

## EMU STRENGTHENS ITS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) participated the General Assembly of the European University Association, of which the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) holds Individual Full Member status.

The General Assembly of the European University Association, which includes only two member universities from the TRNC, is held annually in a different host country. This year's meeting was convened in Istanbul under the hosting of Yeditepe University. EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç, and the Institutional Development and International Academic Affairs Office Coordinator Assist. Prof. Dr. Cahit Ezel attended the said event.

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## MUSICIAN ACADEMICS OF EMU PERFORM AT PSO APRIL CONCERTS

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) hosted the April concerts of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra (PSO) within the scope of the collaboration between the both parties. The concerts organized as part of the protocol signed between EMU and PSO, was held on Thursday 9 April 2026 at 8:00 p.m. at Rauf Raif Denktaş Culture and Congress Center and, on Friday, 10 April 2026 at 8:00 p.m. at Presidential Blue Hall. Held with the main sponsorship of Türkiye İş Bankası, the communication sponsorship of KKTC Telsim, and in collaboration with EMU, said concerts received strong attendance.

### “Performed for the First Time”

The concerts featured Prof. Dr. Çetin Aydar, Head of the Department of Fine Arts Education at the Faculty of Education, and Assist. Prof. Dr. Atakan Sarı as soloists, and were conducted by Ali Hoca. One of the most remarkable highlights of the program was the world premiere of the symphonic poem “Kanlı Dere,” composed by Ali Hoca. The piece was performed for the first time under the composer's own direction.

### “First Performances in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”

The program also featured Ali Hoca's compositions for viola and orchestra, “Taksim ve Semai” and “Oyun,” which were performed in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for the first time. Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Çetin Aydar, these works had previously received their premieres in Türkiye, also performed by Prof. Dr. Aydar. Moreover, Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 was performed for the first time in the TRNC by Assist. Prof. Dr. Atakan Sarı.

The concert not only highlighted the strong collaboration between the Presidential Symphony Orchestra—a key institution in the TRNC's cultural and artistic scene—and Eastern Mediterranean University, but also underscored the University's excellence not only in academic pursuits but also in artistic creation and performance.



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Comprising nearly 900 member institutions from around 50 countries across various categories, the European University Association is a highly respected organization that plays a key role in shaping policies aimed at advancing higher education both within Europe and globally. During the General Assembly, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç conducted a series of meetings with leading figures, including the President of the European University Association, Josep M. Garrell, as well as General Assembly participants and university rectors from different European countries. In these meetings, Prof. Dr. Kılıç provided information on higher education in the TRNC and addressed issues such as academic collaborations between universities, joint projects and programs, student and academic staff exchange opportunities, and other cooperative initiatives.

### “Advancing Academic Unity through Internationalization Strategies in the European Higher Education Area”

In his remarks on the meeting, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç noted: “We are honored to represent our country at the highest level by participating, as Eastern Mediterranean University, in the General Assembly of the European University Association with our official membership. Strengthening academic partnerships among universities in Europe, generating collaborative projects, and enhancing the mobility of students and academic staff are among our key priorities. EMU will continue to move forward with determination to reinforce its relations with institutions in the European Higher Education Area and to realize new international expansions.”

### About the European University Association

The European University Association (EUA) is a prominent organization representing universities and higher education institutions across Europe. Its core mission is to bring together universities throughout Europe and the National Rectors’ Conferences (associations of university leaders), while playing a central role in shaping policies and fostering cooperation within European higher education. Established in 2001, the EUA is headquartered in Brussels, the capital of Belgium, and counts nearly 900 member universities and organizations from approximately 50 countries. The Association’s primary objectives include promoting collaboration among European universities, supporting the development of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), influencing education, research, and

innovation policies, and enhancing quality and standards in higher education. Its activities encompass conducting research on higher education trends and publishing reports, providing recommendations to EU institutions and governments, implementing projects on topics such as digital transformation, sustainability, and academic freedom, and organizing conferences, training programs, and networking events. The European University Association is widely recognized as a key voice for universities in Europe, contributing to the shaping of policies that impact millions of students and academics while strengthening international cooperation. Within the framework of its internationalization policies, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) will continue its efforts with determination to further develop its relations with the EUA and its members.



