



ISTANBUL  
**GELISIM**  
**UNIVERSITY**

MAY 2026



ISTANBUL  
**GELİŞİM** **ÜNİVERSİTESİ**

# FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

*Applied Science in Gelişim, For a Change In Your Life*

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## NEWS FROM IGU

# A Cultural Breeze on Campus: IGU Celebrates its 7th International Student Culture Day with Enthusiasm!

Istanbul Gelişim University (IGU) continues to bring world cultures together on its campus in line with its internationalization vision. The "7th International Student Culture Day," organized by the International Student Directorate and now a tradition, was held with great enthusiasm on May 21, 2026, in the A Block Garden Area.

The event, organized to allow over 12,000 international students studying at the university to showcase their own cultures, was a true cultural festival. Nearly 50 country-specific stands set up in the campus garden took visitors on a virtual world tour.

Traditional dance performances and live music shows by students throughout the event provided enjoyable moments for the audience; while colorful traditional costumes were one of the most eye-catching elements of the festival. Visitors had the opportunity to taste regional delicacies from different cultures, and through workshops and cultural stands, they were introduced to the history, art, and traditions of each country. In a statement released at the end of the event,

Istanbul Gelişim University's internationalization vision was emphasized, with the following remarks: "As Istanbul Gelişim University, on this path we have embarked upon in line with our strong internationalization vision, we support our international students studying at our university in freely showcasing their own cultures, and we see cultural diversity as one of the greatest assets of our campus. Istanbul Gelişim University will continue to bring the world's youth together for a shared future."



## NEWS FROM FoAS

### 4th Faculty of Applied Sciences End-of-Term Exhibition Opens!

The “4th Faculty of Applied Sciences Exhibition,” organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) of Istanbul Gelişim University (IGU), was held on May 14-15, 2026, in the J Block Foyer Area with a large turnout. The exhibition, featuring applied and interdisciplinary works prepared by faculty students throughout the semester, attracted great interest from visitors. Refreshments prepared by students from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department also added color to the event.

The exhibition was opened with a speech by the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr. Kamil Kaya. In his speech, Prof. Dr. Kamil Kaya stated that the works in the exhibition were the result of the guidance of faculty members and the efforts of the students, and that the organization was an important platform contributing to the development of students' production skills and the transformation of their academic work into tangible results.



## NEWS FROM FoAS

Istanbul Gelişim University Rector Prof. Dr. Bahri Şahin visited the exhibition and examined the students' works. Prof. Dr. Şahin received information about the projects prepared by the departments within the faculty. Bahri Şahin met with students and academics.

The organization, coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Emel Tozlu Öztay, was realized with the contributions of all departments of the faculty. The "4th FAS Exhibition" was completed as an important organization that strengthened interdisciplinary interaction as well as bringing students' works to a wider audience.



## NEWS FROM FoAS

# The Banking and Insurance Department's "AQAS" Accreditation Has Been Extended Until 2031

Accreditation granted by AQAS (Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programs) is considered a quality indicator that documents the compliance of educational programs with international standards. In this regard, the Banking and Insurance Department has demonstrated that it continues to conduct its educational activities in line with European higher education quality assurance principles.

The accreditation of the Banking and Insurance Department of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, which it has held since 2018, has been extended until June 30, 2031, following an evaluation process.

The accreditation process was conducted within the framework of the European Higher Education Area Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines (ESG), and it was confirmed that the department's program is compliant with the AQAS Program Criteria and meets international quality standards. In this context, it was officially approved on April 1, 2026, by a commission decision taken via a circulation procedure.



## NEWS FROM FoAS

# The Rights Struggle of Women with Disabilities Was Discussed in a Conversation Titled “Double Disadvantage, Double Struggle”!

The Gender Studies Application and Research Center, the Social Responsibility Application and Research Center, the Department of Sociology, the Department of Social Work, and the UBF Disability Commission collaborated to organize a conversation titled “Double Disadvantage, Double Struggle: The Experiences and Rights Struggle of Women with Disabilities” to highlight the inequalities faced by women with disabilities in social life. The event, moderated by Assoc. Prof. E. Diler Tarhan from the Department of Sociology, featured Prof. Dr. Özlem Cankurtaran from the Department of Social Work at Hacettepe University as a guest speaker.

The conversation comprehensively addressed social inequalities arising from the intersection of womanhood and disability, the daily life experiences of women with disabilities, the structural obstacles they face in the workplace, and their struggle for rights. Furthermore, attention was drawn to issues of visibility in education, working life, public spaces, and daily life, emphasizing the importance of a “rights-based” approach and the need to strengthen solidarity networks.



## NEWS FROM FoAS

# Meaningful Collaboration for the Environment Between Istanbul Gelişim University Faculty of Applied Sciences Environmental Commission and Avcılar Municipality

The “Giving Life to the Soil, Breath to the Sea” event, organized in collaboration between the Environmental Commission of Istanbul Gelişim University Faculty of Applied Sciences and Avcılar Municipality, was held on May 11, 2026. The event, aimed at raising environmental awareness and supporting a sustainable lifestyle, included garden planting and beach cleaning activities. In the first part of the event, participants contributed to nature by planting gardens in the Avcılar Municipality area. Following this, beach cleaning activities were carried out at Denizköşkler Beach, raising awareness about environmental protection. Students and participants actively took part in the event, demonstrating their love for nature and social responsibility. Strengthening a shared sense of responsibility towards nature, the event highlighted the importance of environmental sustainability while also contributing to social solidarity and volunteerism. The “Giving Life to the Soil, Breath to the Sea” event once again demonstrated the importance of environmentally conscious efforts for a more livable future.



