

ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY HELD AT EMU WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF TRNC PRESIDENT ERSİN TATAR



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Rector's Office organized an Academic Awards Ceremony for EMU academic staff members who have shown outstanding success in 2023. The event was held, with the participation of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) President Ersin Tatar, on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 02:30 p.m. at EMU Mustafa Afşin Ersoy Hall. Academics who featured in the "World's Top 2% Scientists List" of Stanford University were presented with Certificates of Appreciation. In accordance with the evaluations of EMU Research Advisory Board, academics entitled for an award for the year of 2023 were presented with Faculty/School Publication Achievement Award, Research Incentive Award and Scientific Publication Citation Award.

Moreover, academic staff members who successfully supervised thesis during the 2023-2024 Academic Year Spring Semester and graduated their students as of summer semester were presented with plaques during the ceremony.

"Success in Never Coincidental"

Commenced with A Moment of Silence and National Anthem, the event continued with an opening speech by EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç who said; "Our accomplishments have elevated our institution, the first and only state university in our country established by law, to a leading position as one of the region's foremost educational establishments, recognized for providing high-quality education and research opportunities. Since its foundation in 1979,

our university has earned a global reputation, appearing in various international university rankings and achieving accreditations that affirm its educational excellence. These successes are not coincidental. They are the result of the unwavering dedication of EMU staff and the invaluable contributions of our distinguished academics. I sincerely congratulate you, our respected academics, once again on these achievements, attained despite numerous challenges. May these accomplishments continue to grow and flourish".

"EMU is an Institution Recognized for Its Global-Scale Scientific Contributions and Commitment to Quality Education"

Taking the stage after Rector Prof. Dr. Kılıç, EMU Board of Trustees **cont. p. 2**



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(VYK) President Dr. Erdal Özçenk said; “Today, we have gathered to celebrate our esteemed academic staff, who have proudly propelled our institution to prominent positions in international achievements. EMU is recognized both nationally and globally for its outstanding scientific contributions and commitment to quality education. These accomplishments are rooted in the hard work, dedication, and academic passion of you, our respected academics. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I assure you of our unwavering support for your academic pursuits and initiatives, and we are dedicated to fostering every effort that enhances our university’s standing. I wish you ongoing success in all your endeavours”.

“EMU is a World Renowned Invaluable Brand”

TRNC President Ersin Tatar also made remarks during the ceremony, extending his congratulations to EMU and academics who were entitled to receive awards. Emphasizing that since its establishment in 1979, EMU has made significant contributions to national education and has grown into a globally renowned and invaluable brand, thanks to the high quality of education it provides, President Tatar highlighted the remarkable achievement of offering top-tier education to students from 144 countries worldwide, preparing them for successful careers both in their home countries and internationally. President Tatar described studying at EMU and being taught by its esteemed academics as a privilege and extended his congratulations to the university’s distinguished faculty for their outstanding accomplishments.

In the said event, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Kılıç presented TRNC President Ersin Tatar an appreciation plaque for their participation in the ceremony. The event continued with the presentation of awards to EMU academics.

Successful EMU Academics Received Their Awards

The awards were presented by TRNC President Ersin Tatar, EMU Board of Trustees (VYK) President Dr. Erdal Özçenk, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç, TRNC Presidency Political Affairs Consultant and EMU VYK Member Anıl Kaya, EMU VYK Members Özgür Yuca and Servet Karabacak, EMU Vice Rectors Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe, Prof. Dr. Sonuç Zorlu, Prof. Dr. Salih Katırcıoğlu and Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren, EMU Research Advisory Board Chair and Director of Institute of Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR) Prof. Dr. Ali Hakan Ulusoy, Research Advisory Board Vice Chair and IGSR Vice Director Prof. Dr. Ahmet Rizaner and IGSR Vice Director Prof. Dr. Kağan Güneç.

COLLABORATION PROTOCOL BETWEEN FAMAGUSTA TEKNOPARK AND ANKARA TEKNOKENT SIGNED AT EMU



A collaboration protocol between Ankara University Technology Development Region Management Company Ankara Teknokent and Famagusta Technology Development Region Management Company Famagusta Teknopark has been signed at Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU). EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç signed the said protocol on behalf of Famagusta Technology Development Region Management Company, while Executive Board Chair Prof. Dr. Mustafa Fener signed the protocol on behalf of Ankara Technology Development Region Management Company.

Present during the signing session were, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe, Academic Affairs Coordinator Assist. Prof. Dr.

