the Suna'nın Kızları field team for the first time to actively support operations. İpek Kırış, founder of Suna'nın Kızları, described this milestone as a vital step for the program's long-term sustainability, calling it the beginning of her dream to build a field team entirely composed of program graduates.



KOÇ SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

Student magazines Koçi, Epic Authors, Tohum, Edge STEAM, Felsefe, Ekvator, Koç Science Cope, LP Magazine, Boyut, Anonim, Era, and Psychology Magazine, all containing original content written and edited by students themselves, continued to be published during the 2024-2025 academic year. Besides hosting these student publications, Koç School also publishes its corporate annual magazine Voice, the Koç Group's monthly Koç Bulletin, and KoçWins, a magazine that showcases alumni achievements. Additionally, the Koç School Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department publishes monthly bulletins for the parents and guardians of Koç primary and middle school students.

|HEALTHCARE|

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VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE PROJECTS COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS PROJECT

The Vehbi Koç Community Health Volunteers Project aims to improve health literacy and strengthen access to primary healthcare services in Umut Kent container city communities.

Hatay, Adıyaman, and Kahramanmaraş Umut Kent container cities, the Community Health Volunteers Project aims to improve health literacy and establish sustainable, local support networks for communities with limited access to healthcare in post-disaster environments. The project encompasses critical functions such as health education, basic clinical care support, and the promotion of behavioral change while also serving as a vital conduit between the community and the broader healthcare infrastructure. The project is guided by a strong academic team composed of prominent experts from various Koç University faculties. Led by Dr. İlker Kayı, an associate professor at the Koç University, the project employs volunteers to disseminate essential health information while also striving to strengthen community solidarity and local capacity.

The Community Health Volunteers Project adheres to an approach that aims to comprehensively improve health literacy, strengthen local capacity, and support both the physical and the psychosocial wellbeing of post-disaster communities living in Umut Kent container cities. Competencies and insights gained by volunteers contribute directly to the maintenance of a permanent, resilient health support infrastructure in these communities.

For this project, volunteers were chosen directly from among the residents of all three container cities and were intentionally selected to represent the age, gender, and cultural diversity

of each one. The group of 36 Community Health Volunteers completed comprehensive training covering essential health topics such as first aid, hygiene, infection prevention, and maternal and child health along with healthcare communication, presentation skills, and referral mechanisms. Additionally, the project implemented the World Health Organization's five-session "Self-Help Plus (SH+)" psychosocial support program, aiming to strengthen the volunteers' own capacity to cope with post-disaster stress. To help youngsters in the Umut Kent communities critically evaluate digital health information, create content, and develop peer education skills, a team of 24 Youth Volunteers is driving collaborative initiatives with both local peers and Koç University students. Through these and similar joint efforts, young people are strengthening their ability to raise awareness and drive positive change within their own communities.

Following their training with Koç University faculty, the Community Health Volunteers launched active field operations under the guidance of local project coordinators, delivering first aid and health education to residents through home visits, door-to-door training sessions, group presentations, and collaborations with NGOs. To complement the training, the Vehbi Koç Foundation funded the distribution of first-aid kits supported to all participating households. As of end-December 2025, the project had reached a total of 5,801 people across the three container cities.

HATAY

The Community Health Volunteers continued delivering first aid presentations at Hatay Umut Kent through close collaborations with households, NGOs, and local schools. During home and door-to-door training visits, first aid kits were provided to 948 individuals. Following successful pilot trials in March, the project rolled out reproductive health presentations, ultimately delivering training to 138 individuals. As of end-December 2025, the project reached a total of 1,450 people in Hatay through pediatric-focused initiatives and home visits. During July, 50 first-aid kits were procured and distributed for immediate emergency use by frontline teams responding to local forest fires.

ADIYAMAN

The Community Health Volunteers continued delivering first aid presentations at the Adıyaman Umut Kent through individual invitations and home visits, supplying first aid kits to 725 households. The project reached 198 people, including local residents and civil society volunteers, through presentations on reproductive health. As of end-December 2025, the project reached a total of 736 people through pediatric-focused seminars and workshops supported by Koç University School of Medicine faculty, resident physicians, and medical interns. Through strategic collaborations with the Cancer Early Diagnosis, Screening, and Training Center (KETEM) and the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation (TAPV), the project conducted cancer screenings alongside dedicated support initiatives for pregnant and postpartum women. As a result of all these activities, the project reached a total of 1,659 people in Adıyaman Umut Kent as of end-December 2025.

KAHRAMANMARAŞ

The Community Health Volunteers continued delivering first aid presentations at the Kahramanmaraş Umut Kent through home visits and a door-to-door training model, supplying first aid kits to 1,178 households. Presentations on reproductive health delivered training to 381 individuals. Pediatric-focused seminars and workshops supported by the Koç University School of Medicine covered topics such as healthy child development, nutrition, newborn care, adolescence, and screen time, ultimately reaching 1,133 individuals. A total of 2,692 people living in the Kahramanmaraş Umut Kent were reached through a mix of institutional and civil society partnerships.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE PROJECTS COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS PROJECT

ANKARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE VEHBI KOÇ EYE HOSPITAL

The Vehbi Koç Eye Hospital, which was founded in 1967 as part of Ankara University's School of Medicine Department of Ophthalmology and underwent a large-scale renovation in 2007, has been supported regularly by the Vehbi Koç Foundation. The hospital serves approximately 300 patients a day in its outpatient clinics. Approximately 70 eye surgeries are performed every week at the hospital. It has also been offering ESASO (European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology) accredited post specialization courses for ophthalmologists since 2012 with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

HAYDARPAŞA NUMUNE HOSPITAL VEHBI KOÇ EMERGENCY MEDICAL CENTER

Founded in 1985 with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the Haydarpasha Numune Hospital Vehbi Koç Emergency Medical Center underwent a major overhaul in 2015 to meet increasing demand. The center has been supported consistently by the Vehbi Koç Foundation. It is able to serve a great number of patients simultaneously thanks to its interior layout that is able to cater to different needs and is considered one of Turkey's best-organized emergency wards.

ALZ-PRO: TRAINING PROFESSIONALS FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PROJECT

Funded by the Vehbi Koç Foundation and carried out by the Alzheimer's Association of Turkey, the "Alz-PRO: Training Professionals for Alzheimer's Disease Project" was successfully completed in 2025. This comprehensive capacity-building initiative aimed to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and rights-based approaches of professionals caring for Alzheimer's patients across Turkey. The program reached a total of 510 professionals through onsite training sessions conducted in İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Konya, and Van. Participants included nurses, elder-care staff, managers, social workers, and healthcare professionals. To ensure long-term sustainability, selected individuals were also certified as "Regional Training Coordinators".

The training curriculum was designed to comprehensively cover a wide range of topics, spanning the core characteristics of Alzheimer's disease, neurological care practices, and medication management. It also addressed patient communication, psychosocial support, and patient rights, as well as the social and legal rights of caregivers and skills for developing internal institutional policies. All sessions were supported by a variety of interactive methods such as case studies and group discussions with the aim of equipping participants with practical skills they can immediately apply to their daily work.

Pre- and post-tests conducted as part of the project's impact assessment showed a significant increase in knowledge levels across all cities, with significantly higher metrics recorded in Ankara and Konya. Participant feedback revealed that training not only strengthened professional competencies but also helped caregivers deliver services with a more empathetic, reliable, and rights-based approach.

A robust coordination model was developed at the local level, deploying the Alzheimer's Association of Turkey's branch networks for outreach and announcements. By the end of the program, training content had been standardized and a sustainable knowledge-transfer mechanism had been created linking specialists deployed in each region. The program will continue to be scaled across different regions and its long-term impact will be monitored through regular regional training coordinator online meetings.

Carried out with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, Alz-PRO represents a vital and sustainable step towards improving the quality of Alzheimer's care, empowering healthcare professionals, and enhancing patients' quality of life across Turkey.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

SINCE 2014

Koç University Hospital was founded as a research and teaching hospital in September 2014.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN NUMBERS

357 INPATIENT ROOMS



214,000 M² THE HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS



55 INTENSIVE CARE UNITS



- SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- SCHOOL OF NURSING
- RESEARCH LABORATORIES
- RAHMİ M. KOÇ ACADEMY OF INTERVENTIONAL MEDICINE, EDUCATION, AND SIMULATION

49 CHEMOTHERAPY UNITS



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PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS



KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AT A GLANCE

Koç University Hospital was founded as a research and teaching hospital in September 2014. The hospital has a total capacity of 357 single inpatient rooms, 55 intensive care units, and 49 chemotherapy units. The Health Sciences Campus, established on an area of 214,000 m², includes the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, research laboratories, and the Rahmi M. Koç Academy of Interventional Medicine, Education, and Simulation. Boasting an innovative approach and a dynamic team meeting North American standards, the Health Sciences Campus aims to contribute to the education of qualified human resources for the healthcare industry

KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

"IS DIABETES MY FRIEND?" LOOK AT IT THROUGH MY EYES!" SCHOOL PROJECT

The "Is Diabetes My Friend? Look at it through my eyes!" awareness project, prepared in consultation with the Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes Department of Koç University Hospital, was brought to schools this year in collaboration with the District Health and National Education Departments. This educational plan aims to raise awareness about diabetes not only in children with Type 1 diabetes but also in their families, friends and teachers. The aim is to make it easier for children to cope with prejudices, to create stronger empathy and support in their social environment, and to ensure that newly diagnosed children and their families approach this process with a more understanding and friendly perspective.

As part of the project, documentary-supported awareness training sessions, in which we listened to children with diabetes and put ourselves in their shoes, were implemented in 6 selected schools in April, May and November. In these trainings, which were carried out with the approval of the District Health Directorate and the Directorate of National Education, diabetes awareness training was given accompanied by a documentary by Nurse Merve Karagözoğlu from the Diabetes Department team.

Şehit Ömer Cankatar Elementary School, Atatürk Elementary School, Saniye Sezgin Elmas Elementary School, Reşat Tardu Secondary School, Şemsettin Sami Secondary School and Ayhan Şahenk Secondary School are among the schools included in the visit plan.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

"HEALTH BEGINS IN THE HANDS" PROJECT IS IN ITS 9TH YEAR...

Koç University Hospital continues to meet with elementary school students in the 9th year of the "Health Begins in the Hands" project, which was implemented in collaboration with the Zeytinburnu Municipality and the District Directorate of National Education within the scope of "October 15th Global Handwashing Day."

The "Health Begins in the Hands" project aims to help first-year students in Zeytinburnu acquire the habit of proper handwashing at an early age by demonstrating the correct handwashing

steps in practice by expert nurses at Koç University Hospital.

Zeytinburnu Mayor Ömer Arısoy, Zeytinburnu District National Education Branch Manager Harun Can, Koç University Hospital Deputy Chief Physician Dr. Özgür Gözer, and Koç University Hospital Infectious Diseases Specialist Dr. Özlem Alhan attended the first educational event held at Fatma Süslügil Elementary School on Wednesday, 15 October 2025.

In 2025, as part of the project, handwashing training was provided to approximately 5,000 students from 15 schools in the Zeytinburnu region.



FESTIVAL JOY WITH "KUHFEST"

Hospital staff experienced the joy of the festival with the "KUHFEST" events themed "Hello to Summer" and "Farewell to Summer" held by Koç University Hospital on 4 July and 3 October 2025. Music groups "Retro Plus", "Gelişigüzel" and Ilgaz Altın appeared on stage at the events attended by employees and students of the Faculty of Medicine, while Bülent Yıldırım also gave a DJ performance.

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS AND RESEARCH EXCELLENCE: KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S EVOLUTION AS A LEADER IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Backed by a team of 18 professional specialists, the Koç University Hospital Clinical Research Center hosts Phase 1-4 pharmaceutical and medical device trials. The center is actively engaged in more than 50 ongoing clinical trials with about 20 global and local pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

Over the last three years, the center has launched numerous new studies, including nine Phase 1 first-in-human (FIH) trials evaluating pharmaceuticals. Through these initiatives, the center has built a strong foundation of institutional knowledge and operational expertise in early-phase drug development. The center's collaboration with BioNTech, the global biotechnology pioneer that developed the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, continues to grow stronger, with six research projects currently underway. Through clinical trials like these,

hundreds of volunteers have gained early access to innovative, life-saving treatments. The center also plays a role in training qualified clinical research specialists.

Driven by strategic investments in research infrastructure and human resources as well as by an evolving institutional vision, the Koç University Hospital Clinical Research Center has achieved steady and remarkable growth. Over the last two years, the center has more than doubled both the number of ongoing studies and active volunteer participants annually.

To ensure the sustainability of this success and maintain research excellence, major strategic projects have been developed at both the local and the global levels. A prime example of this is the center's newly inaugurated Koç Clinical Research Symposium, the most comprehensive scientific gathering of its kind in Turkey.

THE INAUGURAL KOÇ CLINICAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Organized to contribute to the advancement of clinical research in Turkey, the inaugural Koç Clinical Research Symposium was held at Koç University Hospital on 12-13 December 2025. This first symposium brought together about 140 professionals from across the healthcare, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries.

Spearheaded by the Koç University Hospital Clinical Trials Unit (CTU), the two-day symposium focused on strengthening national and international collaborations, while exploring innovative clinical research methodologies and current best practices. Hosted at the Rahmi M. Koç Academy of Interventional Medicine, Education, and Simulation (RMK AIMES), the event brought together leading academics, representatives from international research institutions, and key healthcare stakeholders.

The first day of the symposium featured a series of scientific presentations and panel discussions with the participation of the Koç University Hospital CTU, Mayo Clinic, Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (AİFD), Clinical Research Association, RS Research, and Miltenyi. These sessions explored key topics such as the current state of clinical trials in Turkey, global developments, academia-industry collaborations, innovations in cellular therapy protocols, drug development experiences, and the integration of artificial intelligence in clinical research.

The second day featured hands-on workshops led by specialists from Koç University Hospital and research leaders from Mayo Clinic, a member of the Care Network. These workshops provided participants with an opportunity to enhance their expertise in both the operational and clinical management of clinical trials.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES



A GRAND AWARD TO THE KOÇ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL "IS DIABETES MY FRIEND? LOOK AT IT THROUGH MY EYES" PROJECT FROM "GIGI AWARDS" and "FELIS"

The "Is Diabetes My Friend? Look at it through my eyes!" project, which aims to raise awareness in the social circles of children with type 1 diabetes to make it easier for them to cope with prejudices and to help newly diagnosed children and their families overcome these fears, won 3 awards.

The project became the only project to receive the Achievement Award in the Social Responsibility area, "Health & Wellness" category at the "GIGI Awards" organized under the leadership of the Marketing Communicators Association, and the Special Jury Award in the "Healthcare & Wellness" category at the "Felis Awards" organized by MediaCat. At the 23rd Golden Compass Turkey Public Relations Awards Ceremony held in December, the project was honored with the award in the Corporate Responsibility - Health category and received the Grand Golden Compass Award.



MEDICAL SEMINARS AND EVENTS

- 4 January 2025 Recent Advances in Gynecologic Cancers
- 14 January 2025 Koç University Hospital & French Lape Hospital Tuesday Meetings
- 8 February 2025 Neurology Meetings - 1 Semiology
- 11 March 2025 Koç University Hospital & French Lape Hospital Tuesday Meetings
- 14 March 2025 Medicine Day Conference
- 14 April 2024 Cardiovascular Health Conference
- 21 May 2025 Symposium on Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation | Orthopedics

RAHMI M. KOÇ ADVANCED INTERVENTIONAL MEDICINE, TRAINING AND SIMULATION CENTER (RMK AIMES)

Committed to advancing patient safety and clinical excellence, the Rahmi M. Koç Academy of Interventional Medicine, Education, and Simulation (RMK AIMES) offers healthcare practitioners and students an advanced, realistic clinical environment for specialized skills acquisition. The institution maintains a strong growth trajectory, consistently expanding its curriculum portfolio and global cohort year-over-year. As of early 2025, the academy had provided training resources to more 4,000 professionals representing 81 countries.

On 4 October 2025, the 3rd Emory University and Koç University Hospital Urology Symposium was held at RMK AIMES. This year, physicians from the Mayo Clinic Urology Department also joined the symposium online to share their presentations with attendees. Highlighting its multidisciplinary structure, the symposium focused on the latest diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for dealing with prostate cancer. The event drew over 50 physicians from 8 countries, offering a rich scientific program filled with interactive discussions and Q&A sessions.

As part of the symposium, the Urology Faculties of Koç University and Emory University hosted a practical training course titled "Laparoscopic Partial Nephrectomy on 3D Models and Basic Robotic Surgery Applications". The session featured EBLUS laparoscopic training, Da Vinci robotic simulator training, and a hands-on laparoscopic nephrectomy course using 3D models. Alongside these interactive applications, participants also observed live-case demonstrations of robotic-assisted kidney transplantation and robotic-assisted prostate cancer surgeries with considerable interest. Attended by 15 participants from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iraq, Kosovo, Mongolia, and Russia, the course delivered a uniquely valuable, international-caliber learning experience.

The symposium and course provided participants with the opportunity to share knowledge and strengthen cooperation on an international platform.

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION AMERICAN HOSPITAL

SERVING FOR 105 YEARS

Vehbi Koç
Foundation
American Hospital
is the heir of the
Constantinopolis
American Hospital
originally founded
in 1920.



VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES



THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL'S "BREAST HEALTH DEPARTMENT" CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SERVICES WITH ITS EXPANDING STAFF

The American Hospital Breast Health Department, which has begun operating in its new location with its expanded staff, continues to provide services with a patient-focused approach by combining screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up processes under one roof. The symbolic opening of the Breast Health Department was carried out by Dr. Erhan Bulutcu, Dr. Ömür Erçelen and Prof. Abdullah İğci, and the holistic service approach was shared with the participants.

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PRESENTATION

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AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION AMERICAN HOSPITAL AT A GLANCE

The hospital was first founded in 1920 as the Constantinopolis American Hospital and was acquired in 1995 by the Vehbi Koç Foundation to serve as a non-profit private hospital. The Vehbi Koç Foundation American Hospital has always aimed to provide the highest international standards with its healthcare personnel, medical technologies, and administrative systems. It has also been playing a key role in the development of Turkey's healthcare system.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN NUMBERS

241 INPATIENT ROOMS



41 INTENSIVE CARE UNITS



166 OUTPATIENT CLINICS



12 OPERATION ROOMS



The department's multidisciplinary team, consisting of radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine specialists, plastic surgeons, physical therapists, and psychologists, evaluates each patient together and creates the most appropriate personalized treatment plan.

"Intraoperative Radiotherapy", one of the prominent applications, facilitates the treatment process by allowing patients to receive radiotherapy in a single session during surgery. This method both shortens the time to access treatment and contributes positively to the quality of life.



VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION AMERICAN HOSPITAL

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUPPORTED “MOLE SCREENING DEPARTMENT” HAS BEEN OPENED

The Mole Screening Department, which plays a transformative role in diagnostic processes with artificial intelligence-supported systems, began operating at the American Hospital in May. The “360 Degree Mole Screening Device” in the department is an artificial intelligence-supported 3D imaging system that photographs the entire body surface simultaneously thanks to its 92 cameras, and is a technology used especially in early diagnosis. The artificial intelligence-based image analysis system helps dermatologists evaluate skin lesions more quickly and accurately.

The panel titled “Early Diagnosis of Skin Cancer with Artificial Intelligence,” held as part of the opening of the section during “Melanoma Awareness Month,” discussed the symptoms of

melanoma, its risk factors, and the approaches brought by artificial intelligence and technology in its treatment. The opening speech and moderation of the panel was undertaken by Prof. Sibel Alper, Head of the Dermatology Department at the American Hospital. Dermatology specialists Assoc. Prof. Esra Saraç, Dr. Yeliz Erdemoğlu, and Dr. Erkan Koyuncu provided information to the participants during the panel.



AMERICAN HOSPITAL LAUNCHES INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE CLINIC!

American Hospital has opened its Integrative Medicine Clinic to strengthen its holistic approach to healthcare. The clinic offers evidence-based practices such as functional medicine, acupuncture, osteopathy, manual therapy (chiropractic), and breath therapy, delivered by internationally trained specialists, physicians, and therapists.

Designed to complement modern medical practices, the clinic aims to enhance quality of life and support patients throughout their healing process. Guided by scientific principles, our multidisciplinary team works collaboratively across all branches to provide personalized treatment programs that address patients’ physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual needs, contributing to the management of their conditions. In the near future, traditional Chinese medicine



practices—integrating Eastern and Western approaches—will be introduced through a joint program with Heidelberg University. Under the leadership of Prof. Johannes Greten, these services will complement treatments in areas such as cancer, IVF, endometriosis, emotional self-management and resilience, and musculoskeletal disorders. With this initiative, alongside our functional medicine group, we aim to become a recognized center in the field of integrative medicine.

SPONSORSHIPS



İSTANBUL FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS (İKSV)

As the "Service Health Sponsor", ambulance support accompanied by a paramedic was provided at festivals organized by İKSV in various fields such as music, film and theatre.

- İKSV Alt Kat (Lower Floor) Eco Melodies: A Concert for Ecology (9 February 2025)
- 44th İstanbul Film Festival (11-22 April 2025)
- 53rd İstanbul Music Festival (11-26 June 2025)
- Gezgin Salon Festival (28-29 June 2025)
- 32nd İstanbul Jazz Festival (1-17 July 2025)
- 18th İstanbul Biennial (20 September - 23 November 2025)
- Salon İKSV New Season Opening (12 September 2025)
- 29th İstanbul Theatre Festival (20 October -22 November 2025)



BUSINESS TENNIS CUP

For 11 years, American Hospital has continued to support the "Business Tennis Cup" tournament as a "Health Sponsor," bringing together sports and health with the same enthusiasm. As a "Health Sponsor," we provided ambulance support for the tournaments held between 22 May -1 June 2025, and 10-21 September 2025.

DAVIS CUP

As the "Health Sponsor" of the annual international tennis tournament "Davis Cup Tennis Tournament", American Hospital provided ambulance support to the tournament in Türkiye on 1-2 February 2025.

MEDICAL SEMINARS AND EVENTS

- 27 February 2025 Conference: Chinese Medicine from the Perspective of Western Medicine
- 14 March 2025 Conference: Celebration of Medicine Day
- 17 March 2025 Seminar: Colorectal Cancer
- 14 April 2024 Conference: Cardiovascular Health
- 17 April 2024 Conference: Breast Health
- 6 May 2025 From Science to Success: LH & Gonadotropin Strategies
- 19 June 2025 Second Interactive Meeting on Breast Cancer
- 23 June 2025 Integrative Medicine Modalities as Clinical Services in Healthcare Settings (Health & Wellness Coaching, Functional Medicine, Horticultural & Nature Therapy)
- 24 September 2025 Shoulder and Elbow Council
- 9 October 2025 Conference: Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 22 October 2025 Interactive Meeting on Breast Cancer

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BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL

MUSEUM HOSPITAL

Bodrum American Hospital is Turkey's first "Museum Hospital".



BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN NUMBERS

33 PATIENT BEDS



15 ICU BEDS



25 OUTPATIENT CLINICS



3 OPERATION ROOMS



BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES

BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL HOSTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM AND HAND HYGIENE EDUCATION ON THE 4TH YEAR OF THE "HEALTHY GENERATIONS BEGIN WITH US" PROJECT

This year, Bodrum American Hospital hosted elementary school students as part of the "Healthy Generations Begin with Us" project, carried out in collaboration with the Directorate of National Education and the DenizTemiz Association/TURMEPA Bodrum Branch.

Bodrum American Hospital hosted 10 special students and their teachers from Yahşi Special Education and Practice School on Thursday,

15 May 2025, as part of "Disability Week". Students who visited the Museum Area of the Bodrum American Hospital, which preserves and exhibits historical artifacts from the Late Roman Period, learned about the mosaics and were given hand hygiene training by the Bodrum American Hospital infection nurse.

As part of the project, Diet. Billur Çalik of the Bodrum American Hospital's Department of Nutrition and Dietetics met with approximately 45 third- and fourth-year students from Mod College Bodrum at their school on Thursday, 22 May 2025, to provide information on topics such as "What is Healthy Nutrition?", "What are the Food Groups?", and "What are the Benefits of Healthy Nutrition?" as part of a "Nutrition Seminar."

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BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL AT A GLANCE

The Bodrum American Hospital opened in 2019 following extensive improvements and renovation work. It offers services in all fundamental branches, has 33 patient beds, and provides various ambulatory care services, as well as high-tech diagnostic and laboratory services. In total, there are 25 outpatient clinics, 15 ICU beds, 3 operation rooms, a cardiovascular surgery unit, angiography, chemotherapy, and a medical oncology treatment unit.

A COASTAL CLEAN-UP EVENT WAS ORGANIZED ON THE AEGEAN COAST WITH BODRUM BRANCH OF THE IMEAK CHAMBER OF SHIPPING AND THE DENİZTEMİZ ASSOCIATION/TURMEPA.

Bodrum American Hospital, together with the IMEAK Chamber of Shipping Bodrum Branch and the DenizTemiz Association/TURMEPA, rolled up their sleeves to clean the seabed and shores in Gümüşlük Bay on Saturday, 26 April 2025.

Bodrum District Governor Mustafa Çit, Chamber of Shipping Bodrum Branch President Orhan Dinç, along with NGO representatives, participated in the event. Deputy Chief Physician Dr. Şahin Ünal, Neurology Specialist Dr. Melek Kandemir Yılmaz, and administrative staff from the Bodrum American Hospital participated in the day-long activities.