## EMU SIGNS A COLLABORATION PROTOCOL WITH İSTANBUL LİDER KOLEJİ

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), in line with its vision of strengthening international collaborations in education, signed a significant protocol agreement with İstanbul Lider Koleji. The signing ceremony, attended by EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren and Filiz Kepme, Chair of the Executive Board of İstanbul Lider Colleges, formalized a comprehensive framework of cooperation aimed at supporting students' academic and personal development.

Within the scope of the collaboration, it is aimed to enable students studying at İstanbul Lider Koleji campuses to participate in events and programs organized by EMU, allowing them to benefit from the University's academic and physical facilities and to gain closer insight into higher education processes. The initiative also seeks to provide students with early exposure to the university experience and to support a more informed transition to higher education.

Emphasizing that EMU, the first state university of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, has a highly student-centered structure, Prof. Dr. Öztüren noted that the academic staff is continuously strengthened, many programs are delivered in English, and new fields are added to the curriculum each year. He further highlighted that EMU offers a comprehensive educational ecosystem with its strong campus infrastructure, large student capacity, and numerous faculties, adding that academic collaborations are steadily expanding through joint programs with well-established universities in Türkiye.



Filiz Kepme, Chair of the Executive Board of İstanbul Lider Koleji, emphasized that beyond academic achievement, it is crucial for students to develop an awareness of university life from an early age. She noted that exposing young people to different universities and educational models broadens their perspectives and helps them prepare for the future in a more informed and well-equipped manner. Kepme also underlined that their focus is not solely on exam success, but on enabling students to experience university life more closely through proper guidance and early engagement. She added that they adopt a collaborative approach in education and aim,

through such protocols, to make a meaningful contribution to students' academic and personal development.

With the signed collaboration, EMU continues to pursue its initiatives for not only to enhance its academic strength, but also to further develop its educational approach and equip students with a broader outlook. EMU officials emphasized that such strategic partnerships will increasingly expand, enabling students to benefit from a stronger educational network at both national and international levels.

## EMU REPRESENTED AT 11<sup>TH</sup> EURASIA HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) was represented at the 11th Eurasian Higher Education Summit (EURIE 2026) held in Istanbul. EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren and International Academic Relations Coordinator Assist. Prof. Dr. Cahit Ezel attended the said event, sharing knowledge and experiences with representatives of various

countries, through academic presentations, workshops and interactive sessions.

At the summit, which is held annually in Istanbul and serves as an inclusive international platform bringing together universities, institutions, and a wide range of higher education stakeholders, contemporary issues in higher education were examined in a multidimensional manner through sessions offering diverse perspectives.

Throughout the summit, strategic sessions were held on the initiatives carried out by the Eurasian Universities Union and its future plans. In addition, representatives of EURAS member universities came together and had the opportunity to explore potential avenues for collaboration.

### “EMU: TRNC’S Window to the World”

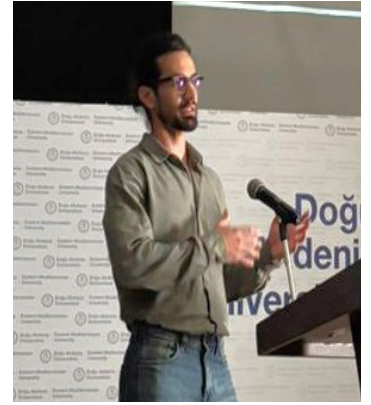
In his remarks on the matter, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç noted that EMU steadfastly continues its efforts aligned with

the internationalization vision of the university. Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç emphasized that EMU, as one of the key institutions strengthening the connection of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) with the outside world, plays a vital role through its presence on international platforms. He also noted that such events contribute to fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the development of joint projects among universities from diverse cultures and academic communities.

### About EURAS

Founded in 2008, the Eurasian Universities Union (EURAS) is a non-profit organization that brings together approximately 150 member universities and international higher education institutions from Western and Central Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and Asia. EURAS aims to enhance quality, accessibility, and global engagement in education by promoting inclusive collaboration among higher education institutions across the Eurasian region.

## EMU'S MARK ON GLOBAL AWARENESS: FIRST 'BLUE LIGHT' OF CYPRUS LIT AT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) achieved a phenomenal success by hosting the “Blue Revolution” project which is an initiative carried out worldwide with the aim of fundamentally transforming humanity’s perspective on our planet. The event took place online on 17 April 2026 at EMU Activity Center, illuminating the first “blue light” of Cyprus island on the global awareness map at the Eastern Mediterranean University campus.