Burak Ali Çiçek, Ankara Teknokent Executive Board members and Famagusta Teknopark Executive Board members. The purpose of the collaboration protocol is to foster project activities based on university-industry cooperation between Ankara Teknokent and Famagusta Teknopark, facilitate the exchange of ideas on areas such as matchmaking, entrepreneurship, and business development, and strengthen institutional capabilities through joint activities and events.

Making remarks during the signing session, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Kılıç expressed EMU's contentment on collaborating with Ankara University Technology Development Region Management Company Ankara Teknokent. Prof. Dr. Kılıç explained

that strengthening the collaboration between the two institutions, carrying out joint projects, and fostering innovation align with the objectives set by EMU. Emphasizing that the management's goal is to further develop the Teknopark, Prof. Dr. Kılıç wished the collaboration protocol to be successful for both institutions and underscored the significance of technoparks in institutional development. In his speech, Prof. Dr. Fener thanked EMU for their kind hospitality and stressed that they have taken the first steps in a meaningful collaboration. Stating that as Ankara Teknokent, they are always ready to provide all kinds of support, Prof. Dr. Fener wished for the protocol to be beneficial for all. Following the signing of the protocol, Prof. Dr. Kılıç and Prof. Dr. Fener exchanged presents.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMMUNICATION IN THE DIGITAL HELD AT EMU COMPLETED



the faculty's Founding Dean Prof. Dr. Aysel Aziz. The opening ceremony of the hall was carried out by EMU Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe, EMU Faculty of Communication Dean Prof. Dr. Metin Ersoy and Chairperson of ILAD Prof. Dr. Aysel Aziz.

Making remarks at the beginning of the symposium, EMU Faculty of Communication Dean Prof. Dr. Ersoy welcomed the participants of the event and noted that 56 academic presentations would be delivered in 10 different sessions during the symposium. Prof. Dr. Ersoy stated that the symposium would provide an in-depth exploration of the effects of digital transformation and artificial intelligence on communication, and mentioned that a panel would be dedicated to honoring the memory of Dr. Hıfzı Topuz, a distinguished figure in communication and journalism, who passed away on 29 November 2023. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Ersoy extended his thanks to all those who played a role in organizing the event.



Innovations in Communication brought by Advancing Technologies in Were Discussed

In her opening speech, Founding Dean of EMU Faculty of Communication and Chairperson of ILAD Prof. Dr. Aysel Aziz expressed her gratitude regarding the Conference Hall being named after her and welcomed everyone attending the event. Prof. Dr. Aziz pointed out that our world has moved from a global setting to the digital era and stressed the significance of exploring the innovations in communication brought about by advancing technologies. Prof. Dr. Aziz also mentioned that ILAD's goal is to connect academics and the industry to solve problems and produce publications.



Attending the event online, Prof. Dr. Ümit Arklan, Chair of the Communication Faculty Deans' (ILDEK), provided information on the vision of ILDEK and talked about the current issues of communication faculties. Wishing for a beneficial symposium, Prof. Dr. Aziz thanked those who have contributed in the actualization of the event.



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Communication organized the "4th International Symposium on Communication in the Digital Age" in collaborations with Communication Research Association (ILAD) and the Communication Faculty Deans' (ILDEK). The event took place on 28-30 November 2024 at EMU Faculty of Communication Conference Hall where the theme of artificial intelligence and communication of now and future were discussed. Prior to the symposium, the EMU Faculty of Communication Conference Hall was named after

"Impacts of Digital Era to be approached"

EMU Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe expressed great pleasure about the involvement of distinguished experts in the fields of communication and media at the symposium. Prof. Dr. Karatepe was confident that the event would offer valuable insights into important issues by deeply exploring the effects of the digital age. Prof. Dr. Karatepe also emphasized that, over its 45 years of education, EMU has hosted numerous significant events, and this symposium is a continuation of that legacy, reminding that EMU graduates

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMMUNICATION IN THE DIGITAL HELD AT EMU COMPLETED



serve as strong ambassadors of the university. Prof. Dr. Karatepe wished for the symposium to be both successful and fruitful, extending his gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success.

Following the opening speeches, Prof. Dr. Karatepe presented a plaque to Prof. Dr. Aziz for their support and contributions. On the other hand, Prof. Dr. Ersoy presented Prof. Dr. Aziz a traditional Cypriot silkworm cocoon embroidery.