During the cleaning work carried out in the region where the historical Myndos Ancient Port, which has the status of a 1st Degree Archaeological Site, is located, approximately 2 tons of waste were removed from the sea by the Bodrum Municipality diving team. 200 kilos of waste were collected during the coastal cleaning around the port. Hundreds of collected waste items such as stove pipes, glass bottles, boat anchors, and tea glasses were sent to the 1st Class Waste Bringing Center in Konacık Neighborhood.

THE “DON'T FORGET THOSE WHO FORGET 2025 GROUP EXHIBITION” WAS HOSTED AT THE MUSEUM AREA

The “Don't Forget Those Who Forget 2025 Group Exhibition” was held at the Bodrum American Hospital Museum Area between 6-13 September 2025, to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and to support patients and their loved ones.

The “Don't Forget Those Who Forget 2025 Group Exhibition” was held for the benefit of the Bodrum Branch of the Turkish Alzheimer's Association, under the sponsorship of the Bodrum American Hospital, and in collaboration with the Bodrum Municipality and the Bodrum Branch of the Turkish Alzheimer's Association. 61 works by 35 artists were included in the exhibition. All revenue generated from the works were donated to the Bodrum Branch of the Turkish Alzheimer's Association.



BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL

BODRUM AMERICAN HOSPITAL IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

THE "MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK" EXHIBITION IN THE MUSEUM AREA

The 12th Personal Oil Painting Exhibition, "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk," consisting of 27 works by Bodrum American Hospital Deputy Chief Physician Dr. Şahin Ünal, was opened to art lovers at the Museum Area.

ŞAHİN ÜNAL'S 12TH PERSONAL OIL PAINTING EXHIBITION OF "MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK" WAS HOSTED IN THE MUSEUM AREA.

Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, was commemorated with a meaningful exhibition on the 87th anniversary of his passing at the Bodrum American Hospital Museum Area between 8-30 November 2025. The 12th Personal Oil Painting Exhibition, "Mustafa Kemal Atatürk," consisting of 27 works by Bodrum American Hospital Deputy Chief Physician Dr. Şahin Ünal, was opened to art lovers with an opening ceremony held at the Bodrum American Hospital Museum Area.

The opening ceremony was attended by CHP Bodrum District Chair Tuna Işın, Bodrum Municipality Council Member İdil Ekmekçi, master artist and writer Zülfü Livaneli, hospital management, doctors and art lovers of Bodrum.



"BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" CONFERENCE

As part of the "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," a conference moderated by Bodrum American Hospital Deputy Chief Physician Dr. Şahin Ünal took place at the Herodotus Cultural Center on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, in collaboration with Bodrum American Hospital and the Bodrum Municipality. Radiology Specialist Prof. Selma Tükel and General Surgery Specialist Prof. Mehmet Özdoğan from the Breast Unit shared up-to-date information on breast health.

"OUR HEALTH MATTERS" TALKS

Bodrum American Hospital has brought together physicians specialized in their fields with the public through its "Our Health Matters" talk series. The talks, open to the public and free of charge, were held on Tuesday, 22 July 2025, with Assoc. Prof. Melek Kandemir Yılmaz, Diet. Billur Çalık, and Physiotherapist Hatice Canbakan on "Brain Health at Every Age", on Wednesday, 27 August 2025, with Op. Dr. Özgür Kocamaz on "The Right Timing in Cardiovascular Diseases", on Tuesday, 30 September 2025, with Assoc. Prof. Kemal Göl on "Menopause", and on Thursday, 30 October 2025, with Assoc. Prof. Melek Kandemir Yılmaz on "Stroke". The talks were met with considerable interest.



MEDICAL SEMINARS AND EVENTS

6 physical events have been held at Bodrum American Hospital in 2025.

- 15.05.2025 | Museum Hospital Students Tours | Yahşi Private Education and Practice School | Physical
- 22.07.2025 | Our Health is of Value | Brain Health at Every Age | Physical
- 27.08.2025 | Our Health is of Value | The Right Timing in Cardiovascular Diseases | Physical
- 06.09.2025 | Don't Forget Those Who Forget 2025 Group Exhibition Opening | Physical
- 30.09.2025 | Our Health is of Value | Menopause | Physical
- 30.10.2025 | Our Health is of Value | Stroke | Physical

AMERICAN OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CENTER

IN SERVICE SINCE 1997

The American Outpatient Medical Center is located on the Anatolian side of İstanbul and has been affiliated with the American Hospital since 1997.



AMERICAN OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CENTER AT A GLANCE

The American Outpatient Medical Center is located on the Anatolian side of İstanbul and has been affiliated with the American Hospital since 1997. It has 33 examination rooms, a clinical laboratory, a medical imaging facility, an in-vitro fertilization center, a physiotherapy and rehabilitation clinic, and a health and wellness clinic, as well as 2 operating rooms and 17 observation beds.

AMERICAN OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CENTER IN NUMBERS

17 OBSERVATION BEDS



33 EXAMINATION ROOMS



2 OPERATING ROOMS



AMERICAN OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CENTER IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

AMERICAN MEDICAL CENTER “MENOPAUSE CLINIC” HAS BEEN OPENED!

Menopause Clinic has been opened in order to provide multidisciplinary service that can provide multi-faceted counseling about women’s health and support for the needs during menopause at the American Medical Center. Clinic programs have been specially prepared for women who are entering their menopause period and want to manage this process in a healthy way.

At the clinic, specialized physicians develop personalized assessments and treatment plans in collaboration with departments such as:

- Mental Health and Diseases to better manage the process, including psychological changes and past psychosocial burdens, based on the individual’s individual needs,
- Endocrinology for changes in metabolic processes,
- Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation for loss of bone mass and muscle and joint problems,
- Dermatology for skin changes.

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THE "TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!" (KENDİNE İYİ BAK!) VIDEO SERIES OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLINIC IS OUT NOW.

The "Take Care of Yourself!" video series prepared in the Health and Wellness Clinic has been published. The series, that consists of "Heart Health", "Brain Health", "Mental Health", "Physical Health", "Skin Health" and "Women's Health", offers 5 valuable suggestions from specialists to improve the viewer's life quality.

NOVEMBER 10TH ATATÜRK EXHIBITION - "YOU AROUND EVERY CORNER!" (HER KÖŞEDE SEN!)

As part of "November 10th Atatürk Memorial Day" at the American Medical Center, the exhibition "You Around Every Corner!" was held, showcasing photographs of Atatürk encountered in their surroundings through the point of view of doctors and staff. The exhibition, which included 53 photographs captured by doctors and staff, was the focus of attention of hospital visitors between 10 November and 10 December 2025.



VETAMERİKAN

ONE OF
EUROPE'S
BIGGEST

Boasting 7,500 m² of indoor space, VetAmerican is one of the biggest privately-owned animal hospitals in Europe.



VETAMERICAN IN NUMBERS

15 EXAMINATION ROOMS



2 IMAGING ROOMS



4 OPERATING ROOMS



442 BED CAPACITY



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VETAMERICAN AT A GLANCE

Launched in 2023 under the Koç Healthcare brand, VetAmerican Pet Hospital aims to provide high-quality healthcare to our beloved pets. Employing a team of seasoned vets and state-of-the-art technology, the hospital strives to create a trusting and caring environment for pets and their owners alike.

Just like human healthcare facilities that continuously evolve by reviewing and evaluating their outcomes, VetAmerican is dedicated to delivering standardized, comprehensive care and treatment to our cherished pets.

With an indoor area of 7,500 m², VetAmerican is one of the largest private animal hospitals in Europe, bringing together cat and dog treatment areas under one roof; 16 examination

rooms, two of which are emergency, 2 imaging rooms, 1 imaging center, 4 operating rooms, 39 infection areas, 2 outpatient clinic areas and 1 dialysis room. VetAmerican, which has 442 bed capacity, 109 of which are ICU (Intensive Care Unit) cabins, devices and facilities such as Radiotherapy (LINAK), MRI, Computed Tomography, Scopy, Digital X-ray, ESWL (stone crushing) designed for animals, endoscopy, arthroscopy, PCR, offers Radiotherapy services to all of Turkey and neighboring countries with LINAK technology for the first time in Turkey. VetAmerican works for the health of our friends as a corporate organization that questions itself and improves itself with quality standards, where the duties and responsibilities of its large staff of veterinarians who are experts in their fields are clear, the results are shared with the patient.

VETAMERICAN IN 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES

VETAMERICAN'S "ADOPT WITH LOVE, RAISE WITH HEALTH" PROJECT

VetAmerican Animal Hospital has implemented the "Adopt with Love, Raise with Health" project for pets that are documented to have been adopted from government shelters, have chips and are registered. Within the scope of the project, all health examinations and treatment procedures of pets adopted from the shelter were undertaken free of charge for 6 months between October and March, thus ensuring their health.

Also, as part of the project, informative and guiding videos featuring expert veterinarian opinions were prepared to help people who adopted cats and dogs from shelters better understand the needs of their pets on their new journeys. These videos were published on the VetAmerican YouTube channel on "October 4th, World Animal Protection Day".

A NEXT-GENERATION ONLINE PET SHOP EXPERIENCE BY PETHOOP

Aiming to deliver safe products that meet international standards for pet owners, Pethoop is set to make a difference in the industry with its new online pet shop platform. The website has officially been deployed, and live-environment testing is now underway.

In its initial phase, the project will launch with 480 different products across 12 categories for cats and dogs. Slated for a 2026 debut, Pethoop aims to provide a premium, reliable shopping experience to seamlessly meet the needs of our four-legged friends.

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS JOINT PROGRAMS

KOÇ HEALTHCARE

"HEALTHY LIVING MOVEMENT" IN COOPERATION WITH KOÇ HEALTHCARE AND KOÇ HOLDING

"Healthy Life" Webinars In Cooperation with Koç Healthcare and Koç Holding

As part of the "Healthy Living Movement" project, implemented in collaboration with Koç Healthcare and Koç Holding, monthly "Healthy Life" webinars with specialist doctors on different topics are held for all Koç Group employees.

Many webinars have been organized with different fields, topics and experts in the year 2025.

- Life with Cancer - Cli. Psy. Şeyma Arpacı Coşkun
- Pregnancy, Prenatal and Postnatal - Prof. Kayhan Yakın
- Mole Screening, Checkups and Skin Cancer - Assoc. Prof. Esra Saraç
- Healthy Diet and Good Life - Dr. Diet. Tuğçe Aytulu
- Child/Adolescence Education and Development - Dr. Herdem Aslan Genç

- Move for Health - Prof. Ayşegül Ketenci
- Ways to Protect Cardiac Health - Assoc. Prof. Onur Baydar
- Breast Cancer Risks and Early Diagnosis - Prof. Abdullah İçci
- Diabetes in Children and Adults: Early Diagnosis, Symptoms, Treatment and Life - Prof. İlhan Satman and Prof. Şükrü Hatun
- Early Diagnosis, Treatment and Protection Ways in Lung Cancer - Assoc. Prof. Duygu Sezen, Prof. Fatih Selçuk Biricik, Prof. Öner Dikensoy and Prof. Serhan Tanju
- First Aid in the Workplace - Prof. Can Aktaş



"HEALTHY AND LONG LIFE" MARCH 14TH MEDICINE DAY EVENT WITH MURAT AKSOY

The conference, held with Prof. Murat Aksoy at the American Hospital and Koç University Hospital on the special occasion of "March 14th Medicine Day" under the theme "Healthy and Long Life" - Does the Shoemaker's Son Always Go Barefoot? experienced the "March 14th Medicine Day Spirit" and addressed the topic of "What Should Be Done for a Healthy Long Life?" At the conference, where a film specially prepared for Medicine Day was broadcast, information about the secrets of long life, examples and cases from around the world were shared.

Prof. Murat Aksoy conducted a survey for all participants and evaluated their health habits and survey results in line with daily habits. A reception was held after the conference, which was broadcast live at Koç Healthcare institutions.



AWARDS

KOÇ HEALTHCARE NAMED “MEDICAL PROVIDER OF THE YEAR” AT 2025 GLOBAL ITIJ AWARDS.

Koç Healthcare won the “Medical Provider of the Year” award at the 2025 ITIJ Awards, an international event that benchmarks the world’s most respected healthcare institutions. The jury commended Koç Healthcare’s strategic focus on international patients—a core reflection of its corporate vision—as well as its ability to balance quality and exceptional value while driving new investment- and innovation-led initiatives.

AWARDS FOR THE KOÇ HEALTHCARE “HEALTHY FOOTNOTES” PROJECT

As Koç Healthcare, the “Healthy Footnotes” Social Responsibility Project was launched to increase health literacy rates and raise awareness. Within the scope of the project, explanations for the diseases included in the content of the books in a selected audiobook application were created by taking professional expert opinions.

In order to draw attention to the Health Library, which is part of the Koç Healthcare & Mayo Clinic collaboration, and to increase interaction, a QR Code was added to communication activities, and directions to the Health Library were provided through the American Hospital and Koç University websites.

The project won two awards in the Digital Section, Creative Media Use and Social Responsibility, and Health & Wellness categories at the “GIGI Awards” organized under the leadership of the Marketing Communicators Association. The project was also honored at the “İstanbul Marketing Awards” with the “Creative Advertorial Project” award in the Corporate Communications and Sustainability category, and the “Health: Consumer-Oriented Health Communication Studies - Digital” award in the Brand Communication category.

KOÇ HEALTHCARE & MAYO CLINIC COLLABORATIONS

STRONG CONNECTIONS, EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS: CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND METHODS TO OVERCOME THEM

A panel titled “Strong Connections, Effective Solutions, Challenges Encountered in the Multidisciplinary Approach and Methods for Overcoming Them” was held at Koç University Hospital for “May 14th Pharmacy Day.” The conference, which began with the opening speech of Koç Healthcare Pharmacy Director Aslı Özyıldırım, was followed by speakers Ülker Şener, Pharmacy Director of the American Hospital, and Müge Tekbaş, Pharmacy Director of Koç University Hospital. At the end of the program, a session was held with participants from Mayo Clinic, Hacettepe University, Acıbadem Hospital, Şişli Hamidiye Etfal Training and Research Hospital, Erzurum City Hospital and İstanbul Provincial Health Directorate.

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VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS JOINT PROGRAMS



NURSING ORIENTATION WAS HELD WITH MAYO CLINIC SPECIALISTS.

The Nursing Orientation Program, held at the American Hospital in collaboration with Mayo Clinic, was led by Mayo Clinic Nursing Education Specialist Dr. Ellen Joswiak and Senior Nursing Consultant Jennifer Matoush.

Participants were informed about professional development, change management, implementation and evaluation methods, and interactive discussions were held throughout the program.

KOÇ HEALTHCARE INTRODUCES A FIRST IN TURKEY: "PART OF THE FAMILY" PET HEALTH PLANS

Koç Healthcare is breaking new ground in Turkey with an innovative initiative that allows employees to insure their pets. The "Part of the Family" Pet Health Program offers three distinct health plans designed for cats and dogs. Under this program, half of the membership fee is covered by the institution, making it easier for employees to protect their beloved companions.

To date, 89 pets have benefited from this program, which ensures not only human health but also the well-being of our animal friends. Starting in 2026, "Part of the Family" plans will also be available to individual users outside the Koç Healthcare network.



This pioneering step reflects Koç Healthcare's commitment to enhancing quality of life for employees while safeguarding the health of their furry family members.

INTERNATIONAL PATIENT PROGRAM

Within the scope of Koç Healthcare's International Patient Program, a total of 51 outpatient department (OPD) activities were conducted across international markets in 2025. In addition, participation in three trade fairs and eight congresses and symposia significantly enhanced the institution's global visibility. Furthermore, eight international business development trips and nine domestic business development programs—including hosting visiting physicians, hospital tours, and webinars—were organized to strengthen collaborations in target markets and establish new strategic connections.



"BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" EVENTS

The "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" panel, organized by Koç Healthcare and open to all participants, stood out this year with the theme "A Single Touch Can Save a Life." The opening speech of the panel, which emphasized the importance of breast health, diagnosis, treatment, and early diagnosis with expert doctors in the field, was delivered by Prof. Abdullah İğci and moderated by Prof. Hasan Karanlık. Breast Health Department doctors Prof. Nil Molinas Mandel, Prof. Burcu Çelet Özden, Prof. Can Atalay, Prof. Ece Dilege, Prof. Nilgün Kapucuoğlu, Prof. Şeyda Gündüz, Prof. Yasemin Atagün, Dr. Kerim Kaban, Dr. Umut Altunoğlu and Dr. Hayedeh Aktürk participated as speakers.

In the panel that brought together the healing power of art and the medical world, theater artist Selçuk Yöntem and pianist Ece Dağıstan provided enjoyable moments to the participants with their performances, adding an artistic touch to the awareness message.



"BREAST CANCER AWARENESS RUN" AND TALK

As part of "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," the "Breast Cancer 3K Awareness Run," organized in cooperation with Koç Group Sports Club, took place on Sunday, 12 October 2025, with the participation of approximately 150 people.

Everyone who participated prepared for the 3 km run with warm-up exercises moderated by the Koç Community Sports Club (KTSK) team. Later, awareness of Breast Cancer was raised with an awareness run held on the running track in the Grove.

At the end of this meaningful event, Prof. Ece Dilege shared important information about breast cancer with the participants. The talk and running event, which turned into an interactive event with the questions of the participants, was completed with great interest.

The event, which has become a tradition, aims to reach larger audiences within the scope of awareness month.

KOÇ HEALTHCARE MEDICAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

In 2025, Koç Healthcare conducted a total of 265 Medical Council Meetings, comprising 192 online sessions and 73 hybrid sessions. In addition to these council meetings, Koç Healthcare organized 24 seminars and events within the same period.

- Gastrointestinal Cancer Meeting | Online
- Multidisciplinary Cancer Meeting | Hybrid
- Breast Cancer Meeting | Hybrid
- Urological Cancer Meeting | Online
- Thyroid Diseases and Endocrinology Council | Online
- Multidisciplinary Pediatric Tumor Meeting | Hybrid
- Mortality & Morbidity Meeting | Hybrid
- Hematology-Pathology Meeting | Online
- Neuromuscular Disorders Council | Hybrid
- Cardiovascular Surgery Meeting | Online
- Medical Oncology Meeting | Hybrid
- Pediatric Neuro-Orthopedics Council | Online
- Dermatology Department Meeting | Online
- Mortality & Morbidity Meetings | Hybrid
- Anesthesiology Meeting | Hybrid

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KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)

THE NURSES WHO WILL GUIDE THE FUTURE

With its more than 100 years of nursing education experience, the School of Nursing trains the nurses who will guide the future.



28 GRADUATES IN 2025



THE FIRST AND ONLY
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
WITH ACEN ACCREDITATION
IN TURKEY



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING IN 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING CONTINUES TO TRAIN CLINICAL MENTOR NURSES.

"Mentor Nurse Training" was held on 10-12 February 2025, by Koç University School of Nursing to train "mentor nurses" who will guide students in clinical practice settings to provide a more efficient and safe teaching environment. A total of 39 nurses participated in the training program, including those working in the clinics where students attend clinical practice courses at Koç University Hospital, as well as nurses from



Istanbul state hospitals, where students go for practical training. Since 2016, 217 nurses have received free mentor nurse training.

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PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AT A GLANCE

The history of the School of Nursing, Turkey's first private health education institution, dates back to the Admiral Bristol School of Nursing, which was established in 1920 under the auspices of the American Hospital and supported by the US government until 1957. It was incorporated into the Vehbi Koç Foundation in 1995 and, under the leadership of Semahat Arsel, underwent a total restructuring in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing to become part of Koç University in 1998 to offer a 4-year nursing degree. In the 1998-1999 academic year, the School of Nursing started to provide nursing education as a Health College of Koç University, which became the College of Nursing in 2005, and then the School of Nursing in 2016, with the decision of the Council of Ministers. The School of Nursing continues its education and training activities with its academic staff at the Health Sciences Campus, honored to have more than

100 years of nursing education experience, and continues to train nurses who will guide the future. Koç University School of Nursing is the first and only internationally accredited nursing school in Turkey, accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Koç University Health Sciences Campus, with its state-of-the-art physical infrastructure, nursing curriculum prepared with a global perspective, and AIMES laboratory and simulation center, increases the interdisciplinary education opportunities offered to students every year in cooperation with Koç University Hospital and other Vehbi Koç Foundation Healthcare Institutions and public institutions. The School of Nursing also develops scientific evidence that improves the quality of healthcare services through quality research outputs. Through its Ph.D. program, Koç University School of Nursing trains leader nurses and strong academicians.

THE 15TH TRADITIONAL AND 5TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM OF KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING WAS HELD WITH THE THEME OF "CURIOSITY IN NURSING."

The Koç University School of Nursing Student Symposium was held on 21 May 2025, hosted by Koç University School of Nursing students. The event, themed "Curiosity in Nursing," featured senior students presenting the results of their projects. An international European University of Cyprus student also attended the symposium as an invited speaker. Approximately 150 participants from Koç University School of Nursing and other nursing schools in İstanbul attended the symposium.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

A CAREER DAY EVENT WAS ORGANIZED FOR THE STUDENTS OF THE KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

The “Careers in Nursing” program took place on 15 April 2025, and included an interview with graduate specialist nurses and human resources experts from Koç University School of Nursing, who work at Koç University Hospital and American Hospital, in collaboration with Koç University School of Nursing and Koç University Career Development Center. The program organized various sessions to help students at the School of Nursing with their career planning and journey.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY AND VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS NURSES WEEK SYMPOSIUM

The Nursing Week Symposium 2025 was organized by Koç University School of Nursing, the Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice, and Research Center (SANERC), and VKV Koç Healthcare Institutions on 14 May 2025, at the Dr. Nusret Arsel Conference Hall located in Koç University Hospital Health Sciences Campus. The symposium welcomed international guests, faculty members, administrators, nurses from Koç University Hospital and American Hospital, and students.

In recognition of her enduring contributions to the nursing profession and education in Türkiye, Ms. Semahat Arsel, the Board Member of Koç Holding, as well as the Founder of the Koç University School of Nursing and SANERC, honored the symposium with her all-day presence and extended her heartfelt congratulations to all nurses in celebration of Nursing Week.

The opening speeches were delivered by Prof. Duygu Gözen, the Dean of the Koç University School of Nursing; Şahika Mert, the Manager of Nursing Services at Koç University Hospital; Erhan Bulutcu, the Chief Executive Officer of Vehbi Koç Foundation Healthcare Organizations; and Prof. Barış Ata, the Dean of the Koç University School of Medicine.

In her opening remarks, Dean Prof. Duygu Gözen emphasized that nursing is crucial for shaping the future. She pointed out that nursing education not only impacts the quality of the profession but also plays a vital role in developing, protecting, and maintaining public health. Prof. Gözen stated, “Nursing education should not solely rely on theory; it must be integrated with clinical practice and provide a realistic educational environment where practical skills can be developed.” She

added, "In line with European Union standards, enhancing clinical education opportunities for students and ensuring they receive quality education before graduation is essential for building confidence in the nursing profession." Prof. Gözen also mentioned ongoing efforts to maintain educational standards, update curricula according to international developments, and provide students with more clinical practice opportunities. She highlighted using innovative teaching methods and integrating technology, artificial intelligence support, and sustainability principles in nursing education. Prof. Gözen concluded by stating that the sustainability of Türkiye's healthcare system relies on investing in the well-being of healthcare professionals, especially nurses. "Improving the quality of life for nurses means they receive the value they deserve, which ultimately allows millions of people worldwide to access better healthcare services and enhances public health," she said.

During the symposium, Prof. Jos. M. Latour, a faculty member from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Plymouth in England, discussed how Florence Nightingale's

famous "Rose Diagram," developed in 1858, continues to influence modern nursing practice. He demonstrated how historical data visualization approaches are integrated with contemporary intensive care nursing.

Prof. Zepure Samawi, a faculty member in the Department of Health Sciences and Business at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, United States, shared insights on the effective use of concept maps in patient care planning. She emphasized that concept maps are powerful learning tools that help nursing students develop clinical reasoning, critical thinking, and a holistic approach to patient care.

The "Person-Centered Care" panel was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Pelin Karaçay, the Director of SANERC. Panelists included Melis Yazıcı, the Person-Centered Care Coordinator at American Hospital; Dr. Mustafa Özünal, the Deputy Chief Physician at American Hospital; and Assoc. Prof. Ayda Kebapçı, the Vice Dean of Koç University School of Nursing. They evaluated the impact of the person-centered care approach on healthcare services from different perspectives.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES



INTERNATIONAL INCOMING VISITS

Between 13-15 May 2025, Prof. Jos. M. Latour, a faculty member from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Plymouth in UK, and Prof. Zepure Samawi, a faculty member from the School of Nursing, Saint Xavier University, Chicago, USA, visited Koç University School of Nursing and held meetings and seminars with faculty members, teaching assistants, and graduate students.

In addition, Prof. Rosa Melo, Dr. Sílvia Silva, and Dr. Marília Neves, faculty members of the Department of Nursing, Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Coimbra (ESEnfC) University, Portugal, visited the Koç University School of Nursing as part of the Erasmus Faculty Exchange Program on 28-29 May 2025. During their visit, they held meetings with the faculty members by exchanging views on various scientific topics, and visited some units of Koç University Hospital.

Koç University School of Nursing hosted project partners for the Erasmus+ KA2 Project “Developing Practices and Strengthening Core Competencies in Disaster Nursing: Learning Hub (ECODN-HUB)” on 2-3 October 2025. Project partners from Akdeniz University (Coordinator), Antalya Training and Research Hospital, University of South Bohemia, Åbo Academy University, and West Timișoara University attended the meeting, which was coordinated by Prof. Sevilay Şenol Çelik and organized by Teaching Assistant Hande Nur Arslan.