### A Look from Space to Earth: “Overview Effect” Experience

Organized by EMU Astronomy and Space Sciences Club, the event began with informative presentations of club members. During the approximately 45-minute program, the mental transformation experienced by astronauts when viewing Earth from space—known as the “Overview Effect”—was explored. The first speaker, President of the EMU Astronomy and Space Sciences Club, Aljalilah A. M. Shreih, conveyed the global responsibility vision of the OneHome and Blue Revolution projects. The second speaker, Ali FallahDoost Saravani, a master’s student from EMU Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Physics at the Faculty, offered an emotional perspective, emphasizing that when viewed from a distance, all borders and

divisions lose their meaning, and that our planet is a “shared and fragile home”.

As part of the program, participants were shown a TEDx talk by the project’s initiator, Jean-Pierre Goux, followed by 4K Earth imagery captured by NASA’s DSCOVR satellite and narrated by renowned naturalist Jane Goodall. The event, which brought together 55 students from various departments, concluded with participants reflecting on and sharing the deep sense of unity and connection they experienced.

### Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç: “Social Responsibility is A Part of Our Vision”

Making remarks on the matter, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç noted that the project’s contribution to university’s vision and stated; “As Eastern Mediterranean University, we take great pride in joining this global network, which is being represented in Cyprus for the first time. This initiative not only enhances our University’s international profile but also promotes a collective awareness of responsibility toward our planet”.

### VYK Member Özdiñç Akdel: “Blue Light Lit at EMU”

EMU Board of Trustees (VYK) Member Özdiñç Akdel, who took a leading role in

introducing the project to the University, highlighted the importance of the event. Akdel remarked, “It is a source of pride for us to leave a meaningful and lasting contribution to our planet in the land where I was born and raised. As Jean-Pierre Goux expressed, we embarked on this journey to bring a bit of light into a dark world.” He also extended his thanks to EMU graduate Akile Tekirdağ for her dedicated efforts in managing the communication process, along with all individuals who contributed.

The event was realized through a strong spirit of academic and administrative collaboration. The preparatory phase was initiated with the academic contributions of Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren, EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication; Prof. Dr. İzzet Sakallı, faculty member in EMU Department of Physics and Coordinator of the Academic Project and Research Development Office; Assist. Prof. Dr. Huriye Gürsel Mangut, Advisor to the Astronomy and Space Sciences Club; and Dr. Mert Mangut, academic staff member in the Department of Physics. The process was successfully concluded under the coordination of Cemal Kılıç, Director of Student Development, Events and Sports Affairs, with technical support provided by EMU Information Technologies Directorate. On behalf of the club members, Assist. Prof. Dr. Huriye Gürsel Mangut noted that the project goes beyond a simple viewing experience, carrying the potential to reshape how individuals perceive both themselves and the world.

### EMU’s Mark on the Global Map

Enriched by images captured by NASA’s DSCOVR satellite—located one million miles from Earth—and offering a perspective never before witnessed in human history, this event positioned EMU as one of the interactive “Blue Revolution” points on the world map.



## EMU FACULTY OF MEDICINE'S DEAN PROF. DR. NİLÜFER GÜZOĞLU REPRESENTS TRNC AT NEONATAL CONGRESS

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty Dean Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Güzoğlu represented the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) at the Turkish-Speaking Countries Workshop organized as part of the 33rd National Neonatal Congress. The event took place on 15-19 April 2026 at Elexus Hotel.

In addition to speaking at the roundtable discussion, Prof. Dr. Güzoğlu presented at the congress, offering insights into contemporary approaches to neonatal health and outlining the work being undertaken in the TRNC.



The session, which featured experts from Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the TRNC, addressed the exchange of knowledge among countries and evaluated opportunities for scientific collaboration.

The session also highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of health

among the Turkic Republics, emphasizing that the participation of the TRNC in this platform is significant in terms of its academic and scientific contributions.

It is expected that the sessions organized within the scope of the congress will contribute to the development of international collaboration in the field of neonatal health.