## NEWS FROM FoAS

### Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility Program Held in Romania!

Asst. Prof. Zahra Talebi Ghahremanlouy Olya, a faculty member in the Department of English and Translation, participated in the Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility Program held at the University of Timișoara from April 24 to May 9, 2026.

Within the scope of the program, academic lectures and meetings were conducted with faculty members and students; in addition to sharing experiences in the field of education, contacts were made to develop academic cooperation between the two universities.

This mobility program made significant contributions to strengthening international academic relations, supporting intercultural interaction, and facilitating future joint academic studies.

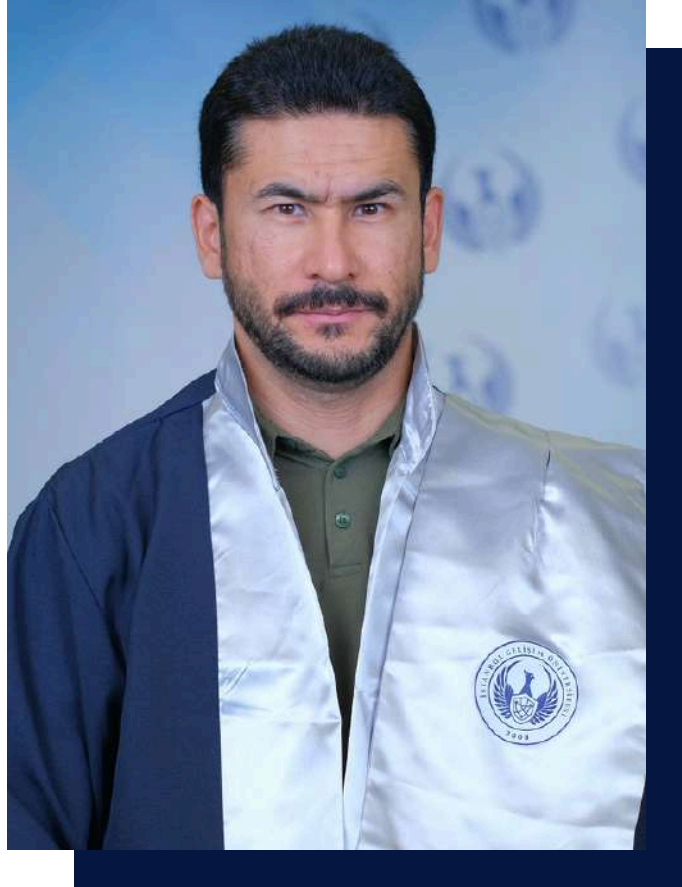


## NEWS FROM FoAS

### Dr. Mehmet Emin Begtimur, Faculty Member of the Department of New Media and Communication, Receives Associate Professor Title!

Dr. Mehmet Emin Begtimur, a faculty member of the Department of New Media and Communication at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, has earned the title of Associate Professor in the field of Journalism and Media Studies.

We congratulate our faculty member, Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Emin Begtimur, and wish him continued success.



## ACADEMIC ARTICLES

### *The Article Titled “A Meta-Analysis Review of the Effects of Project-Based Learning on Critical Thinking in Educational Systems” Was Published*

The study “A Meta-Analysis Review of the Effects of Project-Based Learning on Critical Thinking in Educational Systems” by Dr. Zahra Talebi Ghahremanlouf Olya was published in the 2026 issue (Volume 20, Issue 72) of the Journal of Research in Educational Systems. The study examines the effects of project-based learning on the development of critical thinking skills using a meta-analysis method. The findings reveal that project-based learning is an effective teaching approach in educational processes.



The thumbnail shows the cover of the article. On the left, the journal title "Journal of Research in Educational Systems" is displayed along with volume and issue information (Volume 20, Issue 72, 2026, Pp. 79-95), ISSN numbers, and the homepage URL. The main title of the article is "A Meta-Analysis Review of the Effects of Project-Based Learning on Critical Thinking in Educational Systems" by Zahra Talebi Ghahremanlouf Olya. The abstract section includes the objective, method, results, and conclusions. The objective is to determine the overall effect size of project-based learning (PBL) on critical thinking. The method used a quantitative meta-analysis following PRISMA guidelines. Results show a positive and statistically significant effect on critical thinking. Conclusions support project-based learning as an effective instructional approach.

## ACADEMIC ARTICLES

*The Article Titled "The role of event and festival tourism in preserving cultural heritage: towards a new events calendar for the Maasai tribe, Tanzania" Was Published in the ESCI-indexed Journal Frontiers in Communication!*

The article, co-authored by Dr. Rehab ELGAMİL, Assistant Professor in the Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, and other faculty members from our university and international universities, was published in the May 2026 issue of Frontiers in Communication.



**frontiers**  
in Communication

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### The role of event and festival tourism in preserving cultural heritage: towards a new events calendar for the Maasai tribe, Tanzania

Rehab El Gamil<sup>1</sup>, K. M. Ashifa<sup>2\*</sup>, Mehdi Safaei<sup>3</sup>, Nasir Mustafa<sup>2</sup>,  
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The present study investigates the role of event and festival tourism in preserving the cultural heritage of the Maasai tribe in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, northern Tanzania. Quantitative data from structured questionnaires were collected using a descriptive-explanatory design. Findings show that perceived benefits of event tourism—economic growth, cultural preservation, and community pride—strengthen Maasai support for an event calendar, while perceived costs—commodification, social disruption, environmental damage, cultural dilution, and displacement—fuel opposition. A conceptual model highlights how these factors shape community perceptions. Recommendations include involving the community in planning, promoting sustainable tourism, and raising awareness through education. The study offers practical guidance for culturally sensitive strategies that balance benefits and risks, ensuring long-term preservation of Maasai cultural heritage.