Koç University School of Nursing welcomed Prof. Carol Condon, a lecturer from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at University College Cork in Ireland, as part of the Erasmus Faculty Exchange Program on 11-13 November 2025. During her visit, Prof. Condon met with faculty members and toured various units at Koç University Hospital.



GRADUATION CEREMONY AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

At the Koç University Graduation Ceremony on 28 June 2025, 28 students who started their nursing studies in 2021 and completed their courses graduated from Koç University School of Nursing and began their careers.

THE OPENING OF THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR AND THE SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENTS' PINNING CEREMONY

The opening of the 2025-2026 academic year at Koç University School of Nursing took place on 9 October 2025. The event included several distinguished guests, such as Prof. Funda Yağcı Acar, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Koç University; Prof. Duygu Gözen, Dean of the School of Nursing; Prof. Barış Ata, Dean of the School of Medicine; Assoc. Prof. Bülent Kılıç, Dean of Students; Prof. Jos Latour, Professor of Clinical Nursing at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health, University of Plymouth, UK; Assoc. Prof. Orhan Haklı, Associate Dean at the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Manhattanville University, New York, USA; Dr. Erdal Aksoy, Medical Chief Officer of Koç University Hospital, along with managers from Koç Healthcare—including Deputy Medical Chief Officers and Nursing Chief Officers—as well as faculty members, students, and their families.



During the ceremony, Prof. Duygu Gözen and Prof. Funda Yağcı Acar delivered the opening speeches. Prof. Jos Latour presented the opening lecture “Patient and Family-Centered Care: a Topic of Great Importance in Critical Care Nursing” and Assoc. Prof. Orhan Haklı lectured on “Nursing Brand and Protecting Its Value” as the initial course.

Following the opening remarks and initial lectures, our second-year students adorned their uniforms for the first time and were officially presented with the newly designed school badges during the Pinning Ceremony.

At the ceremony, Ms. Semahat Arsel, Board Member of Koç Holding and Founder of the Koç University School of Nursing and SANERC, honored the ceremony and conveyed her best wishes for the success of our students, expressing her deep pride in their achievements.

JOURNAL CLUB SESSIONS WERE HELD MONTHLY

Monthly “Journal Clubs” are hosted to promote faculty engagement and facilitate the exchange of information regarding scientific activities and experiences related to international initiatives at Koç University School of Nursing.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND PROJECTS OF KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

- **Prof. Duygu Gözen** received the 2024 Midwifery and Nursing Research First Prize from the Mustela Foundation for her study titled “The Effect of Kangaroo Care and Maternal Voice on the Comfort, Anthropometric Measurements, and Transition Time to Oral Feeding of Preterm Babies,” in collaboration with her colleagues Negarin Akbari, Canan Genç, and Melek Selalmaz.
- **Prof. Duygu Gözen’s** project titled “The Effect of the Mother’s Voice on Physiological Symptoms and Feeding Performance of the Preterm Infant During Total Oral Feeding: A Randomized Controlled Study” was accepted within the scope of TÜSEB Group B-A3.
- **Assoc. Prof. Tuba Şengül** received the “EPUAP Excellence in Education Award” from EPUAP (European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel) for her study titled “Unlocking Excellence: Improving Nursing Students’ Knowledge of Pressure Injury Prevention through an Escape Room Experience.”
- **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci Şahin’s** project titled “PEDCARE: Development of a Sustainable and Adjustable Support Surface for the Prevention of Pediatric Pressure Injuries” was accepted within the scope of TÜSEB Group B.

VISIT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BY FACULTY MEMBERS OF KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

- In collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, Prof. Duygu Gözen delivered an online presentation titled "Transition to Oral Feeding in Preterm Infants" during the online event organized by the University of Pittsburgh Maternal/Perinatal and Reproductive Health Research Hub on 31 October 2025.
- Asst. Prof. Seda Karakaya Çataldaş, within the scope of the Koç University Visiting Scholar Program, visited the Department of Communication and Leadership at Kristiania University in Oslo, Norway, during August and September 2025.
- Asst. Prof. Meryem Yıldız Ayvaz visited the University of Thomas More Applied Sciences in Belgium between 17-21 March 2025, as part of the Erasmus Exchange Program.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS BY FACULTY MEMBERS OF KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

- The article titled "Psychometric Properties of the Turkish Version of the Neonatal Eating Assessment Tool-Breastfeeding (NeoEAT-Breastfeeding)", co-authored by **Prof. Duygu Gözen**, was published in the international journal; BMC Nursing.
- The article titled "Investigating the Efficacy of a Handheld Fan Intervention in Children with Dyspnea: a Randomized Controlled Study", co-authored by **Prof. Duygu Gözen** and **Asst. Prof. Özge Eda Karadağ Aytemiz**, was published in the International Journal of Emergency Nursing.
- The article titled "The Impact of Web-based Education Provided to Parents on the Nutritional Risk of Preschoolers: A Quasi-experimental Study", co-authored by **Prof. Duygu Gözen**, was published in the International Maternal & Child Nutrition.
- The article titled "Skin Problems in the Facial Area Due to the Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review", co-authored by **Prof. Ayiße Karadağ** and **Teaching Assistant Ayşe Silanur Demir**, was published in the international journal; Journal of Clinical Nursing.
- The article titled "Identification of Nursing-Sensitive Indicators on Pressure Injuries/Ulcers: A Systematic Review", co-authored by **Prof. Ayiße Karadağ**, was published in the international journal; Nursing Inquiry.
- The article titled "Impact of Care Bundles Prevention of Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis", authored by **Prof. Ayiße Karadağ** and **Teaching Assistant Ayşe Silanur Demir**, was published in the international journal; Nursing Open.
- The article titled "Nurses' Intention to Report Child Abuse and Related Factors in Türkiye", co-authored by Emeritus **Prof. Ayşe Ferda Ocakçı** and **Teaching Assistant Enes Şimşek**, was published in the international journal; Child Abuse & Neglect.
- The article titled "Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Among Future Nurses: Does Awareness Influence Attitudes Towards Reporting?", co-authored by Emeritus **Prof. Ayşe Ferda Ocakçı** and **Teaching Assistant Enes Şimşek**, was published in the international journal; Child Abuse & Neglect.
- The article titled "Socioeconomic Status and Self-Efficacy Among Breast Cancer Survivors: Insights from a Cross-Sectional Study", co-authored by **Prof. Gülcan Bağçivan**, was published in the international journal; Breast.
- The article titled "Cancer Care for Refugees in Türkiye: Challenges and Achievements", written by **Prof. Gülcan Bağçivan**, **Asst. Prof. Seda Güney** and **Teaching Assistant Özlem Çiçek Doğan**, was published in the international journal; Seminars in Oncology Nursing.
- The article titled "Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Mental Health Professionals Regarding Trauma-Informed Care", co-authored by **Prof. Fahriye Oflaz**, was published in the international Journal of Mental Health Nursing.
- The article titled "The Effect of Cold Therapy on the Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy in Oncology Patients: A Systematic Review Study", co-authored by **Assoc. Prof. Ayda Kebapçı**, was published in the international journal; Seminars in Oncology Nursing.

- The article titled "Investigation of Pressure Injuries With Visual ChatGPT Integration: A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Study", co-authored by **Assoc. Prof. Pelin Karaçay**, was published in the International Journal of Advanced Nursing.
- The article titled "Evaluation of Nursing Students' Ethical Decision-Making Biases and Attitudes Toward Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Education", co-authored by **Assoc. Prof. Tuba Şengül**, was published in the international journal; Nurse Education in Practice.
- The article titled "Nurses' Insights on the Braden Scale and Their Vision for Artificial Intelligence Innovations: A Mixed Methods Study", co-authored by **Assoc. Prof. Tuba Şengül**, was published in the International Journal of Clinical Nursing.
- The article titled "The Impact of Doctor of Nursing Practice Education on Career Advancement and Professional Satisfaction: A Scoping Review", co-authored by **Assoc. Prof. Tuba Şengül** and **Asst. Prof. Seda Sarıköse Parlak**, was published in the International Journal of Advanced Nursing.
- The article titled "The Effect of Video-Based Education Method on Nursing Students' Knowledge, Skills, and Motivation in Fluid Intake and Output Monitoring", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Meryem Yıldız Ayvaz**, was published in the international journal; European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.
- The article titled "A Biofeedback-Based Virtual Reality Game for Pediatric Population (BioVirtualPed): A Feasibility Trial", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci**, was published in the international journal; Seminars in Oncology Nursing.
- The article titled "Adaptation of the Shirom-Melamed Burnout Measure in Parents of Turkish Pediatric Oncology Patients", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci**, was published in the international journal; Seminars in Oncology Nursing.
- The article titled "Effect of Game-Based Asthma Management Interventions on Pediatric Asthma Control, Knowledge, Attitudes, Hospitalizations, and Emergency Visits: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci**, was published in the International Journal of Pediatric Nursing - Nursing Care of Children & Families.
- The article titled "Effectiveness of Technology-Based Intervention in Symptom Management in Pediatric Oncology Patients: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci**, was published in the international journal; Seminars in Oncology Nursing.
- The article titled "Not Like It Used To Be, But A New Life: Social Reintegration of Adolescents After Childhood Cancer Treatment", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci**, was published in the International Journal of Pediatric Nursing - Nursing Care of Children & Families.
- The article titled "Staying or Leaving the Pediatric Oncology Clinic: Nurses' Challenges in Care and Voices of Struggle - A Qualitative Study", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Remziye Semerci**, was published in the international journal; Seminars in Oncology Nursing.
- The article titled "Outcomes Of Bullying And Intervention Strategies For Migrant And Refugee Children in Low- And Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review", co-authored by **Asst. Prof. Seda Güney** and **Teaching Assistant Özlem Çiçek Doğan**, was published in the international journal; Children and Youth Services Review.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SEMAHAT ARSEL NURSING EDUCATION, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH CENTER (SANERC)

THE FIRST AND ONLY IN TURKEY

SANERC is the first and only internationally accredited postgraduate education and research center for healthcare professionals in Turkey.



ANCC ACCREDITED



LEADING NURSING
EDUCATION



SANERC IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF GRADUATE NURSES

Established to contribute to graduate nurses in Türkiye acquiring the competence to effect change, the Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice and Research Center (SANERC) continues to support nurses' professional development through lifelong learning and the principle of equal opportunities in education. In 2025, SANERC conducted a total of 10 training programs and 2 recertification exams. Through its training programs, it reached a total of 256 healthcare professionals, the majority of whom were nurses.



SANERC JOANNA BRIGGS INSTITUTE ENTITY WILL BE THE FIRST ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN TURKEY AND OUR REGION.

The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) is a pioneering organization worldwide in the field of nursing, promoting the translation of evidence-based healthcare, education, and research findings into practice. Our application to establish the SANERC JBI Entity was accepted in November 2025. The agreement to be signed marks a significant step towards achieving one of SANERC's strategic goals: becoming a center for producing nursing evidence. This collaboration will contribute to the dissemination of evidence-based practices through international research partnerships, JBI methodology-based training, and certification opportunities. Furthermore, it will enhance the international visibility of SANERC, the first and only internationally accredited institution in Türkiye, and our university, while contributing to the improvement of nursing care outcomes in our country.



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PRESENTATION

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SANERC AT A GLANCE

Koç University Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice and Research Center (SANERC) was established with the mission of developing creative educational models and providing best practices in post-graduate nursing education to contribute to the development of the nursing profession in our country; it is the first and only internationally accredited post-graduate education and research center established for health professionals in Türkiye. SANERC was re-accredited for the third time by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), one of the

world's longest-established accreditation bodies, on 24 March 2023, for a period of 4 years, the longest accreditation period that can be obtained, until 31 March 2027. SANERC has become a center approved by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) with the regulation dated 17 November 2019, and numbered 30951, published in the Official Gazette. SANERC, which conducts its training according to American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accreditation standards, supports nursing research that develops evidence-based and clinical practices and publishes books and journals, has been leading continuous education in nursing in Türkiye since 1992.

CONTRIBUTION TO OLDER ADULT CARE IN TURKEY: GERONTOLOGY NURSING COURSE

Türkiye, like the rest of the world, has faced the challenge of an increasing elderly population (65 years and older) over the past decade. According to the latest statistical data, Türkiye has entered the category of "aging countries." Chronic diseases and physical limitations among older adults, as well as their inadequacies in self-care, can lead to social and financial problems. In recent years, it has become increasingly evident that more healthcare resources are needed to care for older adults. Therefore, it has become a necessity for governments to be prepared to provide appropriate treatment and care services for the elderly and to expand financial and social support services for the growing aging population. As part of an interdisciplinary team, nurses who work 24/7 play a critical role as healthcare professionals providing care to older adults. In this context, it is important for nurses to receive training in elderly care and to develop their knowledge and skills.



Within the scope of the project "At Least 100 Gerontology Nurses in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye," an education agreement was signed in 2024 between SANERC and the Çamlıbel Foundation. According to this agreement, the Gerontology Nursing Course began in 2024 and was also conducted in October 2025, resulting in the training of a total of 127 gerontology nurses.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SEMAHAT ARSEL NURSING EDUCATION, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH CENTER (SANERC)

SANERC IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

COLLABORATION WITH THE TURKISH HEART FOUNDATION

Possessing knowledge and skills in Basic Life Support (BLS) is essential for nursing students to maintain patient safety, reduce mortality, and adequately prepare them for their professional roles after graduation. As part of the Turkish Heart Week activities, SANERC, in collaboration with the Turkish Heart Foundation, for the 14th consecutive year, provided BLS training to the top-performing senior nursing students. The program was conducted on 24-25 March 2025, with the participation of 28 students from various nursing schools. The opening session was attended by Kenan Güven, President of the Turkish Heart Foundation, and a tribute was paid to Ms. Gülsevım Çevıker, former Director of Admiral Bristol, who passed away on 31 July 2024.



SANERC REMAINS THE ONLY CENTER OFFERING SIMULATION TRAINING COURSE

A successful Simulation-Based Learning (SBL) experience requires educators to possess sufficient knowledge and skills; however, when instructors are inexperienced, the SBL experience may be at risk. For that reason, educators must understand how to apply SBL strategies effectively. The aim of the simulation training program is to enhance the knowledge and skills of teaching staff, nurses, and other healthcare professionals regarding simulation education and teaching strategies, contributing to the successful implementation of SBL experiences in Türkiye. SANERC, the only center in Türkiye that regularly provides simulation training, conducted a course on 26-28 March 2025, with the participation of 36 healthcare professionals from various institutions.

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS COURSE

The aim of this course was to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses in accordance with international standards and guidelines, as well as in preparing manuscripts for publication. The course was held on 6-7 March 2025, with the participation of 25 healthcare professionals, including graduates of postgraduate programs, current students in these programs, and faculty members from nursing and other disciplines.

WOUND CARE COURSE

As part of the collaboration with the Darüşşafaka Foundation, a wound care course was held between 28-30 May 2025, with 20 participants from the Darüşşafaka Foundation and a total of 52 participants from various healthcare institutions and healthcare professionals. Aiming to provide effective and safe care to patients with chronic wounds, the course focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and skills in evidence-based practices, analyzing the risks involved in the formation of chronic wounds, understanding wound healing processes, and correctly classifying different types of wounds.



NURSE MANAGER DEVELOPMENT COURSE

In Türkiye, there is a critical need for nurse manager development programs that address management, leadership, strategic planning, conflict resolution, communication, and technological adaptation skills. The Nurse Manager Development Course aims to strengthen the leadership, management, and decision-making skills of nurses currently in managerial positions or aspiring to such roles. The program focuses on developing knowledge and competencies in key managerial areas, including empathetic communication, teamwork, conflict management, and problem-solving. The course was conducted online with a total 31 nurses between 28-30 April 2025.

EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS IN NEWBORN ORAL NUTRITION COURSE

Interventions such as oral feeding readiness assessment and the Premature Infant Oral Motor Intervention (PIOMI) help accelerate neonates' transition to oral feeding, reduce complications, and improve feeding performance. The aim of this training program was therefore to enhance nurses' knowledge and skills in evidence-based approaches to neonatal oral feeding and to enable them to apply these approaches safely in clinical practice. The course was conducted on 16 October 2025, with 13 nurses primarily working in neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, as well as other pediatric clinics. At the end of the course, participants were awarded a Premature Infant Oral Motor Intervention (PIOMI) certificate.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SEMAHAT ARSEL NURSING EDUCATION,
PRACTICE AND RESEARCH CENTER (SANERC)

NURSING RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE VEHBI KOÇ
FOUNDATION IN 2025

The Vehbi Koç Foundation Nursing Fund has been supporting professional development projects carried out by nurses since 2003. The main objective of this program is to contribute to the development and strengthening of the nursing profession in our country. Vehbi Koç Nursing Fund supported 4 projects in 2025. In addition, two projects accepted in the 2024 period were completed. Thus, a total of 87 projects have been supported to date.

Project Number	Project Name	Project Owner	Status
2024.2	The Effect of Two Different Positive Pressure Irrigation Techniques on Implant Port Catheter Occlusion and Maintenance Costs in Pediatric Oncology Patients: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Asst. Prof. Sevil Özkan	In Progress
2025.6	Evaluating the Effect of Digital Intelligence Games on the Visual and Cognitive Performance of Young Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Asst. Prof. Seda Güney	In Progress
2025.7	The Effect of a Mindfulness Training Program Supported by a Mobile Application on Nurses' Self-Care, Self-Compassion, Quality of Life, and Interaction with Patients: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Asst. Prof. Fatma Dursun Ergezen	In Progress
2025.8	The Effect of Motivational Interviewing on Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms and Post-Traumatic Growth in Women with Endometrial Cancer: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Prof. Kamile Kabukcuoğlu	In Progress
2025.16	The Effect of Creative Drama-Based Diabetes Education on Acute Complications in Children with Type 1 Diabetes: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Assoc. Prof. Ayfer Ekim Günaydın	In Progress

SANERC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The training programs carried out by SANERC in 2025 are listed below:

Name of Educational Program	Date	Participant Number	ANCC Credit*
Basic Electrocardiography Course (LearnX)	2025	8	20
Intensive Care Nursing Training Program (LearnX)	2025	4	16
Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Course	6-7 March 2025	25	12
Basic Life Support Course (Face to Face)	24-25 March 2025	28	12
Simulation Training Course (Online)	26-28 March 2025	36	15
Nurse Manager Development Course (Online)	28-30 April 2025	31	16
Wound Care Course (Online)	28-30 May 2025	52	16
Intensive Care Nursing Recertification Exam	28 May 2025	6	2
Stoma and Wound Care Nursing Recertification Exam	4 June 2025	8	2
Gerontology Nursing Course (Face to Face)	29 September -1 October 2025	27	19
Educator Nurse Training Program (Face to Face)	6-10 October 2025	20	28
Evidence-Based Interventions Newborn Oral Nutrition Course	16 October 2025	13	8
Basic Level Oncology Nursing Course	8-10 December 2025	11	21
Total	11 training program, 2 recertification exams	269	187

Note: 1 ANCC Credit = 1 Hour

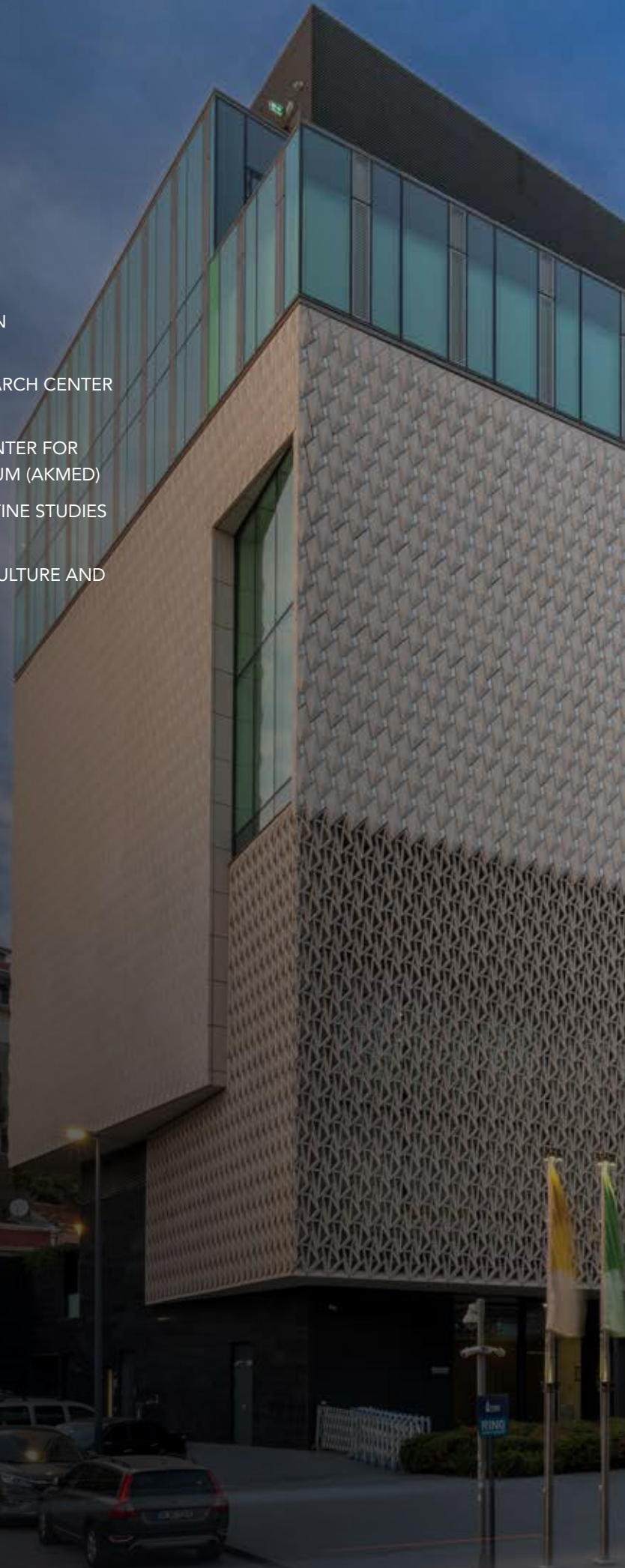
PUBLICATIONS

The Journal of Education and Research in Nursing (JERN) is an independent, impartial, and open-access scientific journal, published online exclusively in accordance with double-blind peer review principles. The journal is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. JERN published 42 articles in 4 issues in 2025.

JERN Issues	Type of articles
March 2025	12 articles have been published (11 original research, 1 review)
June 2025	11 articles have been published (8 original research, 3 review)
September 2025	9 articles have been published (9 original research)
December 2025	10 articles have been published (8 original research, 2 review)

| CULTURE |

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ARTER

SANAT İÇİN ALAN
SPACE FOR ART

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION CULTURAL PROJECTS

ONE OF TURKEY'S FIVE LARGEST ANCIENT CITIES

The Vehbi Koç Foundation and Tofaş have supported the excavations carried out in Hierapolis since 2005.

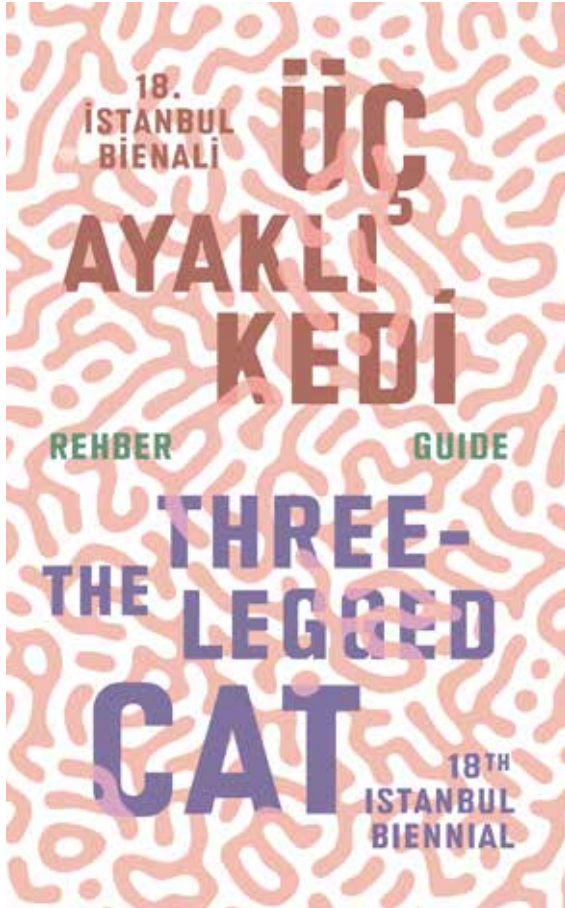


AVERAGE OF **1.8 MILLION**
VISITORS PER YEAR



PAMUKKALE HIERAPOLIS ANCIENT CITY EXCAVATIONS

The Vehbi Koç Foundation and Tofaş have supported the excavations carried out in Hierapolis, one of Turkey's five largest ancient cities and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1988, since 2005. An international team of approximately 70 people, mainly from Italy and Turkey, including archaeologists, architects, restorers, and experts, takes part in the works carried out under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Denizli Governorate and with the primary sponsorship of Tofaş. Among the most critical works unearthed in Hierapolis so far are the Antique Theatre, Necropolis, Hot Springs, Great Church, San Filippo Matrium, Frontinus Gate, Gymnasium, Temple of Apollo, and Pluto's Gate (Plutonium). Pamukkale Hierapolis Ancient City welcomes an average of 1.8 million visitors per year.