Importance of Language Use in Artificial Intelligence Emphasized

On the first day of the symposium, permanent executive board member of ILDEK, Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga participated in the event as a keynote speaker, delivering a presentation titled "Artificial Intelligence and Communication". Prof. Dr. Varol addressed the importance of using language effectively in order to make the most of artificial intelligence and achieve the desired results through these applications.

Artificial Intelligence and Journalism

The symposium, which offered critical insights into two key areas of artificial intelligence in journalism, explored the role of AI-driven chatbots in news creation and the flow of information. A critical point raised was that AI-driven chatbots, in their news coverage of various regions, may reproduce opinions and cultural norms that contribute to social inequalities in those areas.

BRTK Executive Board Chair Tokel Talked on "Political Communication and Media"

Another keynote speaker of the "4th International Symposium on Communication in the Digital Age" was Özdemir Tokel, Executive Board Chair of Bayrak Radio and Television Institution (BRTK) who delivered a presentation titled "Political Communication and Media". In his speech, Özdemir Tokel talked about AI and its impact on both communication and political campaigns, underscoring its role in the society.



Special Panel held in Memory of Dr. Hıfzı Topuz

One of the prominent figures in the field of communication and journalism, Dr. Hıfzı Topuz who sadly passed away previous year was not forgotten. Dr. Hıfzı Topuz was also the founder of Communication Research Association (ILAD) who is one of the shareholders of the symposium. Moderated by ILAD General Secretary Fisun Özbilgen, the special panel hosted Journalist Ali Baturay, Yenidüzen Newspaper Columnist Cenk Mutluyakalı, Turkish News Agency (TAK) Director Fehmi Gürdallı, Near East University (NEU) academic staff members Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayça Demet Atay and Assist. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Özejder as panellists. The panel discussed "International Communication Order and Turkish Cypriot Media". In the panel that highlighted Dr. Hıfzı Topuz's international significance in communication history, his pivotal role as the Chief of Free Flow of Information at

UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was discussed. The panel also covered his impact on the establishment of the MacBride Commission and the development of the New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) report, both of which hold great importance in the field of communication.

56 Academic Papers Presented in 10 Sessions

Within the scope of the symposium, total of 56 academic papers were presented in 10 different sessions. The event showcased the broad scope of artificial intelligence's presence in communication, professional fields, and everyday life. The influence of AI was explored across numerous areas, including journalism, video content, online gaming, cultural and digital transformation, storytelling, public relations, marketing strategies, advertising, social media, perception management, gender inequality, manipulation, and fake content.



MEANINGFUL VISIT TO EMU WITHIN THE SCOPE OF 'SISTER SCHOOL PROJECT'



Bursa Tofaş Science High School and its sister school, İskele Evkaf Turkish Maarif College visited Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) within the scope of the 'Sister School Project'. Present during the said visit were, EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren, EMU International, TR and TRNC Promotion Coordinator Murat Aktuğralı and Director of Bursa Provincial Directorate of National

Education Dr. Ahmet Alireisoğlu. As part of the visit, a tour of EMU campus was held for the project coordinators and students. Following the campus tour, EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren and EMU International, TR and TRNC Promotion Coordinator Murat Aktuğralı provided the participants with information on faculties and schools of EMU, available scholarship opportunities and campus.

"What is 'Sister School Project'?"

Launched by the Republic of Türkiye's Ministry of National Education, the sister school project is an educational project aiming to foster collaboration, cultural interaction and solidarity by bringing different schools together. The project's goal is to develop a sense of sisterhood within schools, starting at a local level and extending to national and international scales. Within the framework of the project, school operating with different educational systems and cultural structures, interact with each other through joint activities and projects. The objective is to encourage the exchange of knowledge, experiences, culture, and values between students and teachers, while enriching the educational process through strengthened collaboration.

Visits to Rector

KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION VISITS EMU



Rector for Student Affairs Prof. Dr. Sonuç Zorlu, Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren, International, TR and TRNC Promotion Coordinator Murat Aktuğralı and Visual Media Affairs Coordinator Ş. Serkan Şen were also present during the said visit.

In the said meeting, officials of the Küçükçekmece Provincial Directorate of National Education expressed their contentment on being at EMU and stated that they always keep track of EMU's development in the higher education sector. Prof. Dr. Kılıç expressed the university's pride to be hosting the visiting delegation. Parties exchanged views on possible joint projects that might be carried out between the two institutions.

Short term courses, certificate programs, vocational trainings and opportunities to be offered to the student from Küçükçekmece province were discussed during the visit which concluded with an exchange of gifts.