**KEYWORDS**  
cultural heritage, event tourism, events calendar, Maasai community, Ngorongoro conservation area

## CONGRESSES

### *The Paper Titled “The Effect of Hydrogen Utilization on Decarbonization: A Thermodynamic Evaluation” Was Presented at the IHTEC-2026 Congress*

The paper, prepared by Dr. Büşra Selenay Önal, a faculty member of the Aircraft Maintenance and Repair Department at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, together with Prof. Dr. Zafer Utlu, was presented at the 10th International Hydrogen Technologies Congress (IHTEC-2026), held between May 10-13, 2026.

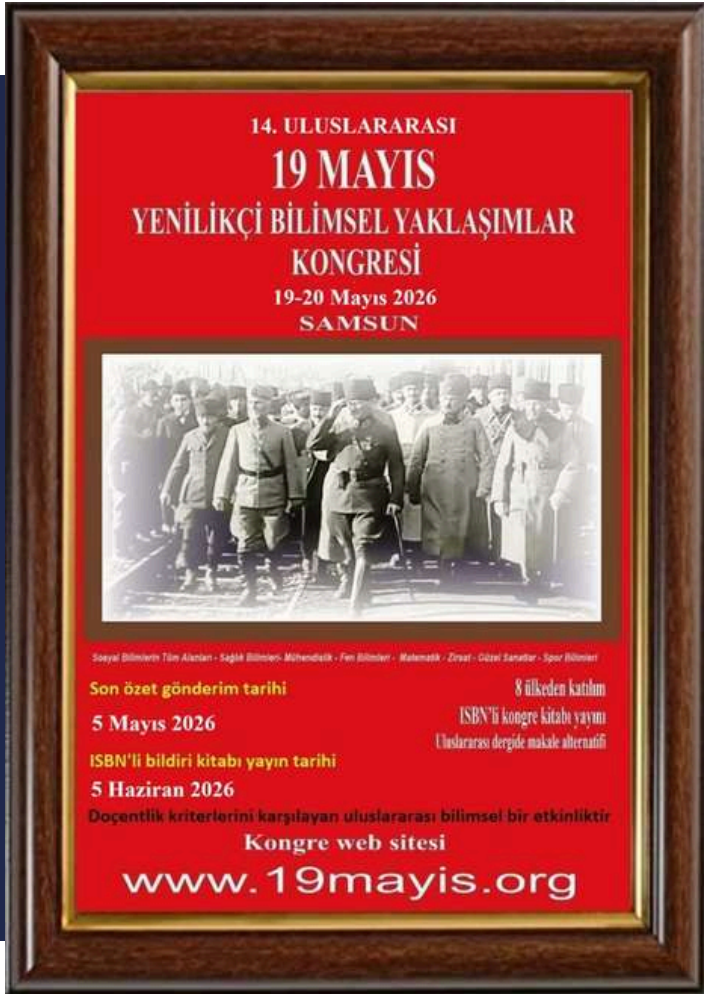


## CONGRESSES

### *Res. Asst. Niger Hacı Participated in the 14th International Mediterranean Scientific Research Congress!*

The 14th International 19 May Innovative Scientific Approaches Congress, organized by the Institute for Economic Development and Social Research (İKSAD), was held on May 19-20, 2026. Res. Asst. Niger Hacı participated in the congress with a paper titled "Subtitling, Dubbing and Accessibility in Children's Content on Digital Platforms: The Netflix Turkey Example," which she prepared together with Dr. Türkan Öykü Büyükçelikok.