MOST COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART EVENT



İSTANBUL BIENNIAL

Curated by Christine Tohmé and titled The Three-Legged Cat, the first chapter of the 18th İstanbul Biennial took place between 20 September and 23 November 2025, with free admission once again being provided with Koç Holding support. Structured around the themes of "Self-Preservation" and "Future Possibilities", this year's biennial exhibitions featured works by 47 artists from over 30 countries. The exhibitions were accompanied by a public program of performances, film screenings, and talk sessions. Drawing strong public interest, the 2025 chapter achieved the highest attendance in the biennial's history, welcoming over 600,000 visitors.

18th İstanbul Biennial publications were co-published by İKSV and Yapı Kredi Yayınları, with the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

SUPPORT SINCE 2007

Koç Holding and the Vehbi Koç Foundation have supported the İstanbul Biennial since 2007.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION CULTURAL PROJECTS



Other Supported Culture Projects

Karma XR Lab: Interactive Cultural Heritage Projects

Set up as part of Koç University in 2019 with the support of the İstanbul Development Agency, the KARMA Mixed Reality Lab continues its pioneering work in the fields of extended reality (XR), spatial computing, and interactive experience design. The laboratory develops applications and content that create intuitive, immersive experiences by leveraging digital data, spatial media, and machines integrated into the surrounding environment. Alongside research and artistic production conducted across such disciplines as the performing arts, psychology, medicine, archaeology, and art history, the lab fosters a vital capacity-building hub for the digital transformation of cultural heritage through training programs and knowledge transfer initiatives tailored for different age groups.

Gaining strong momentum in the digitization and experiential design of cultural heritage in 2025 through the support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, KARMA Lab has begun positioning itself as a major national hub for knowledge production by enhancing both its advanced scanning and data processing infrastructure and its human resources. Concurrently through its Horizon Europe project HERIFORGE and Erasmus+ project Skillfoster, the lab closely aligns with European-scale advancements in the 3D digitization, preservation, and accessibility of cultural heritage. In doing so, it is laying the foundations for a center of excellence that unites Turkey's cultural heritage and XR ecosystems. While the HERIFORGE Turkey Hub focuses specifically on intangible cultural heritage,

interactive storytelling, and responsible digital heritage technologies, the Skillfoster project delivers training and capacity-building resources designed to enhance the digital competencies of cultural heritage professionals.

Beyond establishing conceptual and strategic frameworks, 2025 was characterized by active, high-volume implementation and production in the field. High-resolution data was collected through extensive digitization projects conducted at key historical sites including the Abdülmecid Efendi Mansion, the ancient city of Sagalassos, Sivas Kayalıpınar (Samuha), Manisa Kaymakçı, and Antakya Demirkapı, while ethnographic studies carried out by excavation teams and specialists strengthened the scientific, cultural, and local contexts of the interactive experiences currently under development. As a result, cultural heritage moves beyond mere documentation to become an interactive, living space that is radically reimagined and experienced through the lenses of visitor engagement and narrative design.

Moving forward, KARMA Lab will focus on transforming this data into living experiences, producing both augmented and mixed reality applications for onsite use at archaeological locations, as well as immersive exhibitions in various cities. The ultimate goal is to erect new bridges between the past and the present, ensuring that cultural heritage is dynamically preserved for future generations. Expanding through the visionary support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, this initiative continues to thrive as a creative production hub where technology and culture converge.



26th Ayvalık Music Academy Masterclass

Since 1998, the Ayvalık International Music Academy (AIMA) has aimed to connect talented young musicians with global virtuosos through advanced instrument masterclasses. For the 26th AIMA Masterclass series held in the summer of 2025, the Vehbi Koç Foundation was on hand as an "Education Supporter". AIMA masterclasses are organized by the Ayvalık Culture and Art Foundation (AKSV), a local civil society initiative.

The 26th AIMA Masterclass program featured a series of specialized masterclasses in flute, clarinet, violin, piano, and cello, conducted from July to September 2025. More than 80 young musicians were chosen from a pool of applicants directly by the faculty, with selection based on existing repertoire, academic background, video submissions, and reference letters. In addition to individual and collective instruction, the program offered participants the opportunity to observe the daily routines and professional methodologies of world-class instructors in an immersive, round-the-clock collaborative experience.

Scholarship support was also provided to selected young musicians requiring financial assistance to enable their participation in the masterclasses. More than a quarter of the students attending this year's AIMA masterclasses did so on scholarships.

Leading the 26th AIMA Masterclass program was a distinguished faculty comprising Prof. Ayla Uludere (flute), Prof. Ece Karşal (flute), Ayşegül Kirmanoğlu (clarinet), Prof. Marc Danel (violin), Prof. Pelin Halkacı Akın (violin), Prof. Andrey Pisarev (piano), and Prof. Yovan Markovitch (cello).

At the conclusion of each masterclass, which lasted about a week, a final concert that was free and open to the public was held in Ayvalık. These concerts, which provided young musicians with valuable stage experience, drew hundreds of attendees not just from Ayvalık and its surroundings but from further afield across Turkey.



SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM

MORE THAN
21,000
ARTIFACTS

The museum today
boasts more than
21,000 artifacts in
its collections.



**GLORIFICATION AND
COMMEMORATION EXHIBITION**

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM IN 2025 EXHIBITIONS

GLORIFICATION AND COMMEMORATION: THE SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM OĞUZ AYDEMİR COMMEMORATIVE HANDKERCHIEF COLLECTION

Date: 9 October 2025 - 30 June 2026

Location: Sadberk Hanım Museum

The Sadberk Hanım Museum mounted a new exhibition to present the H. Oğuz Aydemir Commemorative Handkerchief Collection to visitors interested in art, culture, and recent history. Amassed over many years, the collection was donated to the museum in February 2018 to ensure it would be meticulously preserved under proper archival conditions and safeguarded for future generations. Coordinated by SHM director Hülya Bilgi and curated by Dr. Ozan Torun, exhibition showcases 82 curated pieces from the collection, presenting a vivid historical overview that spans from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century.

Handkerchiefs such as those featured in Glorification and Commemoration have been used in many countries for commemorative, propaganda, and communication purposes, owing to their superior durability and longevity compared printed matter or written correspondence. As witnesses to unique historical moments that likely have changed hands many times before coming together in this collection, these vibrantly colored and intricately designed textiles allow us to trace the stories of individuals, societies, institutions, and even nations over the last two centuries.

The handkerchiefs featured in the exhibition focus on the pivotal events, historic theaters, and key figures of the turbulent era extending from the Crimean War to the Second World War. Though organized around a thematic framework, the exhibition also allows the viewer

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PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS



SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM AT A GLANCE

The Sadberk Hanım Museum was initially founded to exhibit the private collection of Sadberk Koç, wife of Vehbi Koç; it was opened on 14 October 1980 in the Azaryan Mansion in Sarıyer, İstanbul, and the adjoining Sevgi Gönül Wing, acquired in 1983 and subsequently restored, opened in 1988. Its inventory of over 21,000 items includes archaeological artefacts of Anatolian cultures and civilizations from the 6th millennium BC through the Byzantine era, as well as Islamic artefacts, predominantly from the Ottoman period, such as woven textiles, garments, embroideries, manuscripts, and ceramics. Along with its permanent collection, temporary exhibitions and exhibition catalogues introduce its rich collections to the public. Educational programs for children also constitute an essential part of the museum's activities.

to trace the political, economic, and social turning points of the era chronologically. Many defining moments of modern history live on in these handkerchiefs, making them historical documents in their own right: the dawn of mass production and capital accumulation during the Industrial Revolution that fueled the colonial race among great powers; the rise of nation-states spurred by nationalist ideologies; international expositions showcasing industrial innovations; devastating world wars and the realities of the home front while battles raged; and the jubilees of reigning monarchs alongside the collapse of great imperial dynasties.

Following its acquisition by the Sadberk Hanım Museum, the 141-piece H. Oğuz Aydemir Collection underwent a lengthy restoration and conservation program tailored to the specific condition and needs of the artifacts as assessed

by museum specialists. Through the diligent efforts of the museum's textile conservators, the handkerchiefs—some of which were in relatively good condition, while others were degraded enough to require major intervention—received necessary care and had structural losses carefully stabilized. These efforts not only readied the objects for public display but also ensured their preservation as cultural artifacts in the museum collection for researchers and art lovers for many years to come.

Accompanying the exhibition designed by Dr Umut Durmuş is a bilingual Turkish and English catalogue authored by Dr. Mehmet Bezdin and Saro Dadyan that provides a comprehensive historical analysis of the collection's production contexts and functional purposes, alongside critical scholarly insights into the iconographic details of the individual pieces.

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM IN 2025 | EXHIBITIONS

ÅSA JUNGNELIUS: A VERSE, WRITTEN WITH EARTH, FIRE, WATER, AND AIR

Date: 15 September 2025 - 18 January 2026

Location: Pera Museum

The Sadberk Hanım Museum supported the exhibition Åsa Jungnelius: A Verse, Written with Earth, Fire, Water, and Air held at the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation Pera Museum from 15 September 2025 to 18 January 2026 as part of the 18th İstanbul Biennial. SHM contributed several artifacts from its collection for display in the exhibition: an infant feeding vessel and a cup from the Roman Imperial Period, a miniature amphora from the Archaic Period, and a bottle and jug dating to the Early Islamic Period.



THE STORY OF SPORTS IN ANATOLIA

Date: 19 May 2025 - 10 November 2025

Location: Antalya Nekropolis Museum

Held at the Antalya Necropolis Museum from 19 May to 10 November 2025, The Story of Sports in Anatolia explores the concept of sports from antiquity to the Ottoman era. Organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as part of its “102 Exhibitions in the 102nd Year: The Evolution of Anatolia’s Cultural Heritage in the Light of the Republic” initiative, the show included an Archaic Period black-figure pseudo-Panathenaic amphora depicting running athletes, contributed from the Sadberk Hanım Museum collection.

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM IN 2025 | EVENTS

"LET'S GO TO THE MUSEUM!" FIELD TRIP PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sadberk Hanım Museum's interactive "Let's Go to the Museum!" field trip program continued throughout the 2024-2025 academic year. Tailored for pre-K through secondary school students, the program aims to enrich youngsters' knowledge, cultural literacy, and appreciation of history, art, and cultural heritage. The program hosted its final school group on 17 June 2025, before breaking for the summer recess. A total of 3,118 students from various age groups across both public and private schools participated in the program, which was conducted on weekdays between 1 October 2024 and 17 June 2025. Relunched on 25 September 2025 with the start of the 2025-2026 academic year, the program is scheduled to run through June 2026.



SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM IN 2025 | LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS: CURATOR-LED EXHIBITION TOURS

In conjunction with the exhibition *Glorification and Commemoration: The H. Oğuz Aydemir Commemorative Handkerchief Collection* from the Sadberk Hanım Museum, which opened on 9 October 2025, the museum offers complimentary, private group tours led by museum specialists. These tours are held twice daily every Monday and Saturday, commencing at 11:00 and 14:30. The tours brief participants on the specific artifacts on display, alongside the conceptual background and theoretical framework behind the exhibition's design.



SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS: GLORIFICATION AND COMMEMORATION EXHIBITION TALKS

A series of talks has been launched in conjunction with the *Glorification and Commemoration: The Sadberk Hanım Museum Oğuz Aydemir Commemorative Handkerchiefs Collection* exhibition. Held twice a month at the museum, these talks are free of charge and open to the public. Hosted by guest speakers from university history, political science, and international relations departments, the talks are preceded by curator-led tours of the exhibition. The series officially commenced on 29 November 2025, featuring as its inaugural guest speaker the collector H. Oğuz Aydemir, who donated the

collection to the Sadberk Hanım Museum. In his presentation, titled "Passing Collections on to Future Generation", Aydemir explored the significance of connoisseurship, the rewarding yet challenging aspects of collecting in Turkey, and the decades-long evolution of his commemorative handkerchiefs collection. The second lecture in the series took place on 20 December 2025, featuring Prof. Namık Sinan Turan from the Department of Political Science and International Relations at İstanbul University. In his presentation, titled "The Public Representation of Monarchical Traditions and the Transformation of Official Iconography in the 19th-Century Ottoman Empire", Dr. Turan analyzed the underlying causes behind the shifts in the Ottoman empire's and dynasty's external relations, institutional visibility, and modes of state representation during a period of intensifying engagement with the West.

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS: SARIYER COMMUNITY OUTREACH TOURS

Building upon its long-standing collaboration with the Sarıyer Municipality Directorate of Culture and Social Affairs and the Sarıyer Municipality Youth Education Center, SHM launched a series of complimentary museum and exhibition tours in the autumn of 2025 for public primary and secondary school students in Sarıyer as well for as their parents and guardians and for women residing in the community. These tours are conducted by museum specialists for groups of 35 participants, following a calendar co-developed with the corresponding units of the Sarıyer Municipality. The programming encompasses viewings of both the permanent collection and special exhibitions.

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM IN 2025 | NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

KHAMSEEN PROJECT

The Sadberk Hanım Museum has launched a collaborative project to feature 24 works from the SHM calligraphy collection on the “Khamseen: Islamic Art History Online” website. Directed by Prof. Christiane Gruber of the University of Michigan, with İstanbul-based coordination overseen by Assoc. Prof. Aslihan Erkmen of İstanbul Technical University, this free, open-access digital platform facilitates the global study of Islamic art, architecture, and visual culture. The works are accompanied by short videos produced with contributions from an international network of specialists consisting primarily of Turkish scholars that are intended to engage a diverse audience, including students, academics, and museum visitors alike. To maximize accessibility to both Turkish and international audiences, the videos feature English and Turkish subtitles and/or audio dubbing.

BANK OF AMERICA FUNDED CALLIGRAPHIC WORKS CONSERVATION PROJECT

The technical conservation phase has concluded for thirteen manuscripts and illuminated calligraphic works in the museum’s collection. Funded by a grant secured in 2021 through the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, the initiative encompasses both meticulous preservation work and the public sharing of conservation methodologies. The institutional expertise acquired during the project will be shared at an international symposium in 2027, coinciding with the opening of an exhibition to unveil the fully conserved masterpieces to the public.

ANCIENT LANGUAGES OF ANATOLIA SUMMER PROGRAM

In August 2025, the museum hosted a “Cuneiform Epigraphy Workshop” organized in collaboration with ANAMED. During the two-day workshop, participants worked with 13 cuneiform artifacts from the SHM collection, gaining insights into the ancient languages of Anatolia and acquiring hands-on experience working with such objects.

MUSIC ARCHAEOLOGY TV DOCUMENTARY

A Uartian belt fragment decorated with figures of musicians from the Sadberk Hanım Museum’s collection is to be featured in an upcoming episode of “Music Archaeology”. Currently in production by TRT and scheduled to broadcast on TRT 2, the documentary series explores the relationship between music and various ancient civilizations, with this episode exploring the Uartians.

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM CURATOR PRESENTATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

In 2025, the museum's leadership and curatorial team delivered four academic papers at international symposia and cultural events in İstanbul, Mainz, Barcelona, and Venice.

SHM director Hülya Bilgi participated as a guest speaker in the "A Century of National Palaces" international symposium held on 24-26 November 2025 at the Dolmabahçe, Topkapı, and Yıldız palaces in İstanbul. During a "The Formation of Palace-Museum Collections" session, she delivered a presentation titled "The Memory of a Museum: Collection Management at the Sadberk Hanım Museum."

Makbule Merve Uca, an art historian at the museum, participated as a guest speaker in the closing session of Venice Glass Week, held on 13-21 September 2025. Her presentation, titled "Molten Legacies: Glass from the Sadberk Hanım Museum Collection", provided a comprehensive overview of the museum's glasswork collection.

Selin Zeynep Esen Dostoğlu, an art historian at the museum, delivered a presentation at the "5th Colloquium of Textile and Fashion Researchers", an international symposium jointly organized by The Design History Foundation and the Textile Museum of Catalonia on 6-7 November 2025. Her paper was titled "Needling Luxury: History of Maison Lesage and Their Collaborations with Elsa Schiaparelli".

Dr. Ozan Torun, the museum's Learning Programs Coordinator, co-presented a paper with Prof. Turgut Saner of Brandenburg University of Technology and İstanbul Technical University. Delivered at "Turkologentag:

The Fifth European Convention on Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies", hosted by Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz on 18-20 September 2025, their joint presentation was titled "The Journey of the Haydarpaşa Terminus (İstanbul) from its Imperial Glamour to an Arena of Republican Sentiments".

Within the framework of an ongoing collaboration between the Textile Museum at George Washington University and the Vehbi Koç Foundation Sadberk Hanım Museum, 69 Anatolian kilims from the Murad Megalli Collection were donated to the Sadberk Hanım Museum in 2018. The remaining 96 kilims from the collection are held by the Textile Museum at George Washington University. Havva Furat Ay, a specialist at the Sadberk Hanım Museum, joined the research initiative after being named a Megalli Kilim Collection Fellow by The Textile Museum. The project will be conducting comprehensive scholarly analyses and producing publications on the collection. In July 2025, Havva Furat Ay spent a month in Washington DC engaging in collection research, strategic meetings, and reporting activities. During her residency, she also contributed to the American museum's collections cataloging and inventorying activities.

An article by SHM art historian Makbule Merve Uca titled "Vernacular Legacies and Modern Visions: Sadberk Koç's Collectorship", has been published by the University of Vienna. Her study appears in *Diyâr: Zeitschrift für Osmanistik, Türkei- und Nahostforschung*, a journal dedicated to Ottoman, Turkish, and Middle Eastern studies. The paper evaluates Sadberk Koç's collecting practices within the broader framework of early Republican cultural stewardship.

GLORIFICATION AND COMMEMORATION: SADBERK HANIM MUSEUM THE OĞUZ AYDEMİR COMMEMORATIVE HANDKERCHIEF COLLECTION EXHIBITION CATALOG

Accompanying the Glorification and Commemoration: The H. Oğuz Aydemir Commemorative Handkerchief Collection from the Sadberk Hanım Museum that opened on 9 October 2025 was a bilingual Turkish and English catalogue authored by Dr. Mehmet Bezdhan and Saro Dadyan. Analyzing the unique features, compositions, and explicit and latent messages of the 141 commemorative handkerchiefs, the catalogue examines these artifacts in the context of the political, economic, and social conditions of their respective countries and times. The volume serves as an invaluable resource for understanding both the current exhibition and the collection as a whole.



ARTER

8 NEW EXHIBITIONS

In 2025, Arter organized 8 new exhibitions with artworks both from and outside of its collection.



NEW PERSPECTIVES IN
CONTEMPORARY ART



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PRESENTATION

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AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

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EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

ARTER AT A GLANCE

A subsidiary of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, Arter opened in 2010 with the aim of providing a sustainable infrastructure to produce and exhibit contemporary art at its building on Istiklal Street, Beyoğlu. Arter moved to its new home in İstanbul's Dolapdere district in 2019, the year also marking the 50th anniversary of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. Under the corporate sponsorship of Tüpraş, Arter continues to advance its activities at its new building, designed by Grimshaw Architects, presenting an ever-expanding range of programs including exhibitions from, but not limited to, its collection, as well as performances and events across multiple disciplines.

ARTER IN 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN CONTEMPORARY ART

In 2025, Arter organized 8 new exhibitions with artworks both from and outside of its collection, and throughout the year hosted an extensive program focusing on contemporary art as well as music and sound. The Show of Hands Improvised Music Festival and the SONIFIED symposium, organized in collaboration with A.K. Müzik and Hermes Records, were held at Arter for their third editions. Curated by Karen Cirillo, the "Sonic Privilege" Film Program brought together five international productions prioritizing the aural, while the sixth edition of the New and Newest Music Festival presented a wide selection of innovative music and performances. The concerts and workshops of the VoiceUp A Capella Festival met audiences in Arter's venues; and within the 35th Akbank Jazz Festival, the concerts and talks held at Karbon and the Sevgi Gönül Auditorium made Arter one of the festival's prominent stops. The seventh edition of the İstanbul Fringe Festival, featuring numerous performances and workshops, further reinforced Arter's identity as a vibrant cultural platform.

ARTER

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES



SATURDAY LATE AT ARTER

In 2025, Arter remained open for extended hours on select days through its “Saturday Late” programs supported by Paribu. In addition to exploring current exhibitions, visitors were invited to enjoy the Arter Library, Bookstore, and Bistro by Divan between 11:00 and 24:00. The “Saturday Late” programs featured various activities, including concerts, film screenings, library talks, guided tours, as well as interpretation events, and workshops designed for participants of all ages. Free shuttle buses operated from Taksim and Tepebaşı to Arter until midnight thanks to the kind support of Transportation Sponsors Ford Otosan and Otokar.

ARTER COLLECTION AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Founded in 2007, the Arter Collection has grown to include more than 1,500 contemporary works of art and has loaned 186 works to 93 institutions as of 2026. In 2025, Cevdet Ereğ’s “My Father’s Time Line” was loaned for exhibition at the Tate Liverpool Biennial; Hale Tenger’s “We didn’t go outside; we were always on the outside / We didn’t go inside; we were always on the inside”, “The Place Where the Winds Rest”, and

“I Know People Like This III” were exhibited at The Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA); Gülsün Karamustafa’s “Mystic Transport” at Kunstmuseum Ahlen; Füsun Onur’s “Elegy for Tekir” at Salt Beyoğlu and “Whisper” at OG Gallery; Mehtap Baydu’s “Cocoon” at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden; and Kader Attia’s “Asesinos! Asesinos!” at Museu D’art Contemporani de Barcelona as part of the touring exhibition “Project a Black Planet: The Art and Culture of Panafrica.”

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EXHIBITIONS |

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Angelica Mesiti

Curator: Nilüfer ŞaşmazerDate: 16 January - 4 May 2025

Angelica Mesiti's solo exhibition "Future Perfect Continuous" explored the relationship between collective action, nature, and time through the artist's video in which the rhythm of rain is embodied through bodily gestures. The exhibition also drew attention to the potential of the transient to shape history through another photographic series that brings together diverse temporalities.



ATTEMPT TO BE A SCULPTURE

Franz Erhard Walther

Curator: Selen AnsenDate: 26 February - 5 October 2025

Organized in collaboration with the Franz Erhard Walther Foundation, "Attempt to be a Sculpture" offered a comprehensive insight into the artist's practice of redefining sculpture as an open-ended process and action. Featuring works from different periods, the exhibition proposed spaces of experience where the body acquires new forms of presence in time and space.



ASESINOS! ASESINOS!

Kader Attia

Curator: Selen AnsenDate: 24 April - 3 August 2025

Titled "Asesinos! Asesinos!", the installation brought together the themes of anger, resistance, and repair through the form of a silent crowd, rendering visible the healing power of collective memory. Kader Attia's large-scale installation proposed a shared space where solidarity and recovery become possible in the face of violence and injustice.



ARTER

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EXHIBITIONS |



UNDER PRESSURE ABOVE WATER

Curator: Nilüfer Şaşmaz

Date: 12 June 2025 - 1 February 2026

Presented across Arter's entrance and lower ground floor galleries, the group exhibition "Under Pressure Above Water" focused on the anxieties and forms of resilience shaped by environmental disasters, conflicts, migration, and economic instability. Structured in two sections, the exhibition highlighted the creative tactics developed through art to respond to conditions of pressure and crisis.



VELVET STARE

Curator: Emre Baykal

Date: 11 September 2025 - 10 May 2026

Nilbar Güreş's first institutional solo exhibition in Türkiye, "Velvet Stare," focused on the artist's practice that blurs the boundaries between human and non-human beings, reality and fiction, representation and abstraction. Comprising works realized across various media, the exhibition presented a multilayered universe that questions gender norms and imagines alternative modes of coexistence.

I NEED MORE TIME

Curator: Oğuz Karakütük

Date: 9 Ekim 2025 - 15 Mart 2026

Bringing together works by 19 artists from Türkiye and around the world, the group exhibition "I Need More Time" invited its viewers to reconsider photography's relationship with time through its modes of production and representation. Opening the medium to material and conceptual inquiry, the exhibition explored the possibilities of slowness and intuition as alternatives to rapid modes of production.



HAH!

Curator: Delfin Öğütoğulları

Date: 27 November 2025 - 12 April 2026

This group exhibition brought together video works from and beyond the Arter Collection to explore the role of satire in critiquing power structures and questioning contemporary social conditions. Featuring artists from various geographies, the exhibition invited viewers to reconsider the flaws of contemporary systems through the deconstructive power of humor and wit.



PHANTOM QUARTET

Hera Büyüktaşçıyan

Curator: Nilüfer Şaşmazer

Date: 27 November 2025 - 30 August 2026

Hera Büyüktaşçıyan's solo exhibition "Phantom Quartet" brought together her works from the Arter Collection with new productions, exploring the notions of identity, memory, and nature through their relations with space and time. Rooted in a personal history tied to the districts of Kurtuluş and Tarlaabaşı, the exhibition revealed the layers of urban memory through dualities such as life and death, visibility and erasure.



ARTER

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS PROGRAM |



In 2025, Arter hosted the sixth edition of the “New and Newest Music Festival” under the artistic direction of Matthias Osterwold. Featuring artists such as Alvin Curran, Charlemagne Palestine, Audrey Chen, Hugo Esquinca, Jessica Ekomane, Viola Yip, Rose, and Ali M. Demirel, the festival presented concerts by numerous artists from Türkiye and abroad, including several Türkiye and world premieres.

Arter organized two film programs in 2025. As part of the inaugural “Open-Air Film Screenings”, Adam Elliot’s “Memento of a Snail” and Gints Zilbalodis’s “Flow: A Cat’s Journey” were presented to audiences in Arter’s Backyard. Curated by Karen Cirillo, the programs “Sonic Privilege” brought together five international films that explore the role of sound in cinema from different perspectives, inviting viewers to new modes of sensory listening.