## “KIBRISLI TÜRK ŞAİR VE YAZARLARIN TÜRKÇEYE BAKIŞI” CONFERENCE HELD AT EMU

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Education, Department of Turkish and Social Sciences Education organized a conference titled “Kıbrıslı Türk Şair ve Yazarların Türkçeye Bakışı /Cypriot Turkish Poets’ and Writers’ Perspectives on the Turkish Language”. The event was attended by Faculty of Education Dean Prof. Dr. Ahmet Pehlivan, the Head of the Department of Turkish and Social Sciences Education Prof. Dr. Vuğar Sultanzade, as well as academic and administrative staff and students.

The conference, featuring Prof. Dr. Oğuz Karakartal as the keynote speaker, addressed the perspectives of Turkish Cypriot poets and writers on the Turkish language from a historical standpoint. In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Karakartal emphasized that the Turkish language was upheld even during the British colonial period, noting that literary figures played a critical role in the dissemination and development of the language on the island.



Presenting examples from the works of poets and writers from different periods, Prof. Dr. Oğuz Karakartal demonstrated, through concrete evidence, the strong commitment of Turkish Cypriot literature to the Turkish language. He also highlighted that many intellectuals raised in Cyprus have had an impact beyond the island, reaching wider geographies through their works. In his speech, Prof. Dr. Karakartal further underlined the contributions of cultural figures from Türkiye to Cyprus, noting that this interaction has provided an important foundation for the development of the Turkish language. The conference concluded with a question-and-answer session.

## SEMINAR ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT BY EMU-CCS

The seminar titled “Spatial Planning and Concept of Land Management in Germany”, organized by the Center for Cyprus Studies of Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU-CCS), was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the BEA 5 auditorium of the Faculty of Business and Economics. Prof. Dr. Andreas Hendricks participated in the seminar as the guest speaker.

The event was attended by the Director of Center for Cyprus Studies Prof. Dr. Deniz İşçioğlu; Vice Dean of the Faculty of Tourism, Assist. Prof. Dr. Tuna Karatepe; Head of the Department of Educational Sciences, Prof. Dr. Canan Zeki; Head of the Department of Business



Administration, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burak Erkut; EMU-CCS Board Members Prof. Dr. Resmiye Alpar Atun and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Seray Kabanar, as well as academic staff and students.

In his seminar, Prof. Dr. Hendricks delivered a comprehensive presentation on spatial planning and land management in Germany. He addressed topics such as sustainable urbanization, land-use policies, and the multi-layered structure of planning processes. By sharing examples

from Germany, Prof. Dr. Hendricks provided participants with an international perspective. The seminar also explored current approaches in spatial planning, and participants had the opportunity to discuss their questions during the Q&A session following the presentation.

The event concluded with the presentation of an EMU-branded gift to Prof. Dr. Hendricks by EMU-CCS Director Prof. Dr. Deniz İşçioğlu, followed by a group photo session.

## EMU DEPARTMENTS OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY CELEBRATE CHEMISTS' DAY WITH A MEANINGFUL EVENT

A meaningful event was organized by the Departments of Physics and Chemistry of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) as part of the Chemists' Day celebrations and the High Honor and Honor Certificate Ceremony. At the event, young scientist Huriye Ertay, who has carried out internationally significant work in the field of solar energy technologies, met with students.

### “A Defining Discipline”

In her opening speech, Prof. Dr. Huriye İcil, Chair of the EMU Departments of Physics and Chemistry, emphasized the significance of Chemists' Day and highlighted the critical role of chemistry in scientific advancements, technological production, and sustainable energy solutions. Noting that chemistry is a defining discipline in many fields, particularly health, environmental, and materials sciences, Prof. Dr. İcil congratulated all students on Chemists' Day.

During her seminar, Huriye Ertay provided information on perovskite solar cells, which are being developed as an alternative to silicon-based solar panels and offer

lower costs with high efficiency potential. Serving as an inspiration to students through her academic journey, scientific curiosity, and international research experience, Ertay shared valuable insights into scientific production and research processes with young participants.

### High Honor and Honor Certificates Presented

As part of the event, High Honor and Honor Certificates were presented to students of the Departments of Physics and Chemistry. While academically successful students were celebrated during the ceremony, Huriye Ertay's scientific journey

served as a strong source of motivation for the younger generation.

### Who is Huriye Ertay?

After completing her high school education in Cyprus, Huriye Ertay studied Biomedical Sciences at King's College London in the United Kingdom. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the Institut Photovoltaïque d'Île-de-France (IPVF) in France. Ertay's research focuses on the mechanisms and kinetics of perovskite materials, which stand out among next-generation solar energy technologies.