**Access Link:** <https://www.19mayis.org/>

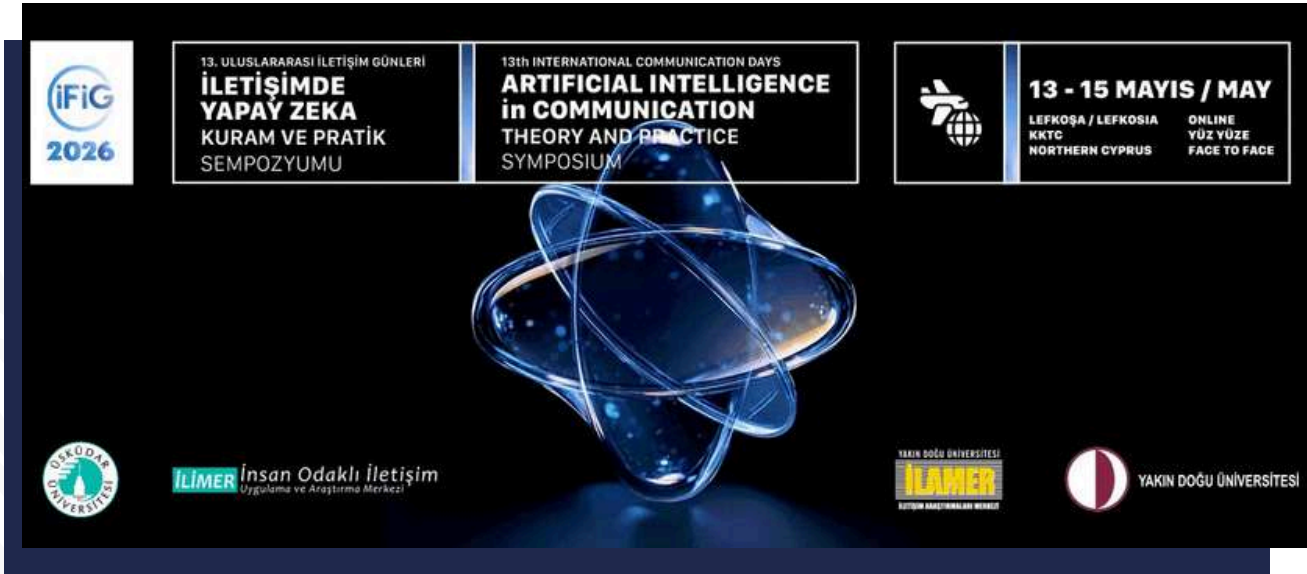


## CONGRESSES

### *Asst. Prof. Nevra Üçler Participated in the 13th International Communication Days / Artificial Intelligence in Communication: Theory and Practice Symposium!*

Dr. Nevra Üçler, from the Department of Public Relations and Advertising, and Res. Asst. Defne Ertaş from Giresun University, Tirebolu Faculty of Communication, Department of Public Relations and Promotion, participated in the 13th International Communication Days / Artificial Intelligence in Communication: Theory and Practice Symposium with a paper titled "The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence Categories in Public Relations Awards: An Examination on Professional Transformation."

**Access link:** <https://ifig.uskudar.edu.tr/uploads/content/files/ifig-2026-kabul-edilen-ozetler.pdf>



13. ULUSLARARASI İLETİŞİM GÜNLERİ  
**İLETİŞİMDE  
YAPAY ZEKA  
KURAM VE PRATİK  
SEMPZYUMU**

13th INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION DAYS  
**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
in COMMUNICATION  
THEORY AND PRACTICE  
SYMPOSIUM**

**13 - 15 MAYIS / MAY**  
LEFKOŞA / LEFKOSIA ONLINE  
KKTC NORTHERN CYPRUS YÜZ YÜZE  
FACE TO FACE

USKUDAR  
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

İLİMER İnsan Odaklı İletişim  
Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi

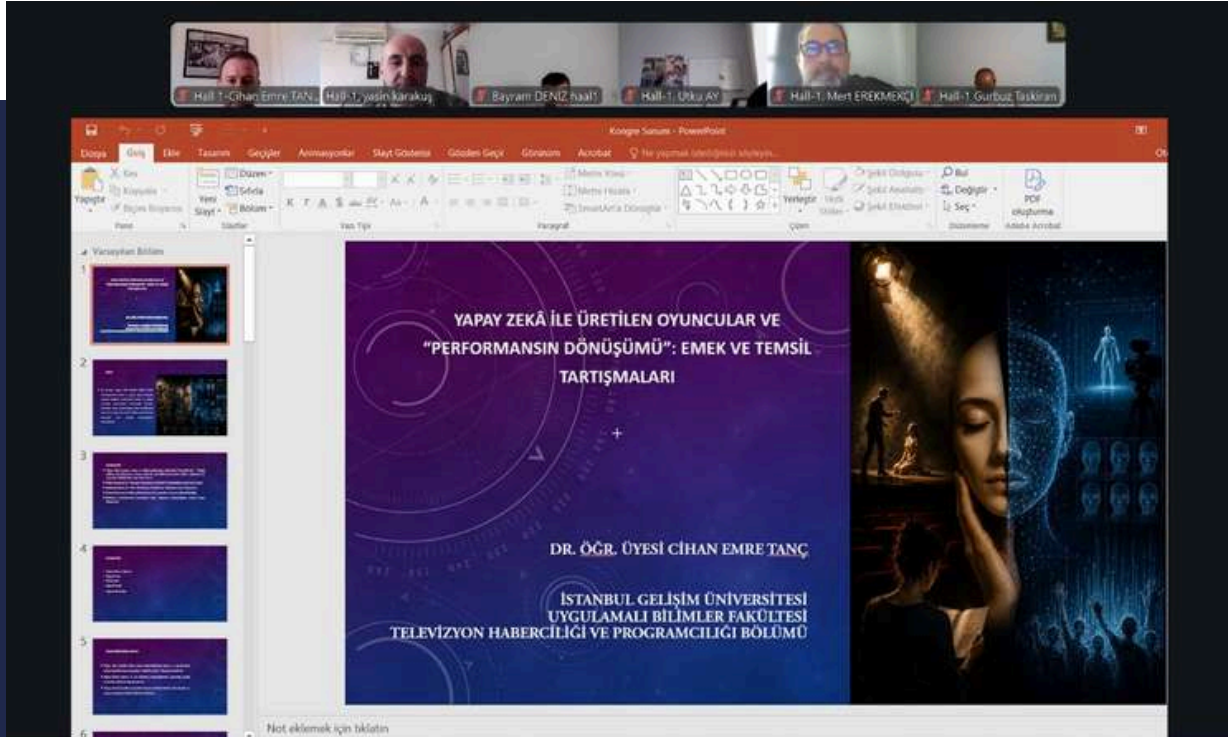
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İLETİŞİM ARAŞTIRMALARI MERKEZİ

YAKIN DOĞU ÜNİVERSİTESİ

## CONGRESSES

### *A Presentation by Asst. Prof. Cihan Emre Tanç!*

From the Department of Television Journalism and Programming, Asst. Prof. Cihan Emre Tanç presented his paper titled "Actors Generated by Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Performance: Discussions on Labor and Representation" at the 10th Antalya Scientific Research and Innovative Studies Congress.