As part of Atta Festival 2025 - for which Arter served as one of the host venues - children-focused productions such as the dance-theatre piece “Out There” and the musical “What Am I Going To Be?” were presented to audiences. SONIFIED, a two-day international symposium organized by the İstanbul Technical University Dr. Erol Üçer Center for Advanced Studies in Music (MIAM) and examining sound practices through an interdisciplinary lens, was hosted at Arter for the third time.

Alongside the first live performance in Türkiye of violinist Önder Baloğlu’s project “Unvoiced Diaries” and the concerts by Pitohui and kim ki o, numerous events took place at Arter throughout the year, including “ENDOPHASIA”, a transmedia performance offering a narrative of the transformation of the human brain through sound, light, visuals, and time simultaneously, as well as “Kill Your Darling(s)”, a production designed by Tiyatro Hemhâl.

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | LEARNING PROGRAM |



In 2025, the Learning Program continued to organize workshops for adults and children, interpretation events, and contemporary art seminars shaped around Arter's current exhibitions.

In the context of Yasemin Özcan's solo exhibition "Wet Floor", Arter hosted historian Cemal Kafadar for a talk addressing the sociocultural histories related to the Alevi heritage inherited by the artist from her family, touching upon notions such as appreciation and mourning. Arter also welcomed Franz Erhard Walther for a talk held within the scope of his solo exhibition "Attempt to be a Sculpture", during which the artist elaborated on his approach shaped around the notions of body, action, time, space, and architecture. Another panel connected to the same exhibition brought together Esther Voswinckel Filiz, Robert O. Beahrs, Salih Demirtaş, and Zeynep Oktay for a multidisciplinary discussion on the role of fabric in Walther's practice. A conversation organized around Can Aytekin's site-specific work "Wall Drawing" brought the artist together with academics Erdem Ceylan and Tarkan Okçuoğlu, focusing on the work's relationship with time-space, memory, and repetition. In connection with the exhibition "The Skin We Live In", Necmi Sönmez delivered a talk that offered an art-historical perspective on Koray Arış's decades-long practice. Kader Attia also met audiences for an artist talk centered on his installation "Asesinos! Asesinos!". Within the scope of the exhibition "Under Pressure Above Water", Murat Erşen examined the concept of anxiety - one of the themes addressed



by the exhibition - through the writings of various thinkers, while the talks by Zeynep Talay Turner and Özge Ejder approached art through possibilities of imagining alternative ways of perceiving the world. Also linked to this exhibition, the four-part workshop series "The Strength Within Fragility" facilitated by Aylin Vartanyan Dilaver and Jale Karabekir offered participants a process-oriented creative ground through sound, movement, drama, visual arts, and poetry.

The six-week seminar series led by Zeynep Gürlür explored the unexpected experiences that may arise from encounters with artworks within the framework of human-nature relations, while also engaging with ecological debates through contemporary art practices. The talk series titled "Library Conversations" hosted Mehmet Said Aydın, Hakan Bıçakçı, Sinem Sal, and Hikmet Hükümenoğlu, providing a platform for new perspectives on the relationship between literature and art.

The workshop series "Production Methods in Contemporary Art", introduced to the program in 2024, continued in 2025. Within the series, the sessions led by Yasemin Özcan focused on the relationship between text, archive, and creative processes; under the guidance of Rachelle Bussi eres, participants learned about the lumen printing technique and experimented with different kinds of paper and materials; and in the sessions led by Nermin Er, they were invited to consider paper not merely as a surface but as a versatile expressive medium capable of carrying emotions and ideas. This year, adult

ARTER

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | LEARNING PROGRAM |



workshops addressing themes and concepts explored by the exhibitions also continued under the guidance of Deniz Kulaksızoğlu, and an additional workshop inspired by Angelica Mesiti's "Future Perfect Continuous" and facilitated by Gökçe Gürçay focused on body percussion.

Alongside its regular guided tours, Arter organized online tours to ensure remote access, as well as special guided tours for teachers during the week of 24 November. Exhibitions were also experienced together with visitors during artist- or curator-led tours from time to time. The Guided Tour in Turkish Sign Language (TİD), offered free of charge and led by Nisan Köknar, enabled TİD-using participants to access and interpret the artworks in Arter's current exhibitions through unique and inclusive readings.

Throughout the year, exhibitions were visited together with children during regularly organized workshops for different age groups, followed by creative activities based on the exhibitions. In addition to the workshops facilitated by the Learning Program team, workshops led by various individuals and organizations - including atölyepikolo, OyunMu, and Ceren Yılmazoğlu Canbay - allowed

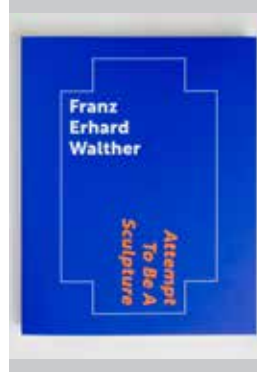


children to engage with the conceptual frameworks and production methods of the exhibitions. Organized for the fourth time, the Arter Children's Festival titled "Look, I've Turned into Art!" offered guided exhibition tours, workshops, rhythm-based activities, and discovery spaces centered on collective production.

Additionally, on the occasion of International Museum Day, Arter made Maaria Wirkkala's installation "Landing Prohibited" - first presented at the 52nd Venice Biennale and later exhibited at Arter under the curatorship of Nilüfer Şaşmazer - publicly accessible online via the Google Arts & Culture platform.



ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | PUBLICATIONS |

**KORAY ARIŞ: THE SKIN WE LIVE IN**Edited by: Selen Ansen, Süreyya EvrenDesign: Emre Çıkınoğlu

Accompanying Koray Ariş's solo exhibition "The Skin We Live In" at Arter, the publication offers an in-depth look into the artist's sculptural practice spanning more than six decades. Opening with a text by the exhibition's curator Selen Ansen, it includes essays by Necmi Sönmez, Francesco Albano, and Yaşam Şaşmazer, along with a poem by Sevinç Çalhanoğlu. The archive section, presenting photographs from the artist's journey between the 1960s and 2010s, also republishes previously published texts by Ali Akay and Antonio Del Guercio.

FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER: ATTEMPT TO BE A SCULPTUREEdited by: Selen Ansen, Süreyya EvrenDesign: Emre Çıkınoğlu

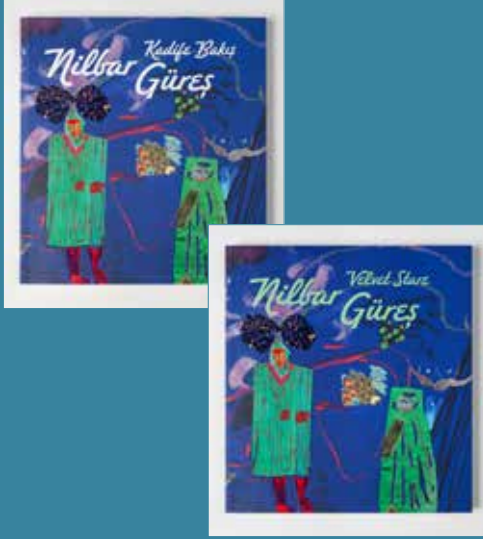
Accompanying Franz Erhard Walther's solo exhibition "Attempt to be a Sculpture" at Arter, the comprehensive publication offers a multifaceted insight into the artist's lifelong creative journey. Alongside texts by curator Selen Ansen, it includes writings by Franz Erhard Walther prepared specifically for the book, an interview with Erik Verhagen, and essays by Esther Voswinckel Filiz and Erdem Ceylan.

**UNDER PRESSURE ABOVE WATER**Edited by: Nilüfer Şaşmazer, Süreyya EvrenDesign: Emre Çıkınoğlu

Accompanying the group exhibition "Under Pressure Above Water", the publication opens with an essay by curator Nilüfer Şaşmazer outlining the exhibition's conceptual framework. It also brings together newly commissioned texts by Matt Hanson and Aylin Vartanyan Dilaver on the transformative power of art in times of crisis, along with guide texts focusing on the practices of the 15 participating artists.

ARTER

ARTER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | PUBLICATIONS |



NİLBAR GÜREŞ: VELVET STARE

Edited by: Emre Baykal, Süreyya Evren
Design: Didem Uraler Çelik

The publication accompanying Nilbar Güreş's solo exhibition "Velvet Stare" at Arter focuses on the artist's multilayered practice, in which humans, animals, plants, and mythological figures intertwine. Alongside the text by curator Emre Baykal, which interprets the exhibition's approach and overall orientation, it includes Silvia Eiblmayr's essay discussing the artist's political stance and Lora Sariaslan's analysis developed through one of the artist's videos.

I NEED MORE TIME

Edited by: Oğuz Karakütük, Süreyya Evren
Design: Nazlı Deniz Oğuz

The publication accompanying Arter's group exhibition "I Need More Time" examines, from various perspectives, the ways photography captures and reconstructs time. Featuring texts by Oğuz Karakütük, Caroline von Courten, and Ömer Şişman, it offers poetic and reflective readings of photography's relationship with time, memory, and experience.



HERA BÜYÜKTAŞÇIYAN: PHANTOM QUARTET

Edited by: Emre Baykal, Süreyya Evren
Design: Utku Lomlu

The publication accompanying Hera Büyüktaşçıyan's solo exhibition "Phantom Quartet" at Arter focuses on the artist's practice engaging with the notions of invisibility, memory, and nature. Alongside an interview with curator Nilüfer Şaşmaz, it features essays by Aykan Safoğlu, Katerina Gregos, and Anne Barlow offering distinct perspectives on the artist's work.

ESSAYS ON THE BLURRING OF ART AND LIFE

Arter e-book

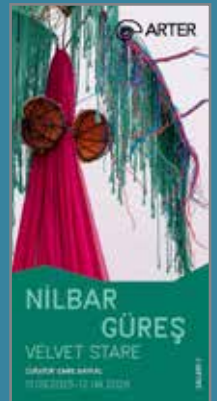
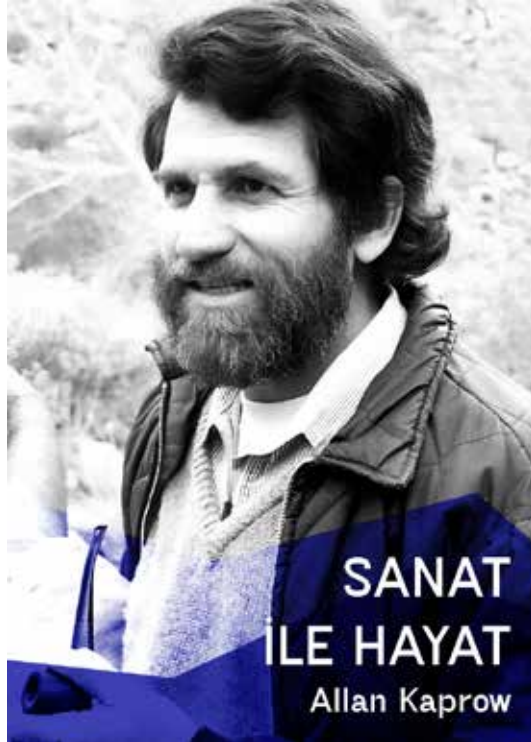
Author: Allan Kaprow

Edited by: Jeff Kelley

Translated by: Özgür Gökmen

Design: Didem Uraler Çelik

Arter Publications acknowledges the importance of key reference materials about the history of contemporary art and strives to disseminate such content as widely as possible, by making them accessible free of charge on its website through downloadable e-books in Turkish. The 4th e-book made available for this purpose presents the Turkish translation of "Essays on the Blurring of Art and Life" by Allan Kaprow, a pioneer of performance art and the concept of the "happening", compiling the artist's writings from 1958 to 1993.



EXHIBITION GUIDES

In 2025, Arter prepared exhibition guides in both Turkish and English, available in printed and digital formats for the exhibitions "Attempt to be a Sculpture", "Under Pressure Above Water", "Velvet Stare", "I Need More Time", and "Phantom Quartet", along with digital guides for "Future Perfect Continuous" and "The Skin We Live In". Bringing together diverse materials such as curatorial texts, floor plans, and artwork information, as well as lists of exhibition-related publications accessible from the Arter Library, these comprehensive booklets remained a vital resource frequently consulted by visitors.

MEŞHER

314 EVENTS

As part of the exhibition *"The Story Unfolds In Istanbul,"* a total of 314 events were held.



CONTEMPORARY, CLASSICAL
AND RESEARCH-BASED
EXHIBITIONS

<https://www.mesher.org/sergiler>

EXHIBITIONS I

THE STORY UNFOLDS IN İSTANBUL

Meşher's *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition, which opened on 23 January 2025, was extended until 18 January 2026. Initially scheduled to close on 13 July 2025, the run was prolonged owing to an exceptional public response and high visitor attendance. The exhibition was curated by Ebru Esra Satıcı and Şeyda Çetin, with spatial design by architect Nilüfer H. Konuk. Focusing on representations of İstanbul produced across various literary genres from the 16th century to the present day, the exhibition examined how the city has been envisioned in Western fiction. Its scope spanned diverse narrative forms, tracking the city's imaginative constructs across everything from fantasy tales and graphic novels to science fiction and espionage thrillers. Centered around about 300 volumes from the Ömer Koç Collection, the exhibition featured rare author manuscripts, scarce first editions, and inscribed

or signed books. These were accompanied by an array of works from various institutions and collections, including engravings, paintings, sheet music, films, and posters, supplemented by published Turkish translations and archival press clippings.

Within this show bringing together diverse depictions of İstanbul, visitors observed the city's dual role. They traced its function as a scenic backdrop while simultaneously witnessing how its populace, historical events, and culture first catalyzed literary production and subsequently permeated other artistic domains. By highlighting the fluidity between literary genres, alongside the continuities and ruptures within these representations, the exhibition constructed a multi-layered narrative that invited the audience to re-evaluate assumed binaries such as past and present, fiction and reality, and East and West.

IDENTITY

Director - Nilüfer H. Konuk
Administrative Affairs and Operations Manager - Sevim Tavus
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www.mesher.org

PRESENTATION

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AT A GLANCE

VEHBİ KOÇ AWARD

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MEŞHER AT A GLANCE

Meşher is an exhibition space located in the historic Meymenet Han on İstiklal Street in İstanbul. Meşher, with its total exhibition space of 800 m² spread across three floors, has organized contemporary, classical, and research-based exhibitions, as well as events and guided exhibition tours since its opening. Meşher can be visited from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

MEŞHER IN 2025

MAIN ACTIVITIES

In 2025, Meşher hosted the exhibition The Story Unfolds In İstanbul (23 January 2025- 18 January 2026).

Alongside the exhibition, a wide range of activities for adults and children were organized.



MEŞHER

MEŞHER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

As part of the exhibition *"The Story Unfolds In İstanbul,"* a total of 314 events were held between 23 January and 31 December 2025. Participation in adult and children's activities reached 91%.



"ASSOCIATIONS" PANEL

Date: 9 October 2025

On 9 October 2025, the Divan İstanbul Hotel hosted "Associations", a panel discussion organized in conjunction with *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* show. During the event, experts from different disciplines shared their personal reflections and impressions of the exhibition, tracing the enduring imprint of İstanbul across various artistic mediums and collective memory.

The full-day program consisted of two sessions moderated by exhibition curators Ebru Esra Satıcı and Şeyda Çetin. The event began with an opening address by Meşher Director Nilüfer H. Konuk. Grounded in personal experience and professional expertise, presentations allowed speakers to explore the unique associations they form with İstanbul and reveal how the exhibition's themes resonate with their own connection to the city.

Panel speakers and presentation titles:

- **Zeynep Çelik** - "Bir Serginin Öne Çıkardığı Sorular" (Questions Raised by an Exhibition)
- **Leman Yılmaz**, "İstanbul: Gizemin Odağında Bir Labirent Kent" (İstanbul: A Labyrinthine City at the Heart of Mystery)
- **Jale Parla**, "Bir Sergiden Anılara Yolculuk" (A Journey into Memories from an Exhibition)
- **Nisan Ak**, "Bir Nota Kapağından Başlayan Macera" (An Adventure Beginning with a Sheet Music Cover)
- **Sadık Karamustafa**, "Ben İstanbul'a Denizden Düştüm" (I Tumbled into İstanbul from the Sea)



- **Elçin Poyrazlar**, "Romancı Biraz da Casustur" (A Novelist is Always Something of a Spy)
- **Tilbe Saran**, "Bir Çocuk Yüzü, Bir Sokak Adı, Bir Kitap Sayfası..." (A Child's Face, a Street Name, a Page of a Book...)

Nearly two hundred people attended the day-long event, which consisted of two sessions.

Protocol with the Beyoğlu District Directorate of National Education

Following a formal protocol signed with the Beyoğlu District Directorate of National Education, Meşher has begun welcoming organized groups of local teachers and students to its exhibitions.

FILM SCREENINGS

In conjunction with *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition, Meşher screened a selection of films based on adaptations of the Western fictional works. The screenings continued throughout the run of the exhibition, with each one beginning with an introductory presentation by film critic Mehmet Açar, who discussed the selection.

Two silent-era films, *Right to Love* and *Jalma La Double*, were screened with live musical accompaniments performed by *Ezgi Daloğlu* and *Zeynep Oktar*.

The screening program calendar also included talks and discussions exploring featured films such as *Munchausen* and *Three Thousand Years of Longing*. *Melis Behlil*, who contributed the essay "From Literature to Cinema, a Fantastic Representation of İstanbul: Baron Münchhausen"

to the exhibition catalog, also joined the program to deliver a companion lecture during the screening of *Munchausen*.

The screening of *Three Thousand Years of Longing* was preceded by an in-conversation event featuring *Erdil Yaşaroğlu*, *Şeyda Çetin*.

The complete film program included *The Fabulous Baron Munchausen* (1962), *Three Thousand Years of Longing* (2022), *L'Immortelle* (1963), *Münchhausen* (1943), *Le mystère des Désenchantées* (2013), *Der Mann, der den Mord beging* (1931), *Orlando* (1992), *Bajazet: Considering the Theatre and the Plague* (2019), *The Right to Love* (1920), *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1988), and *Jalma La Double* (1928).

Meşher hosted 25 film screenings in total over the course of the year.

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP WITH NAZMİ AĞIL

Date: 18 April 2025

A poetry writing workshop Led by Nazmi Ağıl offered participants a unique opportunity to reinterpret and recontextualize both the exhibition and the city of İstanbul. During the workshop, participants examined the shifting iconography of İstanbul across various historical periods and explored how these imagery styles function in poetry. Drawing inspiration from the exhibition, they went on to recreate İstanbul within their own poetic universes.



BORDERLESS ARTBOOKDAYS

Date: 9-11 May 2025

The event was hosted by Yapı Kredi Culture and Arts Publications between 9-11 May 2025. Meşher joined the event with its complete range of exhibition publications since its opening, reaching a wide audience interested in art publications.

MEŞHER

MEŞHER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |



MOTHER'S DAY GUIDED TOUR

On May 11th Mother's Day, Meşher organized a special mother-child guided tour of the exhibition.



FATHER'S DAY GUIDED TOUR

On June 15th Father's Day, Meşher organized a special father-child guided tour of the exhibition.

SCIENCE FICTION AND İSTANBUL: THE UNEXPECTED TRANSFORMATIONS OF A MEGACITY IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL NARRATIVES - A TALK

Date: 24 May 2025

In conjunction with *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition, Jülide Kayaş and N. Can Kantarcı held a conversation exploring İstanbul's relationship with the genre of science fiction. During the discussion, the speakers examined how İstanbul is portrayed in both domestic and international science fiction, tracing how these representations have evolved over time while highlighting their shared themes and distinct departures.



FRAMING İSTANBUL: DEPICTIONS OF A FLUID CITY IN WESTERN LITERATURE - A TALK

Date: 19 June 2025

On 19 June 2025, Meşher hosted a "Framing İstanbul: Depictions of a Fluid City in Western Literature" panel discussion moderated by Ebru Esra Satıcı, one of the co-curators of *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul*. During the talk, Kaya Genç explored how the Orientalist frameworks constructed by European and Anglophone travelers—starting from the city's earliest representations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—gradually dissolve as we move towards contemporary literature.



BOOK COVER DESIGN WORKSHOP WITH YEŞİM DEMİR PRÖHL

Date: 10-11 July 2025

In conjunction with *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition, Meşher organized a two-session book cover design workshop led by graphic designer Yeşim Demir Pröhl. Drawing inspiration from the exhibition, participants developed original cover designs across various literary genres.



COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP WITH ERGÜN GÜNDÜZ

Date: 16 August 2025

Led by artist Ergün Gündüz, the workshop began by immersing participants in the rich history and evolution of the graphic novel. After exploring how a graphic novel script is visually adapted from text to imagery, participants gained hands-on insight into key technical details, including composition, visual pacing, drawing techniques, and speech balloon placement. Applying these concepts, the participants then adapted a short story of their own creation into graphic novel form.



AFTER THE STORY: CONTEMPORARY ART AND LITERATURE - A PANEL DISCUSSION

Date: 25-26 September 2025

Organized in conjunction with *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition and in parallel with the 18th İstanbul Biennial, Meşher hosted a panel discussion titled "After the Story: Contemporary Art and Literature". Moderated by Ebru Esra Satıcı and Şeyda Çetin, the panel featured contributions from Mine Özyurt Kılıç, İz Öztat, Ra, Can Akgümüş, and Sezin Romi, focusing on the rich dialogue between the selection of books and contemporary artworks.

MEŞHER

MEŞHER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |



BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP WITH THE İSTANBUL BOOKBINDING INSTITUTE

Date: 13 December 2025

Inspired by the earliest volume in *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition—a work by Bertrand de La Borderie—this workshop was intended to explore the intricate techniques and nuances of traditional bookbinding. Led by master bookbinder **Osman Ömer Doruk** and his apprentice **Merve Midilli**, the workshop introduced participants to the styles, techniques, and materials of the craft. Drawing from the specific binding dies and content of the historical volume, attendees were guided to channel this knowledge into their own new creations.

CURATOR-LED EXHIBITION TOURS

Meşher launched its public programming for *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* exhibition with a series of curator-led tours. Conducted by Ebru Esra Satıcı and Şeyda Çetin, the tours commenced on 6 February 2025 and were held twice a month throughout the run of the exhibition.



GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS

Guided tours were organized twice daily on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the exhibition *The Story Unfolds In İstanbul*. Including these weekly tours, the participation rate in activities for adults reached 94%.



WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

As part of *The Story Unfolds In İstanbul* exhibition, monthly workshops with diverse contents were organized for children.

EX LIBRIS WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

Date: 22 February and 25 June 2025

During the Ex Libris Workshop, children aged 7-12 used their imagination to design their own custom bookplates, adding a personalized artistic touch to their books.



FLIP BOOK STORIES WORKSHOP

Date: 15 March 2025

In this workshop, children drew inspiration from the books in the exhibition to create animated flip book narratives, reimagining İstanbul through their own unique perspectives. The creative process of bringing words and imagery together aimed to expand the children's expressive capacity while enriching their imaginations.

STOP-MOTION WORKSHOP

Date: 19 April and 22 July 2025

Inspired by the films featured in the exhibition, children enjoyed an engaging, hands-on learning experience, applying their new knowledge to produce their very own stop-motion shorts.



INTERACTIVE SOUND DESIGN WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN WITH EZGI DALOĞLU

Date: 9 August 2025

Drawing inspiration from the distinct sounds of İstanbul, this interactive workshop invited children to go beyond passive listening and become active participants in the storytelling process by bringing various sounds to life. Led by Ezgi Daloğlu, the workshop encouraged children aged 7-12 to explore the city through sound, utilizing everyday objects and body percussion to generate a variety of unique soundscapes.

MEŞHER

MEŞHER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

WHO IS THIS BARON MUNCHAUSEN? CHARACTER DESIGN WORKSHOP

Date: 10 May and 24 July 2025

Children attending this workshop drew inspiration from Baron Munchausen’s fantastical exploits to design and conceptualize their own original characters. The workshop opened with an exhibition walkthrough of *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul* show and a close look at the featured books, followed by an engaging discussion of the Baron’s marvelous adventures in İstanbul and beyond. During the hands-on part of the workshop, the children used a variety of materials to bring their imaginary characters to life in three dimensions.



STORYTELLING WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

Date: 26 June and 5 August 2025

Bursting with storytelling cards, vivid characters, unexpected plot twists, and boundless imagination, this workshop invited children to collaboratively write, illustrate, and narrate captivating stories amidst the streets of İstanbul.



COMIC BOOK WORKSHOP

Date: 28 June 2025

Before diving into drawing their comic books, the children gained hands-on experience in scripting and character development. They then brought the most compelling scenes of their stories to life using their own unique drawing styles. Discovering the unique visual language of comic books, the children experienced the joy not only of reading stories but also of bringing them to life as illustrators.



POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP WITH NAZMI AĞIL

Date: 19 July 2025

The workshop examined shifting imagery of İstanbul across different eras and explored how these concepts are reflected in poetry. Inspired by the exhibition, the children were then given the opportunity to craft their own poems about the city.

BOOK SLEEVE WORKSHOP WITH AYŞENUR ARSLANOĞLU

Date: 12 November 2025

Led by **Ayşenur Arslanoğlu**, this workshop invited children aged 7-12 to design their own custom book sleeves by working with a variety of textiles, stitching techniques, and vibrant patterns. Inspired by the exhibition's display of manuscripts, rare first editions, and signed and inscribed books, the resulting sleeves reflected the children's boundless creativity.