Küçükçekmece Provincial Directorate for National Education paid a visit to Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) on Thursday, 28 November 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The visiting delegation, consisting of Branch Manager of the Küçükçekmece Provincial Directorate for National Education Osman Özgür Özgenç, Project Specialist and School Director Ömer Faruk Erdoğan, Project Vocational High School Director Ercan Aksakal and Öğretmenevi (Teachers' Lodge) Director and the Vice Branch Manager of the Authorized Syndicate Mustafa Ağaca, visited EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç. EMU Vice

“CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN CYPRUS THROUGH THE EYES OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WORKSHOP” HELD AT EMU

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Children’s Rights Club organized a workshop titled “Children’s Rights in Cyprus through the Eyes of University Students”. Held on Saturday, 30 November 2024 between 10:00 a.m. and 04:00 p.m. at EMU Faculty of Law building, the workshop was contributed by Psychology Students Club, Law Club, Special Education Club, Psychological Counselling and Guidance Club operating within the university.

Delivering the opening speech of the workshop, Chair of the EMU Children’s Rights Club Zeynep Çopur pointed out that recent media coverage involving children has brought pain instead of hope and joy. Çopur stressed that the mistreatment, abuse, and assaults faced by children due to carelessness, ignorance, incompetence, and lack of empathy are unacceptable. Çopur explained that these troubling incidents have inspired students from EMU’s Faculty of Law to take action, emphasizing that such problems can be addressed through increased knowledge and awareness.

“I am Confident That These Efforts Will Inspire Hope for the Future”

Taking the stage following Çopur, EMU Faculty of Law academic staff member and EMU Children’s Rights Club Academic Advisor Assist. Prof. Dr. Can Azer said; “Today, we have come together to discuss the rights of children, who are the foundation of our society’s future. As you may know, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus became a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1996. During this workshop, we will examine how effectively and to what extent the commitments of this convention have been implemented. This event holds great significance in this regard. What makes it even more noteworthy is that it will be evaluated from the perspective of young university students who have recently transitioned from childhood themselves. Together, we will reflect on the progress needed in advancing children’s rights in TRNC. I am confident that these efforts will inspire hope for the future. I sincerely thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to make this workshop possible. Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that the findings and reports produced here will be submitted to the relevant state authorities and institutions”.

“We Will Get the Opportunity to Observe Both Our Strengths and Weaknesses Regarding Children’s Rights”

Also making remarks on the topic, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Kılıç said; “Welcome to the ‘Children’s Rights in Cyprus through the Eyes of University Students’ workshop organized by our university’s Children’s Rights Club. We are aware that children around the world are entitled to various rights, including education, health, and shelter, which encompass social, psychological, and physical aspects. Sadly, we are witnessing many children today suffering from psychological and physical abuse and being deprived of education. This is why I am particularly excited about today’s workshop. I am confident that the reports generated from this event will set a powerful example for the future. We also recognize that our country places a strong emphasis on children’s rights compared to many other nations. Today, during this



important workshop, we will assess both the strengths and challenges we face in this area. I also believe that discussions on children’s rights should be expanded to include other critical issues such as the rights of individuals with disabilities and women’s rights. The sustainability and progress of society depend on justice, and one of its key components is the awareness of rights. In this regard, our university will continue to guide and enlighten society. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to and supported this workshop”.

Following the opening speeches, a panel on children’s rights was held which included presentations of various academics and professionals; “Successes and Challenges in the 35 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child” by Assist. Prof. Dr. Dilek Çelik, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Vice Chair of the Psychology Department, “Psychoeducational Intervention Strategies for At-Risk Children in Schools” by EMU Faculty of Education, Elementary Education Department academic staff member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eda Yazgın and, “Children’s Rights Advocacy and Activism in the TRNC” by Laden Asilzade, Chair of the Universal Children’s Rights Association.

Children’s Rights Discussed Across 8 Different Workshop Tables

Following the panel, over 100 participants took part in discussions at eight separate workshop tables, focusing on various aspects of children’s rights. Moderators from organizations such as SOS Children’s Village, Universal Children’s Rights Association, Famagusta Special Education and Vocational Training School, Cyprus Autism Association, Refugee Rights Association, EMU Faculty of Education, EMU Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Cyprus Turkish Journalists’ Union, Barış Mental Health and Neurological Diseases Hospital, and Famagusta Social Services Department guided the conversations on the topics, such as: “Children Without Family Care or at Risk of Losing It”, “Children with Special Needs/Disabilities”, “Foreign/Refugee/Asylum-Seeking Children in Cyprus and Access to Rights”, “Children’s Rights in Education and Development”, “The Legal Dimensions of Children’s Rights”, “Institutional Perspectives on Children’s Rights”, “Children’s Rights in the Digital World and Media”, “Access to Psychosocial Support Mechanisms”. At end of the discussion session, representatives of each discussing group shared their reports with the participants. The event concluded with presentation of appreciation certificates by Assist. Prof. Dr. Can Azer.