## EVENTS

# ILETFEST 2026: Experience and Interaction in Communication Come Together

The 4th Applied Communication Festival - ILETFEST 2026, organized by the Public Relations and Advertising Department, the Television Journalism and Programming Department, and the New Media and Communication Department of Istanbul Gelişim University's Faculty of Applied Sciences, was held on May 5-6, 2026, in the Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall. The festival, themed "Experience Design and Participant Interaction in Communication," was coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Burcu Şahin, Head of the Public Relations and Advertising Department.



## EVENTS

The opening program included speeches by Istanbul Gelişim University Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Necmettin Maraşlı and Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences Prof. Dr. Kamil Kaya. Also present at the opening was Prof. Dr. Aslı Yapar Gönenç, Head of the Journalism Department at Istanbul University's Faculty of Communication, who shared her insights on the field of communication with the participants.

The two-day festival included experience-sharing sessions, crisis simulations, content creation workshops, networking events, and student exhibitions. Throughout the festival, students had the opportunity to meet with academics, industry professionals, and alumni to learn about current practices in communication. Through application-oriented activities, participants both experienced creative production processes and had the chance to develop their professional networks.



## EVENTS

### Banking and Insurance Department Academic and Student Colloquiums Held!

To improve the quality of academic work and facilitate the exchange of ideas, the "Banking and Insurance Student Colloquium-V" and "BS Academic Colloquium-VI" were held on Monday, May 4, 2026, with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Hakan ÖZCAN, Head of the Banking and Insurance Department, Assoc. Prof. Ayşegül ERTUĞRUL, Dr. Tayfun TİMURAY, and Res. Asst. Dr. İlknur KÜLEKÇİ.

The colloquiums aimed to bring students and academics together to exchange views on scientific topics and to provide participants with information on the subjects discussed. In the student colloquium, which was open to the public, academic studies conducted by department faculty and students were evaluated and discussed. These colloquiums supported the active participation of students in academic production processes and contributed to the improvement of presented studies based on scientific feedback.



## EVENTS

# Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department Students Create a Cultural Flavor Map of Türkiye

As part of the 4th Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) Exhibition organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Istanbul Gelişim University, students from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department participated in the exhibition with their works focusing on gastronomic routes and traditional products from different provinces of Türkiye. The works, derived from the students' graduation projects, were presented to visitors at the exhibition held on May 14-15. Within the scope of the exhibition, students addressed the culinary culture, geographically indicated products, local production techniques, and gastronomic identity of their chosen provinces based on academic research. Through poster presentations and product displays, the gastronomic values of different regions of Turkey were conveyed to visitors in a visual and practical way. Each work revealed the cultural memory of its region, its local flavors, and its potential for gastronomic tourism, while also reflecting the students' research, analysis, and presentation skills. With the display of traditional products, visitors had the opportunity to closely examine the diversity of Anatolian culinary culture. The works produced by the students of the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department stood out as an important exhibition experience where practical training was combined with academic production.



## EVENTS

### IGU Hosts Fermentation Techniques Workshop as Part of Baked Goods Course!

The "Fermentation Techniques Bread Workshop," organized by the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department of Istanbul Gelisim University as part of the Baked Goods course, was held with the participation of students. Chef Süleyman Sipahi, an expert in the field, was a guest speaker, sharing comprehensive information on fermentation processes and sourdough culture in bread production.

Prior to the event, special refreshments were prepared for the guests by Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department students and Lecturer Didar Başgöze. In the opening session of the workshop, Chef Süleyman Sipahi gave a detailed presentation on the sourdough formation process, correct fermentation techniques, the effects of different flour types on bread production, and traditional bread-making methods. Students had the opportunity to gain important information about the impact of raw materials used in bread production on quality and the decisive role of the fermentation process on flavor and texture.



## EVENTS

Following the theoretical presentation, the event moved to a practical section where Chef Sipahi, accompanied by students, prepared his own special recipes, demonstrating professional production techniques in a hands-on manner. Many details were shared with the students, from dough preparation and fermentation stages to baking techniques and product presentation. The program also included a sourdough bread tasting. The tasting, which involved evaluating the differences in aroma, texture, and flavor of breads prepared with different fermentation times and flour types, contributed to the students' sensory analysis skills. The event, which highlighted the importance of practical training as well as professional knowledge sharing, was followed with great interest by the students. At the end of the program, Istanbul Gelişim University General Secretary Assoc. Dr. Serdar Egeli presented Chef Süleyman Sipahi with a plaque in recognition of his contributions.



## EVENTS

# Accessibility Awareness Created Through an Awareness Project Aimed at Increasing Social Awareness and Sensitivity Towards Visually Impaired Individuals

The "Awareness Project Aimed at Increasing Social Awareness and Sensitivity Towards Visually Impaired Individuals," prepared by students of the Public Relations and Advertising Department of the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Istanbul Gelişim University under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emel Tozlu Öztay, was carried out. Under the motto "It's not the blind, but the unseen that is the obstacle," the project aimed to draw attention to the physical, social, and digital accessibility problems faced by visually impaired individuals in their daily lives.