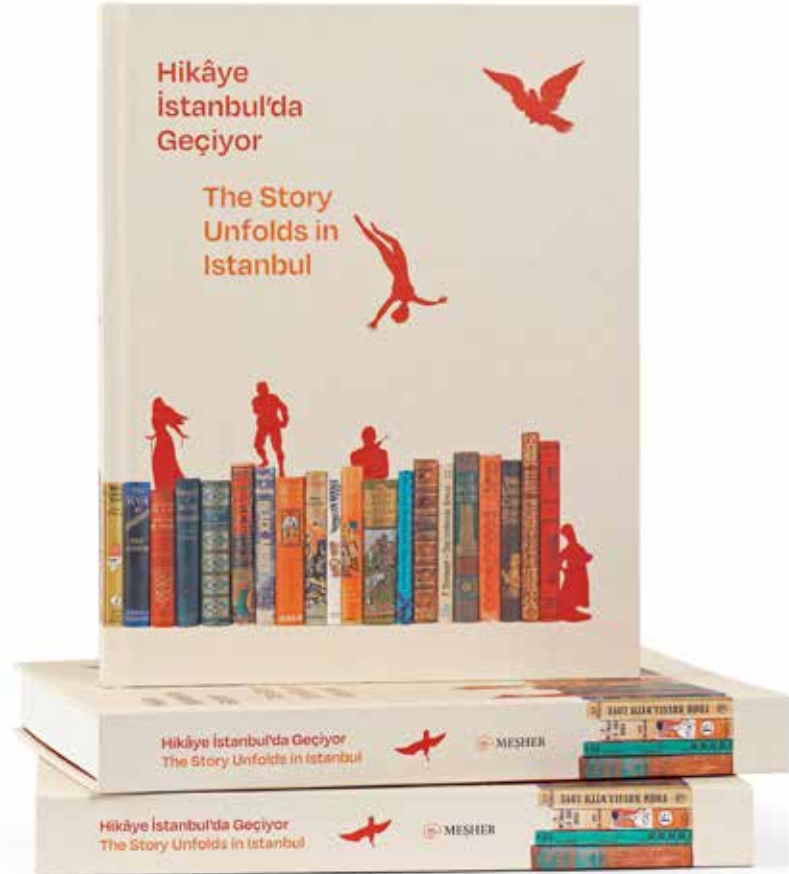


MEŞHER

MEŞHER IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | PUBLICATIONS |

THE STORY UNFOLDS IN İSTANBUL

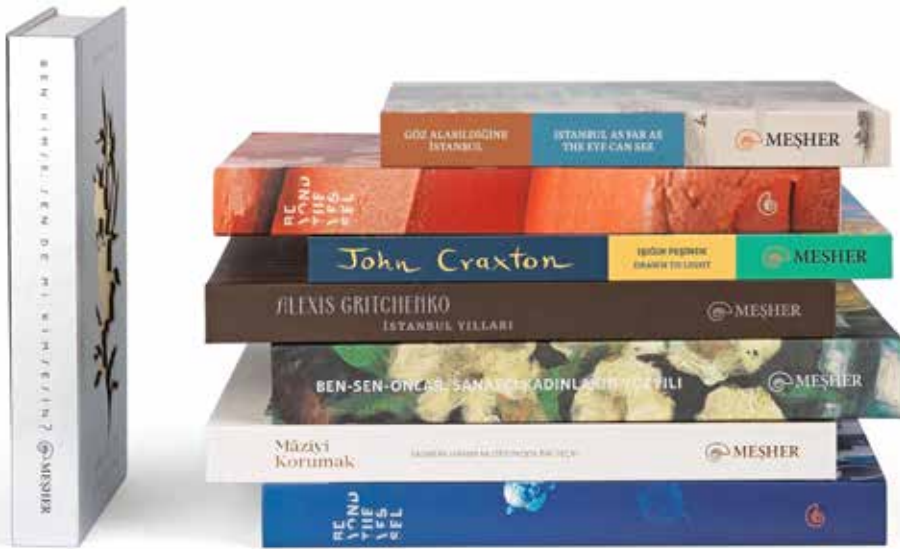
Published in both Turkish and English to accompany The Story Unfolds in İstanbul, this catalogue features a collection of essays that reflect diverse perspectives and alternative readings of the exhibition. Opening with a foreword by Zeynep Çelik, the catalogue features essays by Şeyda Çetin, titled "Just Like in the Books!", and Ebru Esra Satıcı, titled "The Lines of İstanbul." These are presented alongside contributions from Kaya Genç, "Capturing İstanbul: Depictions of a Fluid City in Western Literature", and Melis Behlil, "A Fantastical Representation of İstanbul from Literature to Cinema: Baron Munchausen." The catalogue also includes a piece titled "Immortal İstanbul" by the late Selim İleri, in which he reflects on the books in the selection that left an indelible mark on his personal history. The catalogue texts were authored by Şeyda Çetin, Ebru Esra Satıcı, and Sven Becker. Co-edited by Şeyda Çetin and Ebru Esra Satıcı, the book was designed by Yeşim Demir Pröhl.



ALL PUBLICATIONS (MEŞHER EXHIBITION PUBLICATIONS FROM 2019 TO 2025)

- *The Story Unfolds in İstanbul*
- *İstanbul as Far as the Eye Can See: Views across Five Centuries*
- *John Craxton: Drawn to Light*
- *I Am Nobody. Are You Nobody Too?*
- *Ben Kimse. Sen de mi Kimsesin?*
- *I- You- They: A Century of Artist Women*
- *Ben-Sen-Onlar: Sanatçı Kadınların Yüzyılı*
- *Preserving the Past: A Selection from the Sadberk Hanım Museum*
- *Mâziyi Korumak: Sadberk Hanım Müzesi'nden Bir Seçki*
- *Alexis Grichenko: Constantinople Years*
- *Alexis Gritchenko: İstanbul Yılları*
- *Beyond the Vessel: Myths, Legends, and Fables in Contemporary Ceramics around Europe*
- *Kalıpları Aşınca: Mit, Efsane ve Masallarla Avrupa'dan Çağdaş Seramik*

Catalogues accompanying Meşher's exhibitions can be purchased from the information desk on Meşher's ground floor. While the catalogues for the first five shows were published separately in Turkish and English, those for the last three were published as a single, bilingual edition each. Over 200 catalogues were sold during the "*The Story Unfolds in İstanbul*" exhibition.



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FIRST OF ITS KIND

ANAMED is the
Turkey's first
academic research
center specifically
set up to support
scientific research
on the history of
Anatolia.



ANAMED IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY ONLINE PROGRAM

Prepared with a focus on community education, ANAMED's bilingual (English and Turkish) Environmental Archaeology training program reached record audiences in 2025. The program attracted more than 400 participants, from undergraduate and graduate students to scholars, museum staff, and teachers, all over Türkiye.



IDENTITY

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PRESENTATION

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CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS



ANAMED AT A GLANCE

ANAMED, the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, housed in the historic Merkez Han on İstanbul's İstiklal Street, was founded in 2005 to develop and facilitate research projects that are dedicated to the art, history, art history, archaeology, and heritage of civilizations in Türkiye. As the first local academic research center founded to support scientific research on the history of Anatolia, ANAMED carries out this mission through publications, exhibitions, symposia, and fellowships for doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers.

ANAMED SUMMER PROGRAMS

ANAMED organized the "Ancient Languages of Anatolia" and "Ottoman Turkish" in the summer of 2025.

Aiming to provide young researchers with the essential groundwork to analyze Anatolia's earliest historical documents and coordinated by Dr. N. İlgi Gerçek, the "Ancient Languages of Anatolia Summer Program" is the only summer program of its kind to offer Hittite, Akkadian, Sumerian, Hurrian, and Luwian together. Held from 28 July to 22 August 2025, the 2025 program welcomed 12 students from five countries.

Held from 22 June to 25 July 2025, the "Ottoman Turkish Summer Program" aims to advance participants' reading and translation skills through a rigorous curriculum spanning a variety of genres, including histories, literary

texts, legal documents, and court registries. Attended by 19 students from nine countries, the program featured guided tours to the Directorate of State Archives Ottoman Archives Complex and the Rami Manuscript Library and Conservation Center, both of which supported the initiative.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER FOR ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS (ANAMED)

ANAMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

PAPIER-MÂCHÉ WORKSHOP

As a creative take on sustainability and office waste recycling, ANAMED launched its inaugural papier-mâché workshop in January 2025. Intended for ANAMED fellows, residents, and staff at Merkez Han, the workshop repurposes office paper waste, transforming it into a variety of handcrafted objects. While provoking mindful conversations around paper waste, the workshop also serves as a shared creative space where fellows, administrative staff, and other Merkez Han teams can connect and enjoy a delightful break from their busy schedules.



ANAMED LIBRARY DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The titles of the digital academic program organized by the ANAMED Library in fall 2025 were as follows:

- From Optical Microscopy to Satellite Imagery: A Case Project from Bronze Age Anatolia (Assoc. Prof. Gonca Dardeniz Arkan, Assoc. Prof. Orkan Özcan; 4 December 2025)
- Research Data Management and Open Access for Cultural Heritage (Dr. Nurdan Atalan Çayirezmez, The British Institute at Ankara; 14 October 2025)



PALESTINE FROM ABOVE

The Palestine From Above exhibition originally debuted at the A. M. Qattan Foundation in Ramallah, where it was on view from 11 September 2021 to 15 January 2022. The second iteration of the exhibition arrived at ANAMED during a time of intense devastation across the Middle East and ongoing massacres in Gaza. In particular, the widespread deployment of advanced warfare technologies such as aerial combat and surveillance techniques compels a critical re-examination of the material. The gravity of this context underscores the exhibition's pressing currency in a world where historical and contemporary dynamics intersect with the Palestinian struggle.

The exhibition's iteration at ANAMED broadens and updates this narrative by taking a closer look at the Ottoman period. Through contemporary art installations, it also focuses on the events that have unfolded since late 2023, capturing Palestine's enduring struggle and resilience. Touching upon diverse historical periods and themes, it illustrates the final phase of Ottoman rule in Palestine, the British Mandate regime and its role in laying the infrastructure for the Zionist state, and the ongoing reality of Israeli colonialism. Rather than following a strict chronological order, the overlapping eras reveal how different ruling powers deployed aerial technologies to reshape both the environment and its people according to their own ideologies. By bringing together archival photographs, albums, books, letters, videos, films, and artworks, the exhibition forges a dialogue that questions both historical and contemporary realities. Organized into six sections, the exhibition examines the relationship between technology and aerial

surveillance, while exploring both regional developments and ongoing resistance. This complex dilemma highlights the fragmented, contested, and multi-layered nature of both the Palestinian people and the broader regional landscape.

Artists whose works are featured in the exhibition include Amer Shomali, Andrew Yip, Dia' Azzeh, Fares Shomali, Forensic Architecture, Gian Spina, Jack Persekian, Kamal Aljafari, the Lumière Brothers, Mahmoud Alhaj, Mohanad Yaqubi, Nida Sinnokrot, Raed Helou, the Riwaq-Centre for Architectural Conservation, Sophie Halabi, and Zeina Zarour.



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KOÇ UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER FOR ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS (ANAMED)

ANAMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

SYMPOSIUM | SHIFA-ANA: DEATH AND DISEASE IN ANATOLIA

Date: 13-14 June 2025

SHIFA-ANA is an interdisciplinary research and public history initiative that examines the themes of death, disease, and healing across the long-term history of Anatolia. The SHIFA-ANA team conducted its inaugural workshop on the subject of death and disease in Anatolia at ANAMED. Beginning with an opening address by Dr. Nükhet Varlık, the three-day program consisted of ten panel discussions exploring a host of topics ranging from necrogeography and necropolitics to the practical implications of addressing public health issues and assessing vulnerabilities.



SYMPOSIUM | EMOS III EARLY MODERN İSTANBUL STUDIES

Date: 4-5 September 2025

The third installment of the Early Modern Ottoman Studies (EMOS) conference series, organized by Tarihçiler Derneği (Historians Association), convened at İstanbul University on 4-5 September before moving to ANAMED on 6 September 2025. Bringing together a broad network of scholars specializing in the political, social, economic, and cultural facets of the early modern Ottoman era, the event provided a platform for discussing the latest advancements in the field.



SYMPOSIUM | 16TH ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Date: 4 October 2025

ANAMED hosted the 16th iteration of the annual archaeology symposium organized by the Italian Cultural Center in İstanbul. The theme of this year's gathering was "Phenomena of Cultural Interaction in Anatolia in the Context of Researching and Evaluating Archaeological Heritage". Across four sessions, the symposium presented recent findings from archaeological projects led by Italian teams, focusing on the Prehistoric, Protohistoric, Classical, and Byzantine periods of Anatolia.



PANEL I ANIMALS IN ANATOLIAN AND TURKISH HISTORY

Date: 16 May 2025

What roles have animals played throughout human history? Why are the lived experiences of non-human animals essential to historiography. How do these beings shape events conventionally ascribed exclusively to humanity? Established in December 2023, Hayvanât - Hayvan Tarihi Ağı (Animalia - Animal History Network) brings together researchers who explore these and similar questions. At an event moderated by Faisal Husain, organizer of the 2024 ANAMED-hosted panel "Animals in Anatolian and Turkish History", panelists focused on the foundational journey of the Animal History Network, while also examining how incorporating non-human actors offers a more comprehensive and integrated approach to the historiography of the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey.

PANEL I CITY, CULTURE, AND MEMORY: ANTAKYA URBAN MEMORY PROJECT

Date: 27 May 2025

The presentation introduced the "Bellek Antakya" (Memory Antakya) project, which was launched in the wake of the February 6th earthquakes' devastating impact on the city's collective memory. The discussion explored how the project aims to preserve Antakya's multicultural culture of coexistence and transmit it to future generations through field research and digitalization.

PANEL I EMPEROR JULIANUS AND CONSTANTINOPOLIS

Date: 16 June 2025

Drawing upon his 2025 book, Jeremy Swist delivered a lecture examining the complex relationship that Julian, the last pagan Roman emperor, maintained with his birthplace, Constantinople. The lecture examined Julian's dual approach: on one hand, his civic contributions to the city such as endowing it with a new harbor, and on the other, his political sidelining of Constantinople to reassert the supremacy of Rome.

PANEL I THE FUTURE OF BYZANTINE STUDIES. SOME QUESTIONS

Date: 25 June 2025

As part of its tenth-anniversary celebrations, the Koç University Sevgi Gönül Byzantine Research Center (GABAM) invited Oxford University

historian Peter Frankopan to ANAMED. In his presentation, Dr. Frankopan talked about the future of Byzantine studies and the methodological challenges the field faces moving forward.

PANEL I A VIKING IN THE SUN: HARALD HARDRADA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN'S BEST-DOCUMENTED SCANDINAVIAN VISITOR

Date: 16 October 2025

Held in conjunction with the "Nordic Tales, Byzantine Paths" digital exhibition, a panel discussion was organized centering on King Harald Hardrada of Norway, widely known as the "last Viking". The panel introduced the "A Viking in the Sun" project, which draws upon the rich source material detailing Hardrada's exploits to examine the early connections between the Scandinavian and Mediterranean worlds.

PANEL I PALESTINE FROM ABOVE: REFLECTIONS ON AN EXHIBITION

Date: 6 November 2025

To mark the publication of the companion catalogue of the same name, prepared by Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat for the Palestine From Above exhibition that opened at ANAMED in March 2025, Prof. Rashid Khalidi delivered a lecture during a panel discussion moderated by one of the exhibition's curators, Prof. Zeynep Çelik. Moving beyond official narratives and conventional history, both the exhibition and its catalogue speak directly to those searching for

KOÇ UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER FOR ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS (ANAMED)

ANAMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

deeper historical and contemporary realities. Through a curated assemblage of imagery, texts, and artworks, *Palestine From Above* presents a country that is both deeply lived in and continually reimagined. In doing so, the exhibition underscores the vital necessity of visual culture as a counterweight to myth, historical amnesia, and denial. This fresh interpretation of the visual material serves as an invitation to expose the contradictions embedded in colonial narratives and to challenge “willful amnesia”. In his lecture, Dr. Khalidi examined how photography, cartography, travelogues, letters, and artwork have been utilized both to document and to distort the realities of Palestine.

PANEL I MAPPA ANATOLICORUM: MAPPING EVERYDAY LIFE AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN SELJUK AND BEYLIK ANATOLIA

Date: 28 November 2025

Mappa Anatolicorum is a student initiative and digital humanities project developed to explore the undocumented ordinary people of Seljuk and Beylik Anatolia (1200-1450), settlements predating the tahrir (cadastral) registers, and the primary sources that record these sites. The discussion, moderated by former ANAMED fellow Elif Sezer Aydınli, served to introduce the project on a broad scale while simultaneously interrogating systemic issues related to the discipline.

PANEL I PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE: THE CLASH BETWEEN THE “UNITY OF STYLE” APPROACH AND CONTEMPORARY RESTORATION PRINCIPLES AND THE CASE OF SELİMİYE MOSQUE

Selimiye Mosque, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stands on the brink of a critical conservation crisis following a recent decision to dismantle restoration work that had just been completed in December 2024. In a process that began in 2021, the hand-painted ornamentation of the main dome was completed in December 2024,

strictly in accordance with duly approved project plans. Acting on claims that the existing decorations were predominantly Baroque and failed to reflect the original Mimar Sinan period, a group proposed changes that were successively rejected due to a lack of scientific evidence: first by the Scientific Committee in February 2024, then by the Regional Conservation Board in May 2024, and finally by the Regional Directorate of Foundations in June 2025. Despite these previous rulings, the Regional Conservation Board reversed its own prior rejection on 29 July 2025, approving the dismantling of the completed work and authorizing an intervention that critics argue will compromise the building’s historical evolution. This decision, which violates both the World Heritage criterion of authenticity and the Venice Charter, effectively advocates for the destruction of the mosque’s historic 18th-century layers. Moderated by Tarkan Okçuoğlu, the panel featured Baha Tanman and Turkey ICOMOS member Zeynep Ahunbay, who focused on Selimiye Mosque to examine contemporary practices and principles in ornamentation and structural restoration, alongside art historiography and the perception of cultural heritage.

PANEL I “LOSING İSTANBUL” BOOK TALK

Date: 9 December 2025

Drawing on multinational archival records, personal documents, newspapers, and interviews, Assoc. Prof. Mostafa Minawi’s book *Losing İstanbul: Arab-Ottoman Imperialists and the End of Empire* offers an intimate history of the empire. Dr. Minawi, illuminates the personal and professional upheavals experienced by a generation of Arab-Ottoman imperialists residing in İstanbul at the turn of the 20th century. Moving beyond high politics and military history, the discussion explored how these figures—who were both agents and beneficiaries of Ottoman imperial culture—negotiated their Arab-Ottoman identities during the rise of ethnic nationalism and the transition to the nation-state era.

Moderated by Ebrar Ş. Küçükaşçı, who joined the ANAMED team in December 2025 while pursuing her doctoral studies at Koç University, the talk focused on Dr. Minawi's award-winning book and the long-forgotten history of the close connections between the empire, the Levant, and İstanbul. Delving into the intricate interplay between imperial loyalties and emergent nationalisms, the discussion emphasized that the end of the empire was as much a psychological and personal trauma as it was a geopolitical event. Focusing on the book's unique contribution to the history of identity and how elites engaged with concepts of racialization, multiculturalism, and multilingualism, the conversation closely examined figures employed at the court during the Hamidian era and how they positioned themselves in relation to "Ottomanism", "Arabism", and even "Whiteness" during the empire's final years.

LECTURE SERIES I YAVUZ SEZER MEMORIAL LECTURES

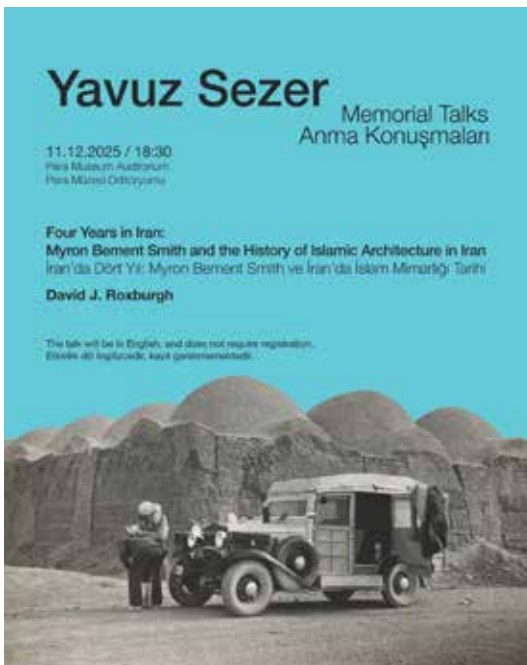
Date: January-December 2025

This lecture series was created to honor the memory of our late friend and colleague Yavuz Sezer and to perpetuate his enduring legacy within our academic community. A multifaceted scholar with a deep passion for history, Yavuz Sezer masterfully brought together the fields of architectural history, urban history, and the history of the book in his doctoral dissertation on 18th-century İstanbul libraries. His profound love for Ottoman history and architecture was unmistakable in everything he wrote and every lecture he gave. Driven by his special interest in urban history, he vividly charted how İstanbul's libraries were integrated into the city's social life, illuminating the process by which these new spaces acquired fresh cultural meanings. In his work, the history of libraries gained a special significance as a window into the intellectual worlds of Ottoman readers. Jointly organized by the İstanbul Research Institute, ANAMED, the Boğaziçi University Department of History, and Yavuz Sezer's colleagues and friends, the Yavuz Sezer Memorial Lectures are dedicated to perpetuating his multifaceted vision—a vision that enfolded and blended spaces, human agency, and intellectual thought.

LECTURE SERIES I ANAMED LIBRARY TALKS

Date: January-December 2025

The ANAMED Library Talks continued in 2025 with a diverse range of topics, featuring distinguished academics and researchers from Turkey and abroad.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER FOR ANATOLIAN CIVILIZATIONS (ANAMED)

ANAMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | PUBLICATIONS |

BOOK | PLACES OF ILLNESS SPACES FOR HEALING: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT OF HEALTHCARE IN ANATOLIA THROUGH THE AGES (IN TURKISH AND ENGLISH)

Editors: Lucienne Thys-Şenocak and Inge Uytterhoeven

Places of Illness, Spaces For Healing: The Built Environment of Healthcare in Anatolia through the Ages explores the intersections between spatiality, healing, disease, and the architecture of healthcare across Anatolia and its surrounding regions from antiquity to modern times. The book addresses a variety of themes in the critical medical and healthcare humanities, including the relationship between nature and health, therapeutic landscapes, the sensory, ritual, and performative dynamics of healing environments, and the vital role of water in healthcare architecture and spaces of recovery. Hailing from diverse disciplines and academic traditions, the book's sixteen contributors marshal a vast array of evidence in their research, ranging from material remains and architectural plans to written documents, oral histories, and the imagined spaces of novels.

Embracing this highly inclusive approach to sources and methodologies, the book demonstrates that healing and illness occurred both within and beyond the hospital walls—unfolding across a multitude of settings, including homes, public baths, gardens, and spaces of ritual and religious practice. Contributing to the growth of the medical and health humanities in Turkey and beyond, Places of Illness, Spaces For Healing: The Built Environment of Healthcare in Anatolia through the Ages broadens our current understanding and definitions of healthcare architecture, as well as of the spaces and sites of healing and illness in a vital region of the world.

BOOK | AQUATIC WORLDS OF ANATOLIA

Editors: Alexis Rappas, Alexis Wick, and Matthew Harpster

Placing Anatolia at the center of its research, Aquatic Worlds of Anatolia makes a significant contribution to broader discussions on environmental history, the technopolitics of infrastructure, and the spatial humanities. The book does not look at water as a generic, abstract resource. Instead, it treats water as a physical, active force that is deeply woven into the specific history, technology, and cultural identity of Anatolia. Water is always shaped by, and in turn shapes, the unique terrains, temporalities, and tensions of a specific place. Bringing together researchers who examine Anatolia's past through an aquatic lens, this book places the numerous seas, rivers, lakes, and wetlands that are integral to the region but are frequently overlooked in historiography at the core of its analytical framework. Whether viewed from within Turkey or elsewhere, the concept of Anatolia is typically associated with the land and its many attributes, such as the figure of the peasant, pure language, the ideal village, terroir, and national homeland. In fact, many of these symbols evoke landlocked locales in the heart of Central Asia, increasingly distancing themselves from the waterscapes—and at times, the literal seascapes and riverscapes—that intimately define Anatolia. Contrary to this conventional view, the authors argue that Anatolia's unique geography has been profoundly influenced—and indeed, indelibly marked—by the element of water, perhaps more so than most other geographical entities: "Water defines the boundaries of Anatolia and constitutes its very body."

JOURNAL I VALONIA: A JOURNAL OF ANATOLIAN PASTS

Editor-in-Chief: Christopher H. Roosevelt
(ANAMED Director)

Editors: Özge Ertem, Tara Ingman

Managing Editor: Erkin Bulut

Featuring four open-themed articles, the second issue of Valonia: A Journal of Anatolian Pasts—ANAMED’s international peer-reviewed journal publishing research in both English and Turkish—has been released. Published online with articles in English or Turkish in open-access format and with limited print runs, the journal aims to bring forth in a timely manner selections of the latest innovative, critical, and synthetic

scientific research on the broad range of subjects that fall within ANAMED’s mission: the archaeology, architectural and art history, heritage, and history of Anatolia and its affiliated geographies, from deep prehistory through Late Ottoman times.

Valonia publishes one special or one open-topic issue per year. The selection of topics for special issues as well as articles for open issues aims for chronologically and disciplinarily balanced representation.

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KOÇ UNIVERSITY VEHBİ KOÇ ANKARA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER (VEKAM) AND ANKARA ORCHARD HOUSE

ANKARA- THEMED EVENTS

VEKAM conducts a range of activities centered around Ankara-themed research, encompassing conferences, symposia, exhibitions, publications, and award programs.