Following her initial research experience in the laboratories of EMU's Department of Chemistry, Ertay has achieved significant success in both scientific and entrepreneurial fields. She has been awarded the Deep Tech Pioneer Award and has also been recognized as a Forbes Scholar. As part of her research, Ertay conducts studies at leading particle accelerator centers such as ALS in the United States and SOLEIL in France, where she investigates the atomic structures of newly developed materials.

## EMU RECTOR PROF. DR. HASAN KILIÇ'S MESSAGE ON 23 APRIL – NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç released a message on 23 April – National Sovereignty and Children's Day. The message by Prof. Dr. Kılıç reads as follows:

“We proudly and joyfully celebrate 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day, which marks the anniversary of the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (TBMM) and honoring Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's gift of this meaningful day to children around the world.

23 April represents a defining milestone on the path to independence and freedom, symbolizing the moment when the will of the nation became sovereign. It also stands as a powerful expression of the trust placed in children—our future—and the importance attached to them. As the first day in the world devoted to children and their rights, its dedication to children by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk reflects his profound vision for both children and the future. 23 April is not merely a celebration; it is also a symbol of freedom, independence, and peace.

It is our greatest wish that our children—the assurance of our future—grow up as individuals of a modern, democratic, and enlightened society, nurtured in an environment of peace, love, tolerance, and solidarity. As Eastern Mediterranean University, we act with a strong sense of this responsibility, guided by the importance we attach to education and our deep care for children; in the light of science, education, and universal values, we strive to raise individuals who think critically, question, produce, and contribute meaningfully to society.

With these sentiments, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to—first and foremost our children, as well as all our people—on 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day and warmly celebrate the 106th anniversary of the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. Furthermore I remember Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and all the heroes of the War of Independence with deep gratitude and reverence.”



## STUDENTS OF EMU DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHY LIVING WEEK

Final year students of Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Communication, Department of Public Relations and Advertising organized a meaningful event within the scope of Healthy Living Week. Held under the EMU Community Involvement Center (CIC) and sponsored by Defne Helva, the event was guided by Prof. Dr. Anıl Kemal Kaya – coordinator of Graduation Project (HIRE-404) course.

The event held at Canbulat Kindergarten was organized by Public Relations and Advertising students Ömer Altunç, Ayşenaz Bahşi, Berke Cansoy, and Ulaş Kurttepe. The project aimed to raise awareness of healthy living among children and to instill proper nutrition habits from an early age.

As part of Healthy Living Week, students presented content they had prepared, addressing topics such as opting for natural, additive-free foods, maintaining balanced sugar intake, and making healthier snack choices in daily life. These themes were conveyed to children through fun and educational approaches. The use of interactive methods, visuals, and games helped boost the children's interest while also making the learning experience enjoyable and engaging.



## EMU FACULTY OF LAW TO CELEBRATE ITS 30<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WITH ITS ALUMNI

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Law is getting ready to celebrate its 30th year, established in 1996, with a meaningful and comprehensive event. Over the years, the Faculty has achieved a prestigious position in the legal field thanks to its strong academic staff, modern education model, and successful graduates. This milestone will be marked with a special program to be held on Saturday, 2 May 2026 at 6:00 p.m., which will both reflect on the Faculty's long-standing history and provide a platform bringing together alumni and current students.


The event is designed to contribute to the strengthening of ties between graduates and students and to promote professional solidarity, while showcasing the Faculty's three decades of academic experience and the accomplishments of the legal professionals it has trained.

**"We Take Pride in Educating Highly Qualified Individuals in the Field of Law"**

In a statement, Acting Dean of the EMU Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arzu Alibaba, noted:


"For 30 years, we have taken great pride in educating highly qualified individuals in the field of law. The achievements of our graduates constitute the greatest strength of our Faculty. In this meaningful year, it is a great pleasure for us to reunite with our alumni and come together with our students under the same roof. I warmly invite all our graduates to join us on this special day and to share in the excitement of our 30th anniversary."

Those wishing to obtain more information regarding the event program, may contact 0392 630 11 71 or [fatos.cakici@emu.edu.tr](mailto:fatos.cakici@emu.edu.tr).