Research conducted within the scope of the project, led by Buse Karagöz, Rabia Kırkız, Dila Özge Kaya, Yaren Bubani, Ahmet Selim Medet, and Beyhan Gültekin, revealed that despite the creation of awareness in society, accessibility practices remain insufficient. Survey studies with university students and SPSS analyses highlighted accessibility deficiencies, particularly in public spaces, educational institutions, and digital content.

The seminar, held in the final stage of the project, addressed the topics of accessibility, social awareness, and empathy. One of the speakers, Kerim Mazi, emphasized the importance of accessible living spaces, highlighting that visually impaired individuals should not be isolated from social life. At the end of the event, participants stated that their levels of empathy towards visually impaired individuals had increased and that they had become more aware of accessibility issues.



## EVENTS

# The "Me in the Mirror: A Critical Awareness Project on Media, Society, and Body Image" Draws Attention to Body Image

Prepared by students from the Public Relations and Advertising Department of the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Istanbul Gelişim University, the "Me in the Mirror: A Critical Awareness Project on Media, Society, and Body Image" was implemented to draw attention to the effects of social media on young people's body image. The project was conducted under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emel Tozlu Öztay, with contributions from Hediye Gök, Ecem Ayşe Gevrek, Dilruba Yıldız, Helin Yerlikaya, Ecem Erem Koca, and Oğulcan Sebilci.



## EVENTS

The research conducted within the scope of the project examined the effects of filtered and idealized social media content on young individuals' body image. In the survey conducted, a significant portion of the participants stated that the "perfect appearance" content encountered on social media caused them to feel inadequate. The project, carried out under the slogan "Be Real, Not Perfect," emphasized the importance of individuals accepting themselves as they are.

The project also included expert opinions from Clinical Psychologist Helin Yağmur İçen and Empathos Academy Founder Irmak Başoğlu. Aimed at strengthening self-acceptance, increasing body satisfaction, and supporting a healthy self-image in young people, the project aimed to reach a wider audience through digital platforms.



## NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

**Hello,  
I'm Erva Şahin.**

My interest and passion for cooking has been an important part of my life since childhood. My curiosity to learn about different cultures, explore world cuisines, and understand the multifaceted nature of gastronomy—which is more than just cooking—led me to choose Gastronomy and Culinary Arts as my first choice for university. Due to my particular interest in world cuisine and different cultures, I chose the English-language Gastronomy and Culinary Arts program at Istanbul Gelişim University's Faculty of Applied Sciences with a full scholarship.



Because I skipped the preparatory year, I initially experienced some anxieties about adapting to university life, which I started in 2020. However, thanks to the sincere approach and support of my professors, I overcame this period quickly. Throughout my university life, I had the opportunity to develop myself both academically and personally, and I graduated from Istanbul Gelişim University's Gastronomy and Culinary Arts department in 2024.

Conferences, events, and meetings with esteemed chefs organized at our university significantly contributed to my professional development. In particular, the theoretical and practical courses I took in my third year shaped my career goals. Thanks to my professors' knowledge and approach to education, I began to aim to advance in the academic field and become an academician who mentors students in the future. I am currently pursuing my master's degree at Pamukkale University and am in the thesis phase. At the same time, I am continuing my academic development by working part-time alongside a valuable professor.

The world cuisine studies we conducted in the practical courses allowed me to learn different culinary techniques and broaden my perspective. During this process, I developed a special interest in sushi and took sushi training courses. Currently, I give workshops and trainings in various categories, primarily sushi.



## NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNİ

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The education we received at our university showed us that gastronomy is not just about kitchen practice. Thanks to courses such as menu planning, business, management, and cost control, I gained multifaceted thinking skills. I believe that this education has made a significant contribution to my current role as presenter and coordinator of a gastronomy program on a local media outlet.

During my time at Istanbul Gelişim University, I had the opportunity to develop myself both academically and personally. While getting to know different cultures with my international friends, I had the opportunity to develop my professional perspective thanks to our highly qualified academics. My esteemed chefs, Orhan Baltalı and Didar Yanar, who showed us in practical classes that it's not enough to just stick to recipes; they emphasized the importance of using our creativity, creating original dishes, and experiencing different cuisines. They have made a significant contribution to my development.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Sema Aydın, Dr. Nevruz Berna Tatlısu, Lect. Kemal Şahanlık, and Res. Asst. Berna Telliöđlu, whose support I have always felt and who greatly contributed to my choosing this path. Furthermore, I sincerely thank all my valuable professors, whose names I cannot mention individually, for their dedication and knowledge.

## GUEST WRITER

# Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Transformation, Risks, and Institutional Roadmap

Artificial intelligence technologies have moved beyond being merely supporting tools for higher education systems and have become fundamental components transforming learning, research, and management processes. Particularly with the widespread adoption of generative AI applications, universities are facing a new paradigm in knowledge production and transfer. While this transformation offers significant opportunities in terms of efficiency and accessibility in education, it also brings new responsibilities at the ethical, pedagogical, and managerial levels. Therefore, the use of artificial intelligence in higher education needs to be addressed not only as a technical issue but also within a normative framework.



**Asst. Prof. Banu Kayınova**

The concept of "responsible artificial intelligence" is a critical point of reference in this context. Responsible artificial intelligence means that systems are designed and used in an ethical, transparent, accountable, and human-centered manner. This approach focuses not only on what the technology does but also on how and for what purposes it is used. Ethical principles aim to protect the rights of individuals and minimize the risk of harm; transparency requires that the workings of artificial intelligence systems be understandable. Accountability makes it possible to determine responsibility in the event of errors or negative consequences. Data privacy includes the protection of student and academic staff data, while the principle of fairness aims to prevent algorithmic bias and ensure equitable outcomes.