VEKAM IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

In 2025, Koç University VEKAM continued its widely attended and high-profile programming, further expanding its academic and public outreach as a venue for two national/international symposia, one panel discussion, five conferences, two workshops, and three exhibitions. A variety of activities that included educational programs and oral history documentary screenings were also organized in tandem with national and international events such as European Heritage Days, the Capital Culture Road Festival, and ICOM-DEMHS House Museums Days. Actively pursuing its internationalization goals, the center kept a

close watch on national and international grant and award programs and expanded its presence across networks that foster international collaborations. VEKAM also continued to generate new resources for researchers through its scholarly publications and donor-sourced additions to its archival collections. The Ankara Orchard House, VEKAM's historic house museum, delivered its museum education programming to a 700 primary, middle, high school, and university students last year.

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VEKAM AT A GLANCE

VEKAM, the Koç University Ankara Studies Research Center, was founded in 1994 in an orchard house in Ankara's Keçiören district, where the late Vehbi Koç resided for most of his Ankara years. VEKAM's objective is to engage in the academic study of social, institutional, and economic history, as well as the culture and cultural heritage of Ankara and its region and to collect information and documents relevant to all research on Ankara. The Ankara Orchard House, one of the last extant examples of traditional local architecture, is located nearby and was restored and opened to the public in 2007. VEKAM has been associated with Koç University since 2014 and organizes a range of activities and events on Ankara studies, including conferences, symposia, exhibitions, publications, and grant schemes.

As of November 2025, VEKAM continues its operations at its new location in Büyük Apartman on Anafartalar Street.

RELOCATION TO BÜYÜK APARTMAN

In November 2025, VEKAM moved into its new Büyük Apartman premises on Anafartalar Caddesi, relocating there from the Vehbi Koç Orchard House in Keçiören where it had been operating, growing, and steadily gaining national and international recognition since its inception 1994. One of the first modern apartment buildings to be built on Anafartalar Caddesi in Ankara's historic Ulus district, Büyük Apartman was originally commissioned by Vehbi Koç in 1928 to serve as a commercial building and is today a designated Grade II Protected Cultural Property. The building underwent extensive restoration and renovation by Ark İnşaat between 2 April 2023 and 31 January 2025, followed by an interior fit-out by Koç University that finished in November 2025.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY VEHBI KOÇ ANKARA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER (VEKAM) AND ANKARA ORCHARD HOUSE

VEKAM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | AWARDS, GRANTS, FUNDS AND DONATIONS

EUROPEAN HERITAGE EUROPA NOSTRA AWARDS

Since 1994, the Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Research Center has been conducting interdisciplinary research and projects on urban history; engaging in exemplary efforts that include exhibitions, seminars, symposia, workshops, educational programs, and publications to preserve, research, and share Ankara's cultural and historical heritage with the public; making its extensive library and archival collections accessible to the research community and the wider public alike; conserving and repurposing two listed historical houses into a dynamic research facility and museum space; reaching a broad cross-section of the public through its wide-ranging activities and diverse programming; fostering a deepened public consciousness and appreciation of cultural heritage; and having a positive social impact. VEKAM has been nominated and shortlisted in the "Champions of Heritage" category of the European Heritage Awards, one of Europe's most prestigious and respected recognition programs in the field of cultural heritage preservation.

UNESCO - INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

As part of its ongoing work in the field of cultural heritage, VEKAM has submitted a project proposal for a digital-based educational package to UNESCO's International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) in 2025. Application results are expected to be announced in February 2026.

VEKAM AT THE ANKARA CULTURE ROUTE FESTIVAL

VEKAM hosted a special event at the Ankara Orchard House on the occasion of the Ankara Culture Route Festival organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. During the event, a selection of films from the "Ankara Oral History Documentaries" project initiated by VEKAM in 2019 and conducted for it by retired TRT director Kerime Senyücel was shown. Highlighting endangered crafts while bringing to light the life stories and memories of master artisans who have left a lasting imprint on the city's heritage, each screening concluded with a talk session during which the audience interacted with the documentaries' director, Kerime Senyücel.



"A STORY OF PASSION" FILM EARNS DIRECTOR ERHUN ALTUN A VEKAM SPECIAL AWARD AT THE 36TH ANKARA FILM FESTIVAL

Director Erhun Altun won the VEKAM Special Award at the 36th Ankara Film Festival for his documentary A Story of Passion. Established in collaboration with the Ankara Film Festival committee, the award recognizes Ankara-focused documentaries with the goal of enriching the audiovisual memory of Ankara and its environs while supporting urban research. The film chronicles the inspiring success story of a football team founded in the late 1970s by two idealistic physical education teachers at Ankara's 50. Yıl High School, culminating in their World Inter-High School Championship victory in Peru in 1997.

VEKAM CONTINUES TO INTRODUCE NEW PUBLICATIONS

Highly anticipated for its scholarly contributions, VEKAM published several key titles in 2025, including *Agriculture in Anatolia from Antiquity to the Present Symposium Proceedings* (forthcoming), *Reading Ankara through Memoirs* (open access, forthcoming), and *Architects who Left their Mark on Ankara: İlhami Ural* (e-book). Additionally, the center released the 25th and 26th issues of its *Journal of Ankara Studies*.

VEKAM CONTINUES TO ADD TO ITS LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS

VEKAM continued to expand its rich library and archive collections in 2025 with the arrival of two valuable donations. These new collections are set to provide significant contributions to researchers' work and serve as a catalyst for future scholarship.

ÜLKENLİ FAMILY ARCHIVE

Founded on 5 May 1925, and spearheaded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk himself, the Atatürk Forest Farm was envisioned during the formative years of the Republic as more than an agricultural venture: it was intended to be a paradigm for a modern, healthy, and industrious lifestyle central to the construction of a new civil society. In 2025, VEKAM enriched its collections with a unique family archive associated with Atatürk Forest Farm, a landmark deeply symbolic of Ankara's agricultural and cultural evolution. This newly acquired collection consists of rare photographs, Ottoman Turkish documents, contemporary reports, and personal visual and oral narratives that have been preserved and enriched across generations. The archive chronicles the first-hand experiences of Kâmil Ülkenli, who worked at the Farm during its founding era; his son Orgun Ülkenli, who was born, worked, and eventually retired there; and

Zeki Kâmil Ülkenli, who meticulously preserved this invaluable family legacy. As a major contribution to the documentation of Ankara's sociocultural heritage, this collection is a priceless resource for the wider public as well as for scholars specializing in the early Republican era.



THE UDO HIRSCH ANATOLIAN WEAVINGS AND WEAVERS ARCHIVE

A total of 486 slides containing photographs taken by collector Udo Hirsch during his travels across Anatolia from the 1970s to the present focusing on the themes of Yörük culture, birds, village life, carpets, and kilims have been donated to the VEKAM Library and Archive Collection. This donation represents the latest addition to the planned digital slide repositories currently being developed within the VEKAM Archive.

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VEKAM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS

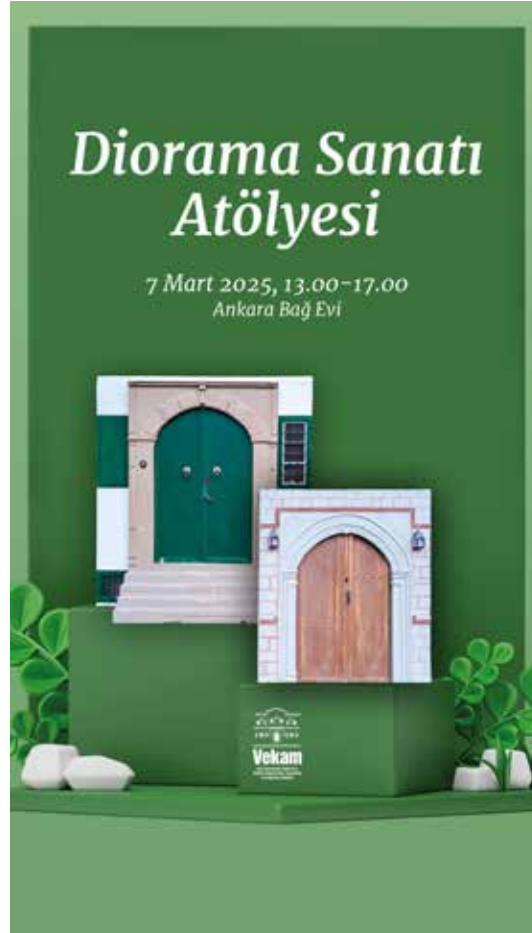
EXHIBITION | READING BETWEEN THE LINES RES GESTAE DIVI AUGUSTI

Date: 7 March-6 April 2025

Curated by Dr. Fahri Dikkaya of TED University in collaboration with VEKAM and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, the exhibition Reading Between the Lines: Res Gestae Divi Augusti was hosted at the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations from 7 March to 6 April 2025. Assessing the complete corpus of literature surrounding the Temple of Augustus and the Res Gestae Divi Augusti inscription since its 1555 documentation by Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq and Antun Vrančić, this exhibition analyzed the reception of this monumental text from the 16th century to the 1960s across the Western world, the Ottoman Empire, and the Turkish Republic. Marshaling archival documentation, engravings, archaeological artifacts, ephemera, and photography, the exhibition investigated the



inscription's impact on European intellectual and political history, as well as its evolution into a foundational text of European culture. Following its run at the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, the exhibition moved to the Koç University campus.



WORKSHOP | DIORAMA

Date: 7 March 2025

Hosted at the Ankara Orchard House, the workshop focused on diorama making—a three-dimensional modeling technique—and aimed to develop spatial organization, scale perception, and spatial thinking skills. Designed for second-year undergraduate architecture students, the workshop's practical curriculum focused on the modeling of walls and doors.



CONFERENCES

Date: March-November 2025

VEKAM's conference series continued in 2025, enriched by the contributions of a distinguished lineup of speakers. The year's program included presentations by Prof. Lale Özgenel, "Game, Set, Match: Tennis as a Community and Space in Early Republican Ankara"; Prof. Korkmaz Alemdar, "The Ankara Press in the Early Republican Period (1920-1950)"; Prof. Özer Ergenç, "Art and Commercial Life in Early Republican Ankara: The Bazaars"; and Assistant Prof. Murat Sönmez, "Space as a Sociological Imagination: Sugar Factories of the Republic of Türkiye." 516 people attended the lectures online.



SYMPOSIUM | COMMERCIAL LIFE IN EARLY REPUBLICAN ANKARA

Date: 24-25 March 2025

Organized by VEKAM in Ankara, the symposium comprehensively examined the commercial and economic structure of the city, which underwent a rapid transformation following the proclamation of the Republic. Beginning with a framing presentation by İlhan Tekeli, the two-day symposium featured papers presented under the themes of urban and social transformation, economic policies, entrepreneurship, cultural interaction, and infrastructure, all of which introduced fresh research perspectives on Ankara's commercial history. By emphasizing the impact of commerce on social and cultural structures extending far beyond their purely economic dimension, the symposium served as an important academic platform that contributes to overall understanding of early Republican Ankara.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY VEHBİ KOÇ ANKARA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER (VEKAM) AND ANKARA ORCHARD HOUSE

VEKAM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

PANEL | A VISION BEYOND TIME: ATATÜRK FOREST FARM TURNS 100

Date: 5 May 2025

To mark the centenary of the Atatürk Forest Farm, VEKAM spearheaded an initiative coordinated by Zeki Kâmil Ülkenli, a faculty member at Cappadocia University. Founded on 5 May 1925, the farm played a vital role in shaping contemporary Ankara. This project aimed to analyze its historically innovative, health-giving, and ecological vision from a variety of perspectives. Hosted onsite at the Ankara Orchard House, the panel focused on the farm's pioneering practices and its role in shaping an urban society. Discussions centered on various unique initiatives, including the Etimesgut Japanese Rose Oil Facilities, hops and asparagus production, biofuel trials, and modern agricultural and animal husbandry techniques.



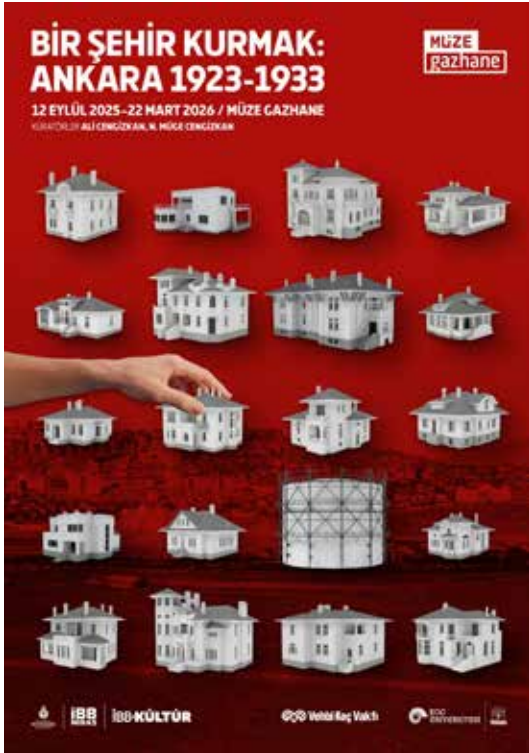
EXHIBITION | A VISION BEYOND TIME: ATATÜRK FOREST FARM TURNS 100 | A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE FROM THE KÂMİL & ORGUN ÜLKENLİ ARCHIVES

Date: 21 May - 30 June 2025

To mark the centenary of the Atatürk Forest Farm, the "Atatürk Forest Farm Turns 100 | A Centennial Tribute from the Kâmil & Orgun Ülkenli Archives" exhibition was held in Ankara from 21 May to 30 June 2025. Curated by Dr. Zeki Kâmil Ülkenli, a faculty member at Cappadocia University, and hosted by Çankaya Municipality, the exhibition welcomed visitors at the Zülfü Livaneli Cultural Center's Mutluluk Exhibition Hall in Çankaya.

The exhibition shed light on the multi-layered history of the Atatürk Forest Farm through a meticulous selection from the Ülkenli family archive. This collection was begun by Kâmil Ülkenli, who witnessed the farm's founding firsthand as an employee, and was continued by Orgun Ülkenli, who was born on the estate and later retired from it, before being expanded and compiled by Zeki Kâmil Ülkenli. A multi-layered history is revealed through rare photographs, Ottoman-script documents, contemporary reports, personal oral and visual histories, television recordings, original objects, and ephemera. The exhibition aimed to demonstrate that the farm was far more than an agricultural enterprise ahead of its time: it was a place where employees and their families developed a profound sense of belonging and ownership, while also deeply influencing the social and cultural transformation of Ankara.





EXHIBITION | THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY: ANKARA 1923-1933

Date: 12 September 2025-22 March 2026

Curated by Ali Cengizkan and Müge Cengizkan, sponsored by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, and supported by VEKAM, the The Construction of a New City: Ankara 1923-1933 exhibition, which originally opened in Ankara in 2019, welcomed visitors in İstanbul at Museum Gazhane through a joint collaboration with İBB Culture and İBB Heritage.

The Construction of a New City: Ankara 1923-1933 explores how an exhausted, war-torn country managed to build a brand-new capital literally from the ground up. It reveals the political determination and the concrete achievements of the Republic's first ten years but it does so by focusing on the everyday stories of how people actually found housing and built lives in this new city.

Having attracted intense interest in both public and academic circles by opening new avenues for research and communication, The Construction of a New City: Ankara 1923-1933 was awarded the Chamber of Architects 2022 National Architecture Award for its architectural history research methodology. A companion volume of the same name expanding upon the exhibition with essays and new documents was first published by VEKAM in 2019. A fourth edition was released in 2023.

WORKSHOP | REPAIRING FRAGILE MEMORY IN THE VEKAM ARCHIVE

Date: 20 September 2025

To mark the 42nd year of the European Heritage Days, the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) organized its 4th European Heritage Days Turkey event on 20-21 September 2025. Hosted by VEKAM as the Ankara segment of the initiative, the "Repairing Fragile Memory in the VEKAM Archive" conservation workshop took place on 20 September 2025 and was attended by a group of 15 registered participants.

While prioritizing people trained in archival conservation as its primary target audience, the workshop was designed and structured to serve as a practical guide for administrators and officials, researchers, and private individuals involved in collection preservation. Under the guidance of experts, participants were given the opportunity to work directly with original materials and gain valuable hands-on experience in the areas of archival conservation and preventive conservation.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY VEHBİ KOÇ ANKARA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER (VEKAM) AND ANKARA ORCHARD HOUSE

VEKAM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

WORKSHOP | CULTURAL HERITAGE STUDIES FOR CHILDREN (0-18) WORKSHOP VI: ACCESSIBILITY IN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Date: 13-14 November 2025

Coordinated by Associate Prof. Çiğdem Maner, a faculty member at Koç University, and Özlem Dengiz Uğur, VEKAM hosted the sixth installment of its workshop series on 13-14 November 2025, conducted onsite around the theme “Accessibility in Education for Children with Special Needs”. The “Cultural Heritage Studies for Children (0-18) Workshop” series was originally launched by VEKAM in 2019 to share diverse methodologies for instilling conservation awareness, foster new ideas among field professionals, and support sustainable cultural heritage education. Bringing together field professionals from various provinces across the country, the workshop featured insights and experiences shared by speakers from Russia, Portugal, Taiwan, and Turkey. The critical issue of accessibility in cultural heritage was discussed by a focused group consisting of museum professionals, educators, postgraduate researchers, academics, conservators, representatives from cultural and civil society organizations, as well as editors and publishers working in the field. Each day’s afternoon sessions featured simultaneous, onsite model workshops designed to serve as practical examples for professionals working in the field.



CONSERVATION

Alongside ten books belonging to the VEKAM Library, comprehensive conservation work was completed for 254 student application documents from 1942, as part of the ongoing work on the Musiki Muallim Mektebi Collection.

Detailed cataloging and inventorying was completed for each of 497 items—among them 486 photographic slides, four pieces of furniture, and seven textile artifacts—acquired as donations and added to VEKAM’s collections.

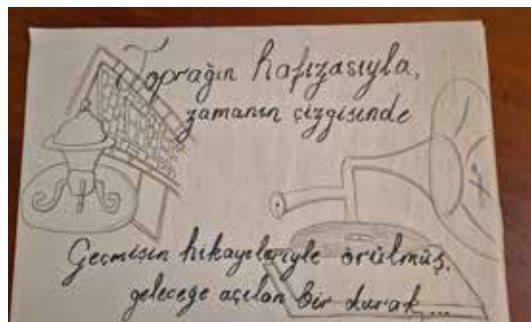
EDUCATION | ANKARA ORCHARD HOUSE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

With its distinctive architectural features and rich collections, VEKAM's Ankara Orchard House is an outstanding example of the cultural heritage of Republic-era Turkey. The venue frequently serves as a destination for field trips and hosts programs and activities that are designed to cultivate schoolchildren's awareness both of that heritage and of Ankara's urban memory. The museum education workshops conducted at the Orchard House aim to foster a meaningful connection with the venue and its collections by heightening awareness of cultural heritage among both children and adults, ultimately helping them conceptualize how sociocultural life has evolved over time. The programming aims to enhance students' observational and narrative capabilities as they actively explore traditional daily practices, orchard culture, and the city's collective memory. Over time, the Ankara Orchard House museum-education activities have transformed it into a learning space that fosters a sense of belonging and cultural responsibility across all age groups. Workshops designed for university students aim to encourage the examination of cultural heritage from a multi-layered perspective. Through educational programs utilizing creative drama and creative writing methodologies, the initiatives aim to foster long-term knowledge



retention by grounding architecture, the collection, and the traditional summer lifestyles of historic Ankara in tangible examples.

Between January and November 2025, a total of 18 visiting groups were welcomed at the Ankara Orchard House. In addition to primary and secondary school students, they included undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as educators, representing departments at five universities. To mark Museums Week, the Ankara Orchard House hosted an e-book workshop for a group of high school students. The workshop focused on compiling and publishing an e-book comprised entirely of original narratives developed by the youngsters themselves.



PRESENTATION

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBİ KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

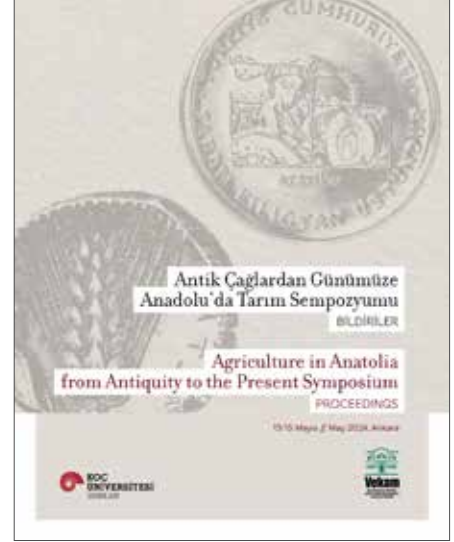
KOÇ UNIVERSITY VEHBİ KOÇ ANKARA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER (VEKAM) AND ANKARA ORCHARD HOUSE

VEKAM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | PUBLICATIONS |

AGRICULTURE IN ANATOLIA FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT SYMPOSIUM, PROCEEDINGS

Editor.: Billur Tekkök Karaöz

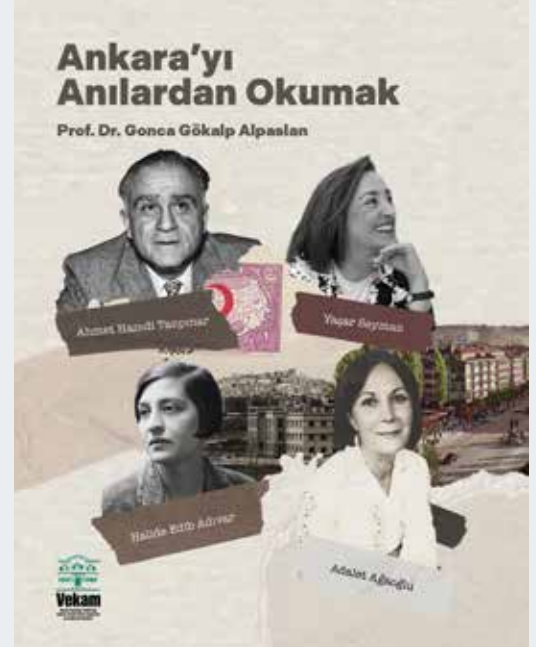
Compiling research presented at the “Agriculture in Anatolia from Antiquity to the Present” symposium, this proceedings volume examines Anatolia’s agricultural history and heritage from antiquity to the contemporary era. Authored by specialists conducting in-depth research in the field, the papers focus on critical dimensions of Anatolian agriculture, including socioeconomic and political developments, trade and barter, material culture, dietary practices, agricultural commodities, archaeobotany, visual culture, land use and functionality, and agrarian law.



READING ANKARA THROUGH MEMOIRS (OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION)

Editor.: Gonca Gökalp Alpaslan

Prepared as a result of the “Reading Ankara through Memoirs” workshop hosted by VEKAM, the volume Reading Ankara through Memoirs has been released as an open-access publication. Coordinated by Prof. Gonca Gökalp Alpaslan, the workshop examined several key literary works, including Halide Edib Adıvar’s Türk’ün Ateşle İmtihanı, Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar’s Beş Şehir, Yaşar Seyman’s Hüznün Coşkusu Altındağ, and Adalet Ağaoğlu’s Göç Temizliği. By synthesizing these works of life writing, participants generated discipline-specific academic papers. This collective effort effectively opens Ankara’s sociocultural memory to broader debate, examining urban history through a literary lens.



ARCHITECTS WHO LEFT THEIR MARK ON ANKARA: İLHAMİ URAL (OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION)

Editor: Nuray Bayraktar

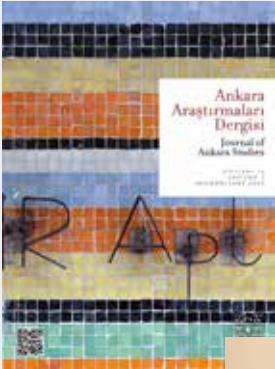
Compiled from the expanded texts of presentations delivered at the panel discussion on İlhami Ural organized as part of the "Architects who Left their Mark on Ankara" project, this open-access publication aims to contextualize the architect's position within the architecture of his era and showcase his contributions to Ankara through his many architectural projects.



JOURNAL OF ANKARA STUDIES

Editors: Mehtap Türkyılmaz and Alev Ayaokur

The 25th and 26th issues of the Journal of Ankara Studies, which aims to create a platform for academic studies from different disciplines that reveal new data on Ankara's urban elements through scientific methods and to share these studies with the public, have been published.



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ RESEARCH CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS AND KALEİÇİ MUSEUM (AKMED)

THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

AKMED supports scientific studies and research on the history, archaeology, ethnographic, and cultural values of the Mediterranean world.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE BYZANTINE WORLD: HISTORY, CULTURE, AND ART EXHIBITION



AKMED IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITION

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BYZANTINE WORLD: HISTORY, CULTURE, AND ART

Curators: Oğuz Tekin, Engin Akyürek, Nikos Kontogiannis

This exhibition focuses on the historical, social, cultural, and artistic heritage of the Byzantine Empire, which left its mark on the Mediterranean world for over 1000 years.. The cultural change—primarily focused on religion and language—that occurred in the Late Roman Empire during the 5th and 6th centuries AD led to the transformation of the pagan Roman Empire of Antiquity into the Christian Byzantine Empire of the Middle Ages, and caused Rome to be referred to as Byzantium in the 16th century. Indeed, as Greek was accepted as the official language of the state starting from the 7th century, Latin gradually began to

lose its importance and usage. It is understood that by the 11th century, Greek was almost the completely dominant language. Along with Byzantium, elements and motifs specific to Christianity permeated every area of social and cultural life. Churches, monasteries, and clergy played a very important role in the center of the world surrounded by Jesus, Mary, and the Saints. We witness stories from holy books being depicted on wall paintings, mosaics, reliefs, coins, seals, or other objects from then on. This exhibition aims to arouse curiosity for the future among viewers by looking at the Byzantine world through just a small window.