**Doğu Akdeniz  
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Öğrenci Gelişim, Etkinlikler  
ve Spor İşleri Müdürlüğü



Hukuk  
Fakültesi



HUKUK FAKÜLTESİ  
KURULUŞ YIL DÖNÜMÜ

30.YIL **MEZUNLAR  
BULUŞMASI**

2 MAYIS | 18.00

HUKUK FAKÜLTESİ

## WORLD RENOWNED JOURNALIST AND EMU ALUMNA PLESTIA ALAQAD TO MEET WITH EMU STUDENTS

Plestia Alaqad, 2022 graduate of Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Communication, Department of New Media and Journalism, award-winning journalist and author will meet with EMU students as part of the "Career Talks" event series organized by EMU Student Development, Events and Sports Affairs Directorate. Gaining international recognition early in her journalism career, Alaqad is particularly noted for her focus on war reporting and human-interest stories. Her work—spanning published pieces and firsthand accounts from the field—has reached extensive audiences, earning her recognition and commendation from leading international outlets including Forbes and The Guardian. In addition to being the author of "The Eyes of Gaza", Alaqad will speak about journalistic ethics, narrative practices from the field, and the influence of digital media.

**Alaqad to be at EMU on 4 May**

Taking place on Monday, 4 May 2026 at 11:30 a.m. in Mustafa Afşin Ersoy Hall, the event will provide participants with the opportunity to explore the contemporary landscape of the journalism profession. The talk, open to all attendees and especially to EMU students, is anticipated to offer inspiring perspectives on career development.

An interactive Question-Answer session will be held at the end of the event, allowing participants to have their questions answered.

**Who is Plestia Alaqad?**

Plestia Alaqad is a young Palestinian journalist, author, and digital content creator who has attracted international recognition in a relatively short time. She drew the attention of global media through her direct, on-the-ground reporting from Gaza. The videos she shares on digital platforms—featuring moments from everyday life and powerful human stories—have reached millions, granting her significant global exposure.

This visibility led to her being recognized by Forbes as one of the influential young voices and journalists making a difference in the digital space. Meanwhile, The Guardian has featured her in its reports and interviews, conveying her experiences and testimonies from Gaza to a broader international audience. These features have particularly highlighted her firsthand narratives and personal insights from the field.



**Eastern  
Mediterranean  
University**

Student Development,  
Events and Sports  
Affairs Directorate

CAREER TALKS<sup>1</sup>  
EMU ALUMNI

AWARDED  
JOURNALIST

**PLESTIA  
ALAQAD**

The author of "The Eyes of Gaza"

4 May 2026 | 11.30

Mustafa Afşin Ersoy Hall  
CL Building



## PROF. DR. OSMAN M. KARATEPE RELEASED A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF EMU-ATATUM ON 23 APRIL – NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY

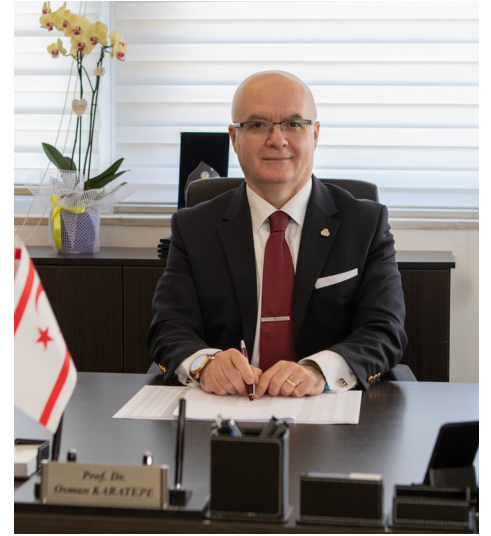
On behalf of Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Atatürk Research and Application center (ATAUM), EMU Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe released a statement on the occasion of 23 April – National Sovereignty and Children's Day. The statement reads as follows:

"23 April 1920, the inauguration date of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (TBMM), was declared 'National Sovereignty and Children's Day' by Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This day is not dedicated to Turkish children, but to all children, as a symbol of value attached to children and children's rights. Observed annually as a national holiday in both Türkiye and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, this date also marks the formal declaration of the establishment of a new state founded on the principle of national sovereignty.