The areas of application for artificial intelligence in higher education are quite broad. In teaching and learning processes, systems that offer personalized learning experiences can adjust content and pace according to students' individual needs. Similarly, automated assessment tools reduce the workload of faculty members while accelerating feedback processes. In the field of research, artificial intelligence provides significant support in processes such as big data analysis, literature review, and academic text generation. At the institutional management level, applications such as student achievement prediction, resource planning, and strategic decision support systems stand out. However, each of these application areas also carries risks that need to be carefully managed.

## GUEST WRITER

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Academic integrity is at the forefront of these risks. The uncontrolled use of generative AI tools is creating complex situations that necessitate a redefinition of the concept of plagiarism. Clear and unambiguous policies are needed to define the limits within which students can use AI-assisted content creation. Furthermore, data security and ethical violations are significant concern areas. Universities, as institutions holding large amounts of sensitive data, must ensure high security standards in the data processing processes of AI systems. Algorithmic biases, in particular, have the potential to lead to inequalities in student evaluation and admission processes. Moreover, with the increasing use of AI, the roles of students and academics need to be redefined; critical evaluation and production skills are becoming more important than access to information.

In this context, establishing institutional frameworks for the use of AI in universities has become a necessity. First and foremost, clear and enforceable ethical guidelines must be established. These guidelines should guide both students and academic staff, clearly defining the limits and responsibilities of use. In addition, education and awareness campaigns aimed at increasing AI literacy are of great importance. It is essential to ensure that all stakeholders in the academic community can use these technologies with a conscious and critical perspective. At the national level, developing common standards among higher education institutions is a critical step in ensuring uniformity of application. Developing policies consistent with international frameworks will also support Turkey's global academic competitiveness. In conclusion, artificial intelligence technologies have become an inevitable tool for transformation in higher education systems.

However, for this transformation to progress on a sustainable and ethical basis, it depends on the adoption of responsible use principles. Universities, not only institutions that use technology but also centers of knowledge production that guide society, should take a leading role in this process. The future model of higher education should be built on an understanding that places artificial intelligence at the center, rather than centering it, and consciously positions artificial intelligence by placing it at the center. Every step taken in this direction will have long-term consequences that will affect not only the academic world but also society as a whole.

## GUEST WRITER

### The World's New Gastronomy Route: The Mediterranean Basin

In recent years, one of the most significant developments on the world gastronomic scene has been the resurgence of Mediterranean culinary cultures. The culinary heritage of a vast region encompassing Italy, Greece, Türkiye, Spain, Lebanon, and the North African coast is attracting global attention not only for its flavor but also for its health, sustainability, and lifestyle aspects. This trend encompasses not only food but also cultures, values, and a way of life.



**Selçuk Manus**

One of the most important reasons for the rise of Mediterranean cuisine is the increasing trend of today's consumers towards more natural and balanced nutrition. The fast-paced consumption habits and increased use of processed foods brought about by modern life have led people to seek simpler and healthier alternatives. In this context, Mediterranean cuisine, characterized by olive oil, fresh vegetables, herbs, seafood, legumes, and natural cooking techniques, emerges as a strong alternative. The fact that the concept of the "Mediterranean diet" is supported by scientific research has allowed this cuisine to become synonymous not only with flavor but also with healthy living.

However, Mediterranean cuisine inherently incorporates the concepts of "localness" and "seasonality." Today, sustainability has become one of the foremost criteria in the world of gastronomy. Chefs and businesses are no longer just producing delicious food, but also preparing environmentally conscious menus. Mediterranean cuisine, historically, is built on a system based on the use of local products. Fresh herbs, regional cheeses, olive oils from small producers, and seasonal vegetables form the basic building blocks of this cuisine.

## **GUEST WRITER**

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Therefore, Mediterranean cuisine is in great harmony with the sustainability understanding of modern gastronomy. At the same time, social media and digital gastronomy culture are giving great impetus to this rise. In particular, visually colorful and natural presentations of appetizers, seafood, olive oil-based dishes, and stone-baked products are becoming a trend on digital platforms. People no longer just care about eating, but also about sharing that meal as an experience. The intimate nature of Mediterranean tables perfectly matches the expectations of this digital age.

Turkish cuisine holds a very special place within this rising trend. Anatolia's rich and multifaceted gastronomic history offers a diversity stretching from the Aegean to the Mediterranean, from Southeastern Anatolia to the Black Sea. The increasing recognition of Turkish cuisine on the international stage and Istanbul's designation as a gastronomic capital are among the strongest evidence of this trend.

Another strong aspect of Mediterranean cuisine is its organic connection to the "slow food" concept. Unlike fast-food culture, Mediterranean meals encourage sharing, conversation, and long mealtime rituals.

Finally, it can be said that Mediterranean cuisine is not only a dietary model today, but has become a powerful way of life that preserves cultural heritage, brings people together at the same table, and shapes the future of gastronomy. It seems inevitable that this culinary culture, nourished by tradition, will continue to increase its influence on world gastronomy in the coming years.

## CULTURE, ART & LITERATURE

### İSTANBUL CULTURE AND ARTS EVENTS

June 2026



#### Festival - 54. İstanbul Müzik Festivali

- **Tarih:** 11-25 Haziran 2026
- **Yer:** Çeşitli mekânlar

Dinleyicileri anın içinde kalmaya ve müziğin zamanla kurduğu ilişkiyi yeniden düşünmeye çağıran program, 22 konser boyunca İstanbul'un önemli salonları ve özel mekânlarında gerçekleşecek.