The exhibition can be visited at the AKMED Suna & İnan Kiraç Kaleiçi Museum until 27 May 2026, between 09:00-18:00, except on Mondays.

Online catalog: https://akmedmedia.ku.edu.tr/Digital_books/Bizans_Dunyasindan_Yansimalar_Tarih_Kultur_ve_Sanat.pdf

IDENTITY

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PRESENTATION

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AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

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AKMED AT A GLANCE

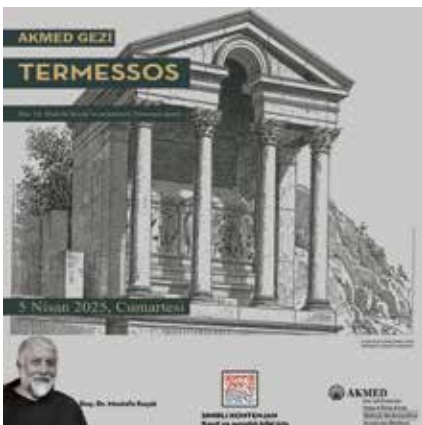
AKMED, the Koç University Suna & İnan Kiraç Research Center for Mediterranean Civilizations, is chartered to support scientific research aimed at documenting, conserving, and restoring the historical, archaeological, ethnographical, and cultural assets of the Mediterranean world and interpreting its cultural relations. AKMED organizes conferences, summer schools, certificate programs, academic meetings, and exhibitions, publishes books and periodicals, offers scholarship and project support, and implements social responsibility projects.

The Kaleiçi Museum, also within AKMED, is open to visitors every day except Mondays.

EXCURSIONS

TERMESSOS - 5 APRIL 2025

Within the scope of the first AKMED Excursion Program of 2025, the latest findings from the research initiated by Antalya Bilim University in Termessos were examined on site under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Koçak, the scientific advisor of the archaeological project conducted in the ancient city of Termessos.



SIDE - 4 OCTOBER 2025

The final stop of the AKMED Excursion in 2025 was Side, which has a history spanning thousands of years. Side, one of the most important port cities of the Pamphylia Region in Antiquity, was a continuous cultural and commercial center from the 8th century BC until the end of the 7th century AD. Participants had the opportunity to see the archaeological research carried out in Side on-site with the head of excavations, Prof. Feriştah Alanyalı. They also explored new excavation areas, examined the restored ruins, and visited Turkey's first open-air site museum.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ RESEARCH CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS AND KALEİÇİ MUSEUM (AKMED)

AKMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES

ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER SCHOOL PATARA

A Summer School was held in Patara between 4-9 August 2025 by Koç University AKMED, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Akdeniz University Patara Excavation Presidency. 10 undergraduate students studying in archaeology departments of universities in Turkey participated in the Summer School. Participants gained both theoretical knowledge and excavation experience through the excavation team.



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

STRUCTURES IN ANTIQUITY

"Structures in Antiquity Certificate Program" was held online between 17-21 November 2025. The main aim of the program was to present topics such as the understanding of urbanism in the Hellenic and Roman worlds, the extraction of building stones from quarries, their processing on coins, and the information given by inscriptions about buildings to the participants by expert academics. 35 undergraduate students studying in relevant departments participated in the online program and successfully completed it.

I EVENTS | AKMED CONFERENCES



UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TURKEY: A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASSESSMENT IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ARMENIAN EPIGRAPHIC WORKS

Prof. Yıldız Deveci Bozkuş

Date: 7 March 2025

The speaker for the first AKMED conference of 2025 was Prof. Yıldız Deveci Bozkuş. She met with participants to examine Armenian cultural heritage in Turkey in depth, specifically revealing the historical and cultural importance of Armenian epigraphic works.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ws8zsVLW3g&t=89s>



MOUNTAINS OF GODS AND KINGS: BOLKAR MOUNTAINS IN THE HITTITE AND LATE HITTITE PERIODS

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Maner

Date: 16 May 2025

The Bolkar Mountains are known as the central part of the Taurus Mountains and spread across the provinces of Konya, Niğde, and Mersin. In this conference, Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Maner discussed the sacred, political, and economic importance of the Bolkar Mountains during the Hittite and Late Hittite periods, as well as their role in the formation and development of the Hittite Empire. She emphasized that these mountains, where various ore deposits were mined, were used as pastures for both small and large cattle, constituting one of the main sources of the Hittite economy.

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypP1u0kLb_A&t=19s

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ RESEARCH CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS AND KALEİÇİ MUSEUM (AKMED)

AKMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS | AKMED CONFERENCES



RECONSTRUCTING EARLY LYCIAN HISTORY: ÇALTILAR HÖYÜK EXCAVATIONS

Prof. Ayşegül Aykurt

Date: 23 October 2025

Çaltılar Höyük is located in the east of Muğla, northeast of the Seki Plain, and 30 km northwest of the Elmalı Plain. The region covers the geographical area referred to as "Lukka" in Hittite texts. Excavations that began in 2021 have presented significant findings regarding the prehistoric periods of Western Anatolia. Prof. Ayşegül Aykurt highlighted that the excavations revealed the mound was settled during the Late Chalcolithic Period, Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, and Archaic Period. She further noted that the Late Chalcolithic settlement was located approximately 4 meters below the current plain level, on the edge of a swamp in the area where the mound is situated.



THE MAGNIFICENT PORT CITY OF CILICIA: ANEMURIUM

Prof. Mehmet Tekocak

Date: 13 November 2025

The Ancient City of Anemurium, one of the important port cities of the Rough Cilicia Region in Antiquity, is located today within the borders of Ören / Batıkent Neighborhood in the Anamur district of Mersin province. In this conference, the archaeological excavations, research, conservation, and restoration works carried out since 2018 by the team led by Prof. Mehmet Tekocak, a faculty member of the Department of Archaeology at Selçuk University and Head of the Anemurium Excavations, were introduced accompanied by visuals.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jweE4tz32jk>

THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY AT SAGALASSOS

Assoc. Prof. Peter Talloen

Date: 4 December 2025

The rise of Christianity—understood here as its establishment as the dominant religion within a community, as evidenced in the material record—is typically viewed as the outcome of an acculturation process known as Christianization. While the term process inherently implies a gradual development, many historical sources instead depict sudden, often dramatic events that led to the instantaneous conversion of entire communities into “Christ-loving cities.”

Drawing on recent archaeological research at Sagalassos (southwest Turkey), this lecture will explore whether the Christianization of this medium-sized provincial town in the Pisidian mountains was indeed a rapid transformation—one that can even be pinpointed to a specific moment—or rather a prolonged, complex evolution shaped by years of negotiation and deliberate action.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SORN8S-2l9Q>



AKMED WORKSHOPS

The “learning in the museum” activities we organized for children at the Suna & İnan Kiraç Kaleiçi Museum continued in 2025. In this context, we held 10 workshops with the participation of 78 children aged 6-14:

1. Painters and their Paintings: Why Does Picasso Draw Like That? - Deniz Şenova & Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 28 January 2025
2. Green Planet - Climate Change and Making Animal Figures from Waste Materials - Burcu Topkaya Şeneren & Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 28 January 2025
3. Painters and their Paintings: Our Artists - Deniz Şenova - 29 January 2025
4. Shields in Antiquity - Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 29 January 2025
5. Professions from Past to Present - Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 30 January 2025
6. Green Planet: Climate Change and Making Puppets from Old Socks - Burcu Topkaya Şeneren & Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 30 January 2025
7. Ancient Ship Model - Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 18 May 2025
8. Shields in Antiquity - Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 01 June 2025
9. Yayoi Kusama and Her Dots - Deniz Şenova & Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 22 June 2025
10. Green Planet - Climate Change and Making Animal Figures from Waste Materials - Burcu Topkaya Şeneren & Özge Yanardağ Koçyiğit - 13 July 2025

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ RESEARCH CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS AND KALEİÇİ MUSEUM (AKMED) AKMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | EVENTS |

OLDTOWN FESTIVAL

As AKMED, we once again supported the 10th Kaleiçi Old Town Festival organized by the Antalya Muratpaşa Municipality between 9-12 October 2025, and hosted various events.



CONCERT

NOVEMBER 10TH ATATÜRK COMMEMORATION CONCERT

A concert commemorating Atatürk was organized by the Antalya State Opera and Ballet Directorate at the AKMED Conference Hall on 10 November 2025. Participation was high for the concert, where Antalya State Opera and Ballet artists performed folk songs loved by Atatürk.



I PUBLICATIONS I

PERIODICALS

1. ADALYA 28, 2025 (Annual and open access journal)
2. ANMED 23, 2025 (Annual and open access e-journal)



BOOKS

OĞUZ TEKİN, MONEY IN THE ROMAN AND BYZANTINE WORLD: READING HISTORY FROM COINS

Koç University Press, İstanbul, 2025

Coins are among the most important archaeological and historical sources for reading, understanding, and writing history. In this book dealing with coins in the Roman and Byzantine worlds, four main categories stand out:

- Coins of the Roman State (republic and empire)
- Coins of Roman colonies
- Coins of city-states minted under Roman rule
- Byzantine coins

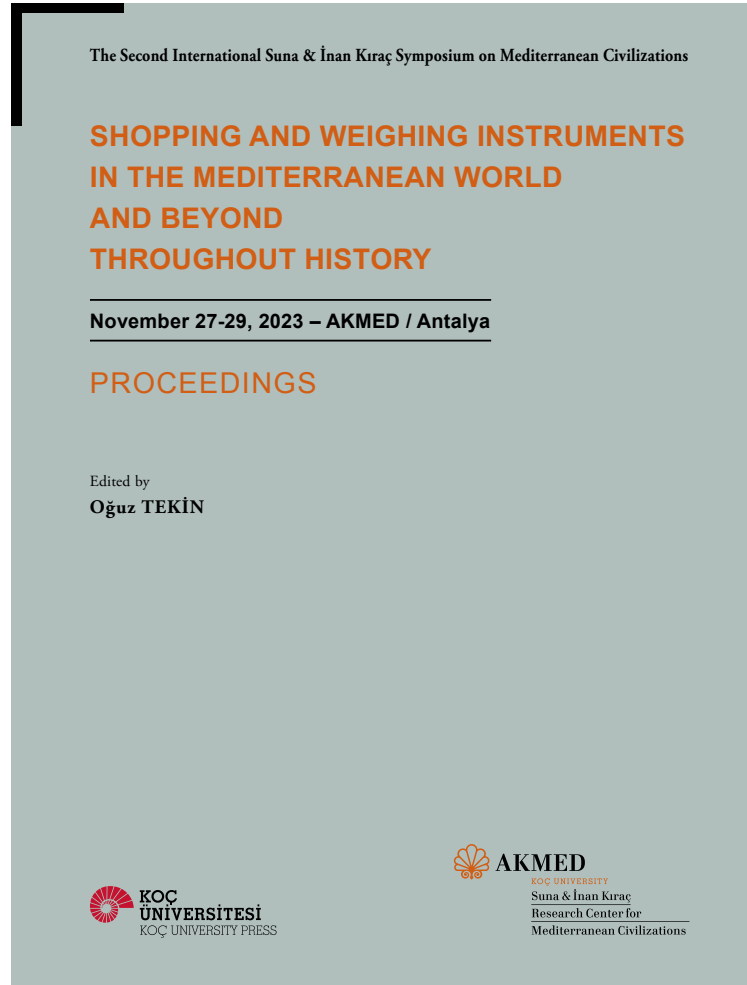
A period of approximately 1800 years is covered, from the late 4th century BC, when coins began to be minted and used by the Romans, to the coins of the last Byzantine Emperor Constantine XI. While this book reveals the economic, political, socio-cultural, religious, and mythological traces left on coins by the states that left their mark on the Mediterranean geography, accompanied by rich visual material, it is also designed with content where anyone interested in coins can find something.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ RESEARCH CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS AND KALEİÇİ MUSEUM (AKMED)

AKMED IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES | PUBLICATIONS |

SHOPPING AND WEIGHING INSTRUMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
WORLD AND BEYOND THROUGHOUT HISTORY, 27-29 NOVEMBER 2023,
KOÇ UNIVERSITY AKMED - ANTALYA. PROCEEDINGS (ED. OĞUZ TEKİN),
THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SUNA & İNAN KIRAÇ SYMPOSIUM ON
MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS, KOÇ UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS, İSTANBUL
2025.

This proceedings volume features research presented at the AKMED symposium, which focused comprehensively on the history of shopping, commerce, and weighing instruments. The book features 25 scholarly contributions, including papers submitted by two invited researchers who were unable to present at the symposium in person. The papers encompass a broad chronology beginning with Bronze Age Anatolia and Mesopotamia and extending through the Ottoman period; however, the primary focus is on the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine eras.



**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF MONEY AND
NUMISMATICS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD, 1-4 APRIL 2024 - ANTALYA.
PROCEEDINGS (EDS. O. TEKİN & R. BOYRAZ SEYHAN), KOÇ UNIVERSITY
PUBLICATIONS, İSTANBUL 2025.**

This proceedings volume features the 33 papers delivered over the course of the congress. The papers encompass a wide chronological and thematic range, concentrating on specialized studies in monetary minting and circulation, economic networks, iconography, epigraphy, and metrology, alongside the function of coins as primary archaeological and historical source material. To maintain thematic and chronological consistency, the volume groups the proceedings into five chapters: "Digital Numismatics", "Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic", "Excavation Coins, Hoards, Collections, and Circulation", "Roman and Roman Provincial Coinage", and "Medieval and Islamic".



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SEVGİ GÖNÜL CENTER FOR BYZANTINE STUDIES (GABAM)

THE FIRST IN BYZANTINE ART IN TURKEY

GABAM is the first scientific research center dedicated to Byzantine art history and archaeology to be established in Turkey.



SCIENTIFIC STUDIES ON BYZANTINE



GABAM IN 2025 MAIN ACTIVITIES

GALATA WALLS

The scientific project initiated in 2024 by Koç University Sevgi Gönül Center for Byzantine Studies (GABAM) was completed in 2025 and opened to the public access on the website <https://istanbulcitywalls.ku.edu.tr/en/>. The units of Galata Walls were mapped and along with the surviving architectural units, the visuals of the inscriptions and Genoese coats of arms documented on the walls were collected. Ten original, scientific articles written for the project by internationally known scholars study different aspects of the Galata Walls.

THE MAP OF EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS WITH BYZANTINE LAYERS

An interactive map showing locations where Byzantine archaeological strata in Turkey have been or are being excavated and surveyed based on data aggregated from different sources is now accessible at bizansikazmak.ku.edu.tr. This is an ongoing project, and the map is constantly being updated and revised as new material becomes available. The project's goal is to serve as a user-friendly interface to a reliable database of information about Byzantine strata in Turkey.

istanbulcitywalls.ku.edu.tr/en/
istanbulsurlari.ku.edu.tr



IDENTITY

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<https://gabam.ku.edu.tr/>

PRESENTATION

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GABAM AT A GLANCE

Established with the support of Koç University and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in January 2015 at Koç University's Rumelifeneri Campus, GABAM is the first scientific research center dedicated to Byzantine art history and archaeology to be established in Turkey. GABAM prepares and executes scientific research projects on the history of Byzantine art and archaeology; supports the projects it deems suitable; provides doctoral and post-doctoral research scholarships in the relevant disciplines within Koç University; organizes scientific conferences, symposiums and workshops; publishes scientific literature.

In 2023 the name of the center was changed to Koç University Sevgi Gönül Center for Byzantine Studies.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BYZANTINE STUDIES IN TURKEY

Another digital project on which GABAM is currently working is the digitization of *Byzantine Studies in Turkey: A Bibliography (19th Century-2020)*, a book edited by Şahin Kılıç and Buket Kitapçı-Bayrı and published by Vehbi Koç Foundation in 2021. In addition to reformatting, standardizing, and updating all the bibliographical information, the project is also developing a digital tool for searching and displaying entries based on keywords and contexts.



<https://bizansikazmak.ku.edu.tr/>



KOÇ UNIVERSITY SEVGİ GÖNÜL CENTER FOR BYZANTINE STUDIES (GABAM)

GABAM IN 2025 | MAIN ACTIVITIES |

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

In 2025, GABAM continued to organize public conferences focusing on various fields of Byzantine studies, and also held 3 special events in honor of its 10th anniversary.

SPRING IN BYZANTIUM: A SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF GABAM WITH FORMER FELLOWS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS

Date: 11 April 2025

An online symposium was held with 11 of the scientists to whom GABAM has given scholarships in the past decade explained the research that they conducted during the period of their scholarships to the audience.

GABAM LECTURES 18: DR. ERENE RAFIK MORCOS - MAKING THE BYZANTINE BOOK: A CASE STUDY OF THE HAMILTON PSALTER

Date: 7 May 2025

Online lecture given by Dr. Erene Rafik Morcos of Köln University concentrated on Byzantine manuscripts by presenting a case study of the Hamilton Psalter.

SPRING IN BYZANTIUM: THE ARHA EVENT FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF GABAM

Date: 23 May 2025

A face-to-face symposium was held at the Founders Hall of Koç University, during which faculty members of Koç University's Archaeology and Art History Department presented their projects supported by GABAM.



THE HEAVEN OF FIRDEVŞ: ARCHITECTURE AND TOPOGRAPHY OF BYZANTINE, GENOESE AND OTTOMAN GALATA

Date: 20-21 June 2025

Organized within scope of GABAM's Galata City Walls Project initiated in 2024, this international symposium focused on the historical topography of Galata through 13 presentations spread into 5 sessions.

CONFERENCE CELEBRATING TENTH YEAR OF GABAM: PETER FRANKOPAN - THE FUTURE OF BYZANTINE STUDIES. SOME QUESTIONS.

Tarih: 24 June 2025

The conference by Prof. Peter Frankopan from the University of Oxford focused on some questions on the future of Byzantine studies, marking the end of the event series celebrating GABAM's 10th year.

JOINT PROJECTS

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BYZANTINE WORLD: HISTORY, CULTURE AND ART

Date: 25 May 2025-31 May 2026

Organized at AKMED's Suna & İnan Kiraç Kaleiçi Museum with the cooperation of AKMED, GABAM and Dumbarton Oaks under the curatorship of Prof. Oğuz Tekin, Prof. Engin Akyürek and Assoc. Prof. Nikos Kontogiannis, this exhibition addressed different aspects of the Byzantine Empire.

NORDIC TALES BYZANTINE PATHS

The Nordic Tales Byzantine Paths project website (<https://nordictalesbyzantinepaths.ku.edu.tr/en/>) which aims to provide a hub for documenting Nordic-Byzantine relations throughout the middle Byzantine period has been updated in 2025 with new essays and a new Siri the Viking page.

The project website was made available online in late 2022 as a result of the collaboration between the Swedish Research Institute in İstanbul and GABAM, and with the support of Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık (https://youtu.be/muDvIhRDYAk?si=EHYpaKH5_R3xLFn).

I PUBLICATIONS I

On the occasion of GABAM's tenth year in 2025, the center prepared an online booklet titled Ten Years in Byzantine Research, 2015-2025: https://cdn.ku.edu.tr/cdn/files/GABAM/GABAM_10YearReport_LOWWEB.pdf

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

LATE ANTIQUE JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES FROM THE EXCAVATIONS AT YENİKAPI, SİRKEÇİ AND VEZNECİLER

The jewelry and accessories from 4th-7th centuries unearthed during the archaeological excavations conducted at Yenikapı, Sirkeci and Vezneciler by İstanbul Archaeological Museums between 2004 and 2015 within scope of the Marmaray and Metro projects will be presented for the first time in this book which is based on the author, Gülbahar Baran-Çelik's Ph.D. thesis.

A VIKING IN THE SUN: HARALD HARDRADA AS BEST DOCUMENTED "VIKING" VISITOR TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

Date: 16 October 2025

Moderated by Olof Helio of Swedish Research Institute in İstanbul, Gianluca Raccagni from University of Edinburgh and Bergur Thorgeirsson from Snorrastofa discussed Mediterranean societies and their connections with the Nordic world during the event held at ANAMED.



THE HEAVEN OF FIRDEVŞ: ARCHITECTURE AND TOPOGRAPHY OF BYZANTINE, GENOESE AND OTTOMAN GALATA

The book edited by Neslihan Asutay-Effenberger and Engin Akyürek, which will include the proceedings of the international symposium of the same name organized by GABAM in June 2025, will be the first scientific publication on the historical topography of Galata covering all periods.

VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION FORD OTOSAN GÖLCÜK CULTURE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION TO GÖLCÜK

The center has been contributing to the social and cultural life of the surrounding region its since its inception.



AVERAGE 10,000
VISITORS PER MONTH



VEHBİ KOÇ FOUNDATION FORD OTOSAN GÖLCÜK CULTURE AND COMMUNITY CENTER IN 2025

In 2025, the center launched its activities with the children's play "Fish Town." It then continued with the children's plays "Zebra Musical," "Bremen Town Musicians," "Children's Festival," and "Pinocchio." Afterward, it hosted the theater plays "I Couldn't Tell," "Junk Food Talkshow," "The Mexican Stalemate," and "Small Murders in Marriage." The center also hosted Haluk Arda Oskay's photography exhibition "Infrared" and Sezar Yıldırım's painting exhibition "Rose Garden."

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PRESENTATION

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION
AT A GLANCE

VEHBI KOÇ AWARD

KOÇ FOUNDATION DISASTER
RELIEF FUND

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

CULTURE

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS



VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION FORD OTOSAN GÖLCÜK CULTURE AND COMMUNITY CENTER AT A GLANCE

The Vehbi Koç Foundation Ford Otosan Gölcük Culture and Community Center has been promoting social and cultural events for the people of the Gölcük region. In addition to its beautiful natural settings, the center's events calendar provides a rich cultural environment with art courses, exhibitions, stage performances, musical activities and personal development courses. The center's classical music recitals, jazz concerts, theater and children's plays, art and other workshops attract an average of 10,000 visitors each month. As the center focuses on community service, all its events and activities are free of charge for all age and social groups.

VEHBI KOÇ FOUNDATION CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

KONEKTOR - PHILANTHROPY EAST FORUM

A COLLABORATIVE SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND PHILANTHROPY: SHARED REFLECTION, LEARNING, AND SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

KoneKtor - Philanthropy East Forum is an international platform that brings together European philanthropic actors, civil society representatives, academics, and activists. Its mission is to foster collaborative platforms and shared learning to address the complex, overlapping crises currently challenging civil society. Operating under the coordination of the Philanthropy Europe Association (Philea), KoneKtor aims to bolster civil society across the wider European landscape, with a particular emphasis on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The Vehbi Koç Foundation is a member of the KoneKtor Executive Committee.

The 2025 KoneKtor - Philanthropy East Forum was held on 23-25 September 2025 at the Kulturhaus Brotfabrik in Vienna under the theme "Navigating Uncertainty: Civil Society and Philanthropy Rising to the Occasion". The forum attracted 129 registrants, with 128 of them attending the event in person. Of these participants, 26 featured as speakers during the three-day program. The gathering brought together representatives from foundations, civil society organizations, philanthropy-serving organizations, academia, the media, and multilateral organizations.

An analysis of the attendee profile reveals a composition heavily weighted towards foundation representatives (54 individuals) and civil society organizations (32 individuals). The forum hosted participants from more than 25 countries, with Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Ukraine, and Turkey among the most heavily represented nations. Most of the participants were in the 35-54 age group.

A post-event feedback survey attracted a 52% response rate. On a 5-point scale, the event's content and learning opportunities scored an average of 4.07, while participant inclusivity received an exceptional rating of 4.62. An overwhelming 98.4% of respondents said that the forum generated high-value professional encounters capable of benefiting their respective operations.

One of the defining features of KoneKtor is its commitment to providing non-hierarchical, safe, and inclusive learning environments. Through small group workshops, circle discussions, storytelling, and creative methodologies, participants engaged in open, in-depth dialogues on critical issues such as power dynamics, funding practices, resilience, wellbeing, and the shrinking civic space. Ultimately, the forum goes beyond mere knowledge sharing to actively cultivate mutual understanding, empathy, and the development of sustainable, long-term collaborations. In this regard, KoneKtor stands out as a premier European platform that enables philanthropy to assume a transformative and sustainable role alongside civil society.

FROM EARTHQUAKES TO WAR ZONES: BUILDING THE FUTURE IN CRISIS-RIDDEN AREAS

Curated and hosted by the Vehbi Koç Foundation during the KoneKtor - Philanthropy East Forum, this discussion addressed community resilience within disaster and conflict zones, the impact of local initiatives, and sustainable frameworks for navigating the drawdown of international assistance. Moderated by Josie Naughton (Choose Love), the session highlighted the transformation of solidarity-based aid models and underscored the critical importance of partnering with local actors in crisis-ridden areas. Assoc. Prof. İlker Kayı (Public Health Volunteers / Koç University) shared how post-disaster health literacy, first aid, and psychosocial support initiatives have successfully evolved into a community-based model. Cemal Akar (Hatay Surf Center) shared practices from sports- and nature-based social enterprise activities that help youth rebuild hope and self-confidence during their own post-trauma recoveries. Dr. Ostap Sereda (Invisible University for Ukraine) discussed how learning and academic resilience can be sustained in the midst of wartime conditions through hybrid and cross-border educational models.

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