COLLABORATION PROTOCOL SIGNED BETWEEN TRNC PREVENTION OF PERSONAL DATA BOARD AND EMU



Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Prevention of Personal Data Board (KVKK) and Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) signed a collaboration protocol on Monday, 2 December 2024 at 10:30 a.m. The signing session took place at the Rector's Office building where EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç and Chair of the TRNC KVKK Assist. Prof. Dr. Kaan Kutlay signed the said protocol.

Present during the signing session were EMU Vice Rector for Student Affairs Prof. Dr. Sonuç Zorlu, Acting Dean of EMU Faculty of Law Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arzu Alibaba, Rector's Coordinator and Student Affairs Coordinator Assist. Prof. Dr. Arzu Abiç, Academic Affairs Coordinator and former Chair of EMU KVKK Hürol Mear, Vice Dean of EMU Faculty of Law and KVKK member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Demet Çelik Ulusoy and other members of the KVKK.

The protocol signed between the TRNC KVKK and EMU aims to collaborate on studies and publications related to personal data protection, data privacy, and security, as well as to implement national and international projects and work together on educational and training initiatives. Speaking prior to the signing session, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Kılıç expressed that since

the Board's establishment, EMU has made efforts to contribute to its activities and initiatives, noting that EMU has organized various panels and workshops in this regard. Emphasizing the establishment of the EMU Personal Data Protection Club, Prof. Dr. Kılıç highlighted the importance of the students' sensitivity to personal data protection as a significant development.

EMU – First University to Sign a Protocol
Prof. Dr. Kılıç stressed that EMU is the first university in the TRNC to sign a protocol with the Prevention of Personal Data Board (KVKK), aiming to enhance cooperation, raise public awareness about the related rights, and provide support to the Board in academic, educational, and human resources. Expressing his immense happiness about this milestone, Prof. Dr. Kılıç wished that the protocol would be beneficial for both institutions and the country.

In his speech, Assist. Prof. Dr. Kaan Kutlay, the Chair of TRNC KVKK, expressed his contentment on being at EMU as one of its graduates and mentioned that they were delighted to collaborate with the nation's top educational institution. Assist. Prof. Dr. Kutlay highlighted that the most crucial need is human resources and noted that EMU has the qualified personnel required to help

advance the Board. Assist. Prof. Dr. Kutlay stated that they believe this collaboration will propel the Board forward, and provided detailed information about the Board, wishing that the collaboration protocol would be advantageous for both institutions.

Another speech was delivered by the Acting Dean of EMU Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arzu Alibaba who wished that the protocol would be beneficial for all, while underscoring the importance of prevention of personal data. Stating that the EMU Prevention of Personal Data Club was established with the initiatives of EMU Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alibaba noted that the first event of the club will be held following the signing of the protocol. EMU Academic Affairs Coordinator and former Chair of EMU KVKK, Hürol Mear, shared information regarding the work carried out during his service and wished for a fruitful protocol.

Following the Protocol Signing Session, Chair of the EMU Prevention of Personal Data Club Lütfiye Beyza Muratoğlu, General Secretary Muhammet Ali Taş and Club members Elif Kerten and Ali CebraİL İnan attended the meeting, exchanging views with the Chair and members of TRNC KVKK.



“PREVENTION OF PERSONAL DATA IN TRNC” PANEL HELD AT EMU



Recently established with the aim of creating awareness on the issue of prevention of personal data, educating students in this regard and organizing events on the matter, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Prevention of Personal Data Club organized its first event ever which was a panel titled “Prevention of Personal Data in TRNC” with participation of the Chairperson and the Members of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Prevention of Personal Data Board (KVKK). The event took place on Monday, 2 December 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at LA1 Amphitheatre in EMU Faculty of Law.