- [Tickets and Details](#)



#### Exhibition - Yoko Ono: Insound and Instructure

- **Date:** Starting June 25, 2026
- **Venue:** Sabancı Museum

Bringing together Yoko Ono's works spanning from the 1960s to the present—across mediums such as poetry, drawing, photography, video, sculpture, and installation—the exhibition focuses on the artist's approach centered on "audience participation."

- [Tickets and Details](#)



#### Concert - Weekend Classics I

- **Date:** June 14, 2026
- **Venue:** Yoğurtçı Park

This traditional concert series, which transforms classical music into a natural part of daily life by fostering diverse listening experiences across different corners of the city, kicks off with flute-harp and violin-accordion duets.

- [Tickets and Details](#)



#### Istanbul Libraries - Yalı Library

- **Hours:** 7 Days 08:00-11:45
- **Location:** Beykoz/Istanbul

Opened in 2023 by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, the Yalı Library was brought to life through the restoration of the historic Mecidiye Palace in Beykoz. The building, notable for its Ottoman-era architecture, now serves as one of Istanbul's most aesthetically pleasing and serene reading spaces.

- [Details](#)

## ERASMUS +

*My two-week stay in Valencia, Spain, as part of the Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility program, was a highly enriching experience both professionally and personally.*

This period wasn't limited to teaching; it also provided me with the opportunity to get to know Spain's academic culture, gastronomic traditions, and city life more closely. The meticulously designed campus and dynamic academic atmosphere of the University of Valencia were quite impressive. My discussions with colleagues covered many academic topics, primarily focusing on the similarities and differences between the gastronomies of the two countries. The fact that we agreed on potential future projects and other academic collaborations was one of the most valuable outcomes of this visit, especially considering the Erasmus+ program.



Visiting other universities in Valencia to discuss new agreements and meeting new academics was another significant contribution of the project. As an academic working in the field of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts, being in Valencia held special meaning for me. In the birthplace of paella, I had the opportunity to comparatively evaluate Mediterranean and Turkish culinary cultures. The discussions on table culture, the place of local products in an academic context, and the transformation of culinary traditions were quite fruitful. In this regard, the approach taken in Spain, both in preserving and addressing gastronomic heritage at an academic level, stood out as a remarkable one.



## ERASMUS +

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Interviews with academics from different departments allowed me to see how systematically European higher education institutions approach internationalization processes. The sustainability of inter-institutional collaborations and the professional management of these processes were particularly noteworthy. The effort to secure new agreements was a product of their efforts to expand their network.

Outside of the academic program, my observations in Valencia made this experience even more meaningful. Valencia's sunny and vibrant urban fabric was interesting in terms of its ability to maintain its historical heritage in harmony with tourism and daily life. Looking at the city's overall structure, it was clear that the preservation of cultural heritage is a process carried out alongside economic development.

Overall, this experience provided an opportunity to observe firsthand the education system and gastronomic understanding of a different country. It was possible to develop new perspectives by making comparisons with the working practices of my colleagues. This process allowed me to see once again that the Erasmus+ program is not only an academic mobility but also a multifaceted professional development experience.

**Dr. Elif Cemre Özaydın**  
**Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts**

## NEWS FROM SECTOR

### **Turkish Airlines and Cité de l'espace Join Forces with the Space and Science World Turkish Airlines Launches New Projects to Encourage Young People in Science and Aviation**

Turkish Airlines has signed a remarkable new international collaboration in the fields of science, space, and education. The company announced that it has officially partnered with Cité de l'espace, one of Europe's leading centers for space and science culture.

**Access Link:** <https://www.airnewstimes.com/turk-hava-yollari-ve-cite-de-lespace-uzay-ve-bilim-dunyasiyla-guclerini-birlestirdi/>

### **Two students from Türkiye reached the final of Europe's largest financial literacy competition.**

Two students who won prizes in the Financial Literacy Knowledge Competition organized by the Turkish Banks Association participated in the final of the European Money Quiz.

**Access Link:** <https://www.tbb.org.tr/haberler/turkiyeden-two-ogrenci-avrupanin-en-buyuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-yarismasinin-finalinde-yer>

### **A meeting of taste, culture and heritage in Cappadocia.**

The Cappadocia Gastronomy Festival brings together gastronomy enthusiasts in the historical atmosphere of Mustafapaşa on May 15-16. The festival, which will take place under the theme "Local Heritage, Star-Rated Tables," will offer a packed program ranging from Michelin-starred chefs to local producers, from sustainable cuisine to cultural experiences.

**Access Link:** <https://www.gastronomiturkey.com/haber/kapadokya-da-lezzet-kultur-ve-miras-bulusmasi-h17669>

### **Social media is driving growth: Digital economy reaches 1.7 trillion TL**

According to the "Impact of Meta in Türkiye" report prepared by Public First, the digital economy constitutes 4.1% of GDP. In Türkiye, where social media platforms have become the main sales channel for SMEs, it is predicted that the sector can reach 4.3 trillion TL by 2035 under suitable conditions.

**Access Link:** <https://www.marketingturkiye.com.tr/haberler/sosyal-medya-ekonomiyi-buyutuyor-dijital-ekonomi-17-trilyon-tlye-ulasti/>



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# FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

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