This special day was originally observed as a "National Holiday" between the 23rd of April 1920 and 1st of November 1922. With the abolition of the sultanate, it was renamed as the "National Sovereignty Day." In 1927,

following a proposal by the Himaye-i Etfal Society—known today as the Social Services and Child Protection Agency under the Prime Ministry— 23rd of April was also designated as "Children's Day", thus establishing its identity as a celebration dedicated to children. In 1935, this day referred to with various names has begun to be celebrated as the "23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day". Atatürk attached great significance to these celebrations, actively took part in the ceremonies throughout his lifetime and ensured its remembrance and celebration each year.

As we celebrate the 106th anniversary of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, we honour the cherished memory of our Great Leader Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, his comrades-in-arms, and our martyrs with profound respect, love, and longing. On the occasion of 23 April, National Sovereignty and Children's Day, we extend our heartfelt wishes to all children around the world, hoping it would bring health, happiness and peace to all. We also remember the "Champion Angels Team," who lost their lives in the 2023



Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, and express our hope for a world where all children live in safety and enjoy their rights on the basis of equality. On this occasion, we once again celebrate 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day."

## EMU'S EMPOWERING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS: STUDENT MEAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) continues to implement its Student Meal Support Program (SMSP), aimed at supporting students, enhancing their academic success, and making campus life more accessible. Carried out with the contributions of the university administration, voluntary donors, and the EMU community, the program stands out as a strong example of a culture of solidarity. As part of the initiative, students were offered free hot soup each evening for 14 days during 2025–2026 Academic Year Fall Semester final exams period. In addition, free meals are being provided to students during the Spring Semester midterm exams of the same academic year. Offering both morale and practical support amid the intensity of the exam period, this initiative has generated a high level of satisfaction across the campus.

The program extends beyond exam periods by offering consistent daily hot meals to students in need, while also assigning meal credits to their EMU Pass accounts linked to student ID cards. Furthermore, in urgent situations, food assistance is provided to students swiftly.

### "A Project Perfectly Reflecting the Spirit of Solidarity"

In a statement, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan

Kılıç underscored that the University prioritizes not only academic excellence but also the social well-being and fundamental needs of its students, and stated: "One of our foremost priorities is to ensure that our students can continue their education in a healthy, safe, and supportive environment. The Student Meal Support Program stands as one of the finest examples of our University's spirit of solidarity. Thanks to the contributions of the EMU family and our donors, we are able to reach more students with each passing day. Every contribution makes a tangible difference in the life of a student".

Prof. Dr. Kılıç emphasized that the sustainability of the program is made possible through the support of donors, noting that each contribution helps ensure a student's healthy nutrition, enables them to focus on their education, and fosters a sense of security.

### How to Support?

For those wishing to contribute, both monthly recurring and one-time donation options are available, with all contributions collected through the University's official accounts. Within the program, usage reports are shared regularly, while the identities of beneficiary students are

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DAÜ ÖĞRENCİ YEMEK DESTEK PROGRAMINA BAĞIŞLARINIZI BEKLİYORUZ...

HER BAĞIŞ, BİR HAYATI DEĞİŞTİRİR

Maas Kesintisi  
Yoluyla Bağış  
DONATE  
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YARDIM/YARDIM.ASPX

Bağış Linki  
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Bilgi İçin

kept strictly confidential. Donations are accepted under the title "EMU Social Assistance Fund – Student Meal Support Program – EMU Staff Meal Support Donation". Those who wish to donate may do so online via <https://epay.emu.edu.tr/pay/default.aspx?Id=B0800101> or through salary deduction at <https://portal.emu.edu.tr/yardim/yardim.aspx>.

## EMU ATHLETE EMRE KAPLAN TAKES PART IN NATIONAL TEAM

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Exercise and Sports Sciences student Emre Kaplan represented Türkiye as part of the Turkish Cycling Federation National Team at the International Belgian Track Meeting, held in Ghent, Belgium, between 17–19 April.

In his remarks on the matter, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç emphasized the University's commitment to sports and athletes, stating: "It is a great source of pride for us to see our students represent the National Team on international platforms. By being included in the National Team squad, Emre Kaplan has made us proud and contributed to Turkish sport."

EMU continues to support its students not only in their academic pursuits but also in sports, while contributing to their representation in the international arena.



### Last Week's Academic Publications | Source: Web of Science

- A. Ovgun**, "Horizon brightened acceleration radiation near de Sitter horizons via minimal and derivative coupled detectors," *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GEOMETRIC METHODS IN MODERN PHYSICS*, Apr. 2026, doi: 10.1142/S0219887826501975.
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