EMU Faculty of Law Vice Dean and TRNC KVKK member as well as Club Supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Demet Çelik Ulusoy moderated the panel which was attended by EMU Faculty of Law’s Acting Dean Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arzu Alibaba, TRNC Telsim Assistant General Manager Fevzi Tanpınar, KVKK Member Halide Koca, representatives from banking sector, lawyers, academics and many students.

Making an address at the beginning of the event, Acting Dean of EMU Faculty of Law Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alibaba thanked everyone participating in the event and stated that

prevention of personal data should be dealt with sensitivity. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alibaba expressed the faculty’s contentment on hosting the event within the body of EMU Faculty of Law and conveyed her thanks to all guest speakers for their contributions. Lastly, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alibaba wished that the panel would be beneficial for all.

Also delivering a speech, EMU Faculty of Law Vice Dean and TRNC KVKK member as well as Club Supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Demet Çelik Ulusoy expressed her gratitude to those contributing to the actualization of the panel event. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çelik Ulusoy underscored that the projects towards raising awareness on prevention of personal data would continue. Stating that EMU is the first university in TRNC to sign a collaboration protocol with KVKK, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çelik Ulusoy hoped for a fruitful event.

Chairperson of TRNC KVKK Assist. Prof. Dr. Kaan Kutlay and KVKK Members Dr. Elşen Mülazımoğlu, Lawyer Emre Yağmuroğlu and Police Inspector Deniz Tatar were panellists in the event which focused on creating awareness on the topic of ‘prevention of personal data’ and educating participants in this regard.



“LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF MY FINGERS” SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING SEMINAR HELD AT EMU



As part of 3rd of December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Unit of Students with Disabilities, and Cyprus Foundation of the Hearing Impaired and Speech Handicapped (KIKEV) co-organized a sign language training seminar titled “Listen to the Sound of My Fingers”. The event took place on Monday, 2 December 2024 at 10:30 at the EMU Social and Cultural Activities Directorate Hall. Chairperson of KIKEV Bahire Coşkuner Doğru and EMU Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology (BOTE) academic staff member and Sign Language Educator Dr. Rahme Uygarer attended the event as speakers.

The said event was attended by EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Sonuç Zorlu, EMU Faculty of Communication, Public Relations and Advertising Department Head Prof. Dr. Anıl Kemal Kaya, many academic staff members and students.

“Sign Language play a Key Role in Communication”

Delivering the opening speech of the event, Coordinator of EMU’s Unit of Students with Disabilities Assist. Prof. Dr. Ünal Değer said; “Unit of Students with Disabilities at our university was founded to support and ease the educational journey of all individuals with special needs who choose to study here. Among our student body, we also have individuals with hearing and speech impairments. Building effective communication with these students is essential for enhancing their participation in academic life and ensuring they can fully engage in all aspects of university life, including social, cultural, and athletic activities. Sign language plays a key role in communication. It is a non-verbal language that conveys meaning not only through hand movements but also through facial expressions and gestures. Today, we gather to explore and better understand Turkish Sign Language. I hope this event would be beneficial for all. Thank you for demonstrating sensitivity on the matter”.

“Undoubtedly, We Are All Candidates for Disability”

Also taking the stage, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Kılıç said; “I am pleased and excited to be here with you at the ‘Listen to the sound of My Fingers’ sign language training seminar organized in collaborations of our Unit of Students with Disabilities and the Cyprus Foundation of the Hearing Impaired and Speech Handicapped. I extend my sincere respects to all. First and foremost, I would like to sincerely commend everyone involved in organizing this meaningful and impactful event. Our university not only prioritizes providing quality education but also takes pride in developing community-oriented projects. In this context, I am deeply honored to see such a significant event organized for individuals with hearing and speech impairments and their families in observance of

International Day of Persons with Disabilities. It is a fact that any of us could face disability at some point in our lives. Keeping this in mind, we must foster empathy for individuals with disabilities and work diligently, both personally and institutionally, to make their lives easier”.

Following the opening speeches, the Chair of KIKEV, Bahire Coşkuner Doğru delivered a speech titled “Story of a Mathematics Teacher with Hearing Impairment and Studies by KIKEV”. On the other hand, EMU BOTE academic staff member and Sign Language Educator Dr. Rahme Uygarer delivered a speech on “Promotion of Turkish Sign Language Education”. The event concluded with a plaque presentation to the speakers by Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Sonuç Zorlu.



OLIVE HARVESTING AND JOURNEY TO THE OLIVE OIL WITH EMU STUDENTS

An impactful event on olive harvesting and olive oil production was organized within the coordination of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nazenin Ruso Kandemir, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Tourism academic staff member and Chair of the Community Involvement Center (CIC) and in collaboration with the Tourism Club. The event, titled "It Begins with the Olive Branch, It Lives on Our Table," was attended by a diverse group of students. Participants had the chance to gain hands-on experience and deepen their understanding of olive culture.

The first stop of the event was the olive tree garden owned by Güner Erkanlı in the village of Mormenekşe. During the visit, students were able to explore the details of olive harvesting, using both traditional techniques like raking and modern machinery. Furthermore EMU Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts students learned about the cultivation and grafting of various local products such as artichokes, pomegranates, almonds, and mandarins, and had the opportunity to taste these produce.

The second stop was at the village of Ergazi where the Yağcıoğlu Olive Oil Factory was visited. Selden Yağcıoğlu, the owner of the factory and a graduate of the EMU English Language Teaching Undergraduate and Master's programs, walked the students through the process of transforming olives into olive oil, offering a thorough explanation of the production stages. Students further enriched their experience by tasting fresh olive oil. The event ended in Kilitkaya village at the Garavolli Restaurant, owned by EMU Faculty of Tourism



academic staff member and Chef of the restaurant Chef Tanya Kilitkayalı. Kilitkayalı shared insights with the students about Cypriot cuisine and olive oil-based dishes, highlighting the significance of natural ingredients. The students were able to sample traditional Cypriot olive oil dishes and oven-baked kebab, while enjoying live music, and concluded the event with great satisfaction.

Making remarks about the event, Dean of EMU Faculty of Tourism Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mine Haktanır stated that EMU is one of the most important gems of Cyprus and, as the EMU Faculty of Tourism, they put utmost significance to organized events which bring their students together with the locals of Cyprus where they experience Cypriot culture. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haktanır

underlined that the event provided EMU students with the chance to discover olive culture and traditional Cypriot cuisine, while also helping them understand sustainable farming and natural nutrition. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haktanır further mentioned that students were able to observe, experience, and learn about the details of olive harvesting, from traditional practices to modern production methods. Talking on behalf of the Community Involvement Center (CIC), Assist. Prof. Dr. Kandemir said; "Our goal in organizing this event was to introduce our cultural heritage and natural richness with our students, in addition to the academic training they receive here at our university. I strongly believe that such events play a critical role in increasing the sensitivity of the students towards local culture and strengthening their sense of belonging".

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY RELEASES A STATEMENT ON 3 DECEMBER INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Dentistry academic staff member Assoc. Prof. Dr. Işıl Özgül Kalyoncu released a statement on the occasion of 3rd of December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, underscoring the importance oral and dental health of individuals with special needs. The said statement by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kalyoncu reads as follows:

"Oral and Dental Health in Individuals with Special Needs"

"The 3rd of December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, has been recognized by the United Nations since 1992, as a day to promote global awareness. Its primary goals are to enhance public understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, advocate for their rights, and foster social equality. As a dentist with extensive experience in clinical and academic research on the oral and dental health of children with special needs, as well as active involvement in international projects, I would like to draw attention to several key points regarding the oral and dental health of individuals with special needs. Disability refers to the inability to carry out essential daily activities such as walking, hearing, seeing, breathing, standing, reading, working, speaking, learning, or thinking due to physical or mental limitations. Research by UNESCO shows that approximately 10% of Türkiye's population consists of individuals with disabilities or special needs. Similar

to other parts of the world, individuals with special needs in our country experience various social and health challenges. While addressing their general health concerns, their oral and dental health is often neglected. As a result, individuals with special needs are at a higher risk for oral and dental diseases. Some individuals with special needs may have difficulty swallowing or chewing, which can prevent them from paying proper attention to oral hygiene. Moreover, certain medications may cause side effects such as dry mouth (xerostomia) or gum issues, which can increase the risk of tooth decay. For individuals with intellectual disabilities, oral and dental health problems can be even more challenging. These individuals may struggle to maintain habits like brushing their teeth or using dental floss, resulting in inadequate hygiene. Furthermore, anxiety or behavioral issues during dental visits can make treatment more difficult. Therefore, it is essential for specialized dentists to identify the oral health needs of individuals with special needs and create practical, sustainable solutions that can be easily implemented by the individuals or their caregivers. To support individuals with special needs in maintaining their oral health, it is crucial to educate them, their families, and caregivers about proper hygiene practices. Instruction on essential habits like tooth brushing and flossing should be provided. Engaging methods such as games or visual materials can make oral health more enjoyable. Additionally, tools specially designed for those with physical limitations

can be used, such as toothbrushes with larger handles or electric toothbrushes, which can be specifically helpful for individuals with physical disabilities. Water flossers also provide an effective alternative for those with limited hand coordination. Regular dental check-ups should be scheduled for individuals with special needs, with preventive treatments included during these visits. Dentists should be mindful of the specific needs of these individuals and create a comfortable environment for them. For those with conditions like autism, where social communication may be challenging, it is important to opt for quiet settings with minimal distractions. Due to communication difficulties or other systemic issues that may accompany disabilities, standard treatment procedures might not be feasible. In such cases, sedation or general anaesthesia may be used for treatment when necessary. Preserving oral health in individuals with disabilities demands a collaborative approach involving multiple disciplines. Dentists, caregivers, and families should work together to meet the oral health needs of these individuals. By offering proper education, suitable tools, and regular dental check-ups, the oral health of people with disabilities can be improved, thereby enhancing their quality of life. Promoting public awareness and providing specialized services will help ensure these individuals can lead the healthy lives they deserve."

EMU INTERNATIONAL “BASKETBALL CUP OF NATIONS 2024” TOURNAMENT COMMENCES



The “Basketball Cup of Nations” Tournament organized annually by the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Sports Affairs Directorate commenced with an opening ceremony held on Monday, 2 December 2024 at 05:00 p.m. at EMU Lala Mustafa Paşa Sports Complex. EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç and EMU Sports Affairs Coordinator Aydın Kayol attended the event.

To be held between 2-10 December 2024 at the EMU Lala Mustafa Paşa Sports Complex,

this year’s tournament will host 10 men’s teams from 10 different countries (Gambia, Kenya, Russia, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Republic of Türkiye (TR), Palestine, Iran, Sudan, Nigeria and Uganda).

Final Matches on 10 December

Men’s teams will compete in two groups. Top team in each group will then compete in the semi-finals. The EMU Basketball Cup of Nations 2024 Finals will take place on Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at 05:00 p.m. at Lala Mustafa Paşa Sports Complex where

the third and fourth place matches as well as the championship match will be played. At the end of the tournament, successful teams will be presented with cups and medals along with various presents. First day matches played on tournament and the results are as follows:

- Palestine 29 – Uganda 11
- TRNC 37 – Russia 27
- Kenya 10 – Nigeria 42
- Türkiye 19 – Gambia 8
- Gambia 6 – Iran 5
- Sudan 16 – Russia 12



Last Week’s Academic Publications

Source: Web of Science

Faculty of Pharmacy

1- Mohamadi, Neda, Mahboubeh Adeli-Sardou, Mehdi Ansari, Atousa Pakdel, Muberra Kosar, and Fariba Shariffar. “Nanoencapsulation of Zataria Multiflora Essential Oil Containing Linalool Reduced Antibiofilm Resistance against Multidrug-Resistant Clinical Strains.” CURRENT NANOSCIENCE 21, no. 1 (2025): 111–18. <https://doi.org/10.2174/0115734137281383240116052904>

Faculty of Arts & Sciences

1- Mazharimousavi, S Habib. “Thin-Shell Wormholes with Non-Collapsing Dark Energy Throats Connecting Flat

Minkowski Spacetimes.” ANNALS OF PHYSICS 471 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aop.2024.169834>.

Faculty of Engineering

1- Ahmadian, Pakhshan, and Umüt Turker. “Debris Flow Impact on Rigid Walls: Protection by Tree Trunks.” TURKISH JOURNAL OF CIVIL ENGINEERING 35, no. 6 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.18400/tjce.1325755>.

Faculty of Health Sciences

1- Cayir, Hilal Begum, and Arzu Abic. “The Effect of Acupressure on Postpartum Pain and Comfort after Cesarean

Delivery: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” WOMEN & HEALTH, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03630242.2024.2428793>. (Early Access)

Faculty of Tourism

1- Farrukh, Muhammad, Muhammad Rafiq, Osman M Karatepe, and Ali Raza. “Unleashing the Pygmalion’s Nudge: The Roles of Leadership Styles and Leader Expectations in Driving Employees’ pro-Environmental Behaviors.” INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT 124 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhm.2024.103999>.



**Eastern
Mediterranean
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Management at Eastern Mediterranean University
Famagusta, North Cyprus

On behalf of Eastern Mediterranean University
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Supervisor
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