

Economic Cooperation Organization
Educational Institute
**EXTENDED
BIENNIAL REPORT
2020-2023**



ECO
Educational Institute

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE
EXTENDED BIENNIAL REPORT
2020 - 2023

Editor

Gonca Biltekin

1st edition

Number of Copies : 50

ISBN: 978-605-73397-7-5

ECO Educational Institute Publications: 27

Published by

Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute

Mustafa Kemal Mahallesi, Tepe Prime,

C Block, Floor: 7, No: 88

Çankaya - ANKARA / TÜRKİYE

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Web : cicco.org

Publisher Certificate No: 49135

Cover, Page Design, Print and Binding

Grafiker

Web : grafiker.com.tr

Printing Certificate No: 46682

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Foreword



The ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) was established as an international organization dedicated to promoting cooperation and exchange in the fields of education and research among the member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The institute plays a vital role in fostering academic collaboration and building capacity in the member states through a range of programs, projects, and activities. We have taken great strides in many areas at the ECOEI, which I am honored to preside with the authority given to me by the ECOEI Board of Trustees during my tenure.

While serving as the ECOEI President in 2020–2023, I made an effort to follow four guiding principles that I believe contribute to the strong sense of unity among ECO member countries and assist in achieving the objectives and vision of the ECO with respect to education. The first principle is engaging in work that will contribute to the field of education through the production of tangible outputs. This resulted in publication of a series of reports and books which offer actionable steps that can be taken on the most pressing issues regarding education in the ECO region. These publications provide concrete steps and recommendations that can be implemented to improve the education system. By generating these valuable resources, we aimed to empower educators, policymakers, and stakeholders with the necessary tools and knowledge to bring about positive change in education.

The second principle was to uphold teaching of science as the most effective tool for economic development. Building upon this principle, ECOEI has consistently emphasized the significance of science education as a paramount catalyst for economic development. In line with this vision, the institute took a proactive step by launching the Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series. The inaugural workshop of this series focused on enhancing mathematics education in secondary schools, followed by a subsequent workshop dedicated to mathematics education in universities. Recognizing the importance of a holistic approach to scientific education, ECOEI has continued to expand this initiative with three additional workshops centered around biology education, chemistry education, and physics education. We hope to expand this modality to other ECOEI member countries with the aim to foster a comprehensive and robust foundation in fundamental sciences, equipping students and educators alike with the necessary knowledge and skills to drive innovation, technological advancements, and economic prosperity in the whole region.

The third principle is to provide easy access to reliable sources of information to the youth of the region. In today's digital age, where information is readily available, there is a pressing need to address the issue of misinformation and ensure the dissemination of accurate and high-quality information. Moreover, there is often a lack of awareness among

the youth about the rich common heritage and past achievements of the ECO region. This can result in a disconnection from their cultural roots and a limited understanding of the shared history and accomplishments of their communities. By providing easy access to reliable sources of information, the youth can gain a deeper appreciation for their common heritage and develop a sense of pride, identity, and belonging.

ECOEI embarked on a few projects to make reliable information easily accessible to the youth, empowering them to engage with their history, culture, and achievements. This includes publication of *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey* which is a collection of papers presented at the Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization Symposium. The purpose of this book is to highlight the various historical connections among the neighboring peoples of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Türkiye.

Another project is the online seminars and symposium on Education Thinkers, which highlighted the region's accomplishment in philosophy of education. Our Pocket Book Series project is also underway, which aims to explore significant figures, locations and approaches to teaching and learning in the ECO region throughout history. Through these resources, students can develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for their shared history.

ECOEI also harnesses the power of technology and digital platforms in this endeavor. In the last three years, ECOEI has placed a significant emphasis on increasing its digital presence. Examples of this include StudyinECO.org, a web platform that offers a wealth of information on the scientific and educational institutions of the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as country profiles and education statistics. Another example is ECOpedia, a digital encyclopedia project that contains information on notable individuals, events, and movements in the member countries of the ECO. These efforts demonstrate ECOEI's commitment to establishing a strong and comprehensive digital footprint.

The fourth principle involves the expansion of ECO Educational Institute's network through collaborations with international and local partners. In order to execute activities that align with the three preceding guiding principles, ECOEI carried out a series of 17 high level visits between 2020 and 2023. These visits were accompanied by 26 consultation meetings, wherein valuable insights were exchanged. Furthermore, ECOEI actively engaged with various organizations and orchestrated diverse programs to foster its educational objectives. Notable among these initiatives were the "Distance Education Experience Sharing Workshop between ECO Member Countries during the COVID-19 Pandemic," which facilitated valuable knowledge exchange among member nations

in the face of the unprecedented challenges brought forth by the pandemic. Another significant undertaking was the “Workshop on How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals.” This workshop aimed to enhance the research capabilities of educators and researchers within the region, thereby enabling them to contribute to the international body of knowledge. Moreover, ECOEI partnered with the Future in Education Association to jointly host the “Preschool Education Summit,” which proved to be a pivotal platform for discussions on advancing early childhood education. A notable event organized by ECOEI was the High-Level University Representatives Forum on the Internationalization of Higher Education, which witnessed the participation of 60 esteemed experts. This forum served as a platform for fruitful discussions, featuring three engaging roundtable sessions on promoting student mobility within the ECO region, fostering enhanced scientific research collaboration across ECO member countries, and facilitating the exchange of resources and institutionalizing higher education cooperation.

This Extended Biennial Report presents a comprehensive overview of the ECOEI’s ongoing efforts in the past three years to advance its mission. It covers a wide range of activities, including high-level meetings, academic activities, consultation meetings, information about its publications as well as the Institute’s administration.

I am pleased to present this report and hope that it will provide a valuable resource for understanding the progress and impact of the ECOEI’s work. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the development of ECO Educational Institute and take part in our activities -our partners, educators, students, experts and administrators- from all across the ECO region. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for their financial support, which made all these activities possible.

ECOEI recognizes the pivotal role of member countries’ active participation in realizing the ECO Vision 2025, which underscores the fundamental importance of education in accomplishing ECO’s objectives. The vision foresees an integrated and sustainable economic landscape, coupled with a free trade area, driven by highly educated societies and strengthened governance through enhanced cooperation. ECOEI stands prepared to shoulder the responsibility of establishing regional networks in higher education, facilitating regional exchanges, and implementing scholarship programs and mechanisms. With the active involvement and commitment of the member states, ECOEI can chart a path towards fostering a region characterized by inclusive and sustainable development and empowering the region through quality education and enhanced cooperation.

Prof. M. Akif KIREÇÇİ
President

Acknowledgments



ECOEI would like to express its profound appreciation to the member states of the ECO for their active participation, cooperative spirit, valuable input, and unwavering support in furthering the objectives of the ECO Educational Institute. The embassies, ministries, institutions, and individual scholars of the member states have played an integral role in shaping the Institute's initiatives, and their commitment and cooperation are deeply valued.

Moreover, ECOEI extends its heartfelt thanks to its esteemed national and international partners. The Turkish Language Association, Turkish Historical Society, Gazi University in Türkiye, University of Isfahan in Iran, TUBITAK, Future in Education Association (Gelecek Eğitimde Derneği), International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) in Pakistan; Eurasian Research Institute in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Turkish Board of Education, University of Applied Sciences and Technology (UAST) in Tehran, Iran, Azerbaijan State University of Economics, and the Organization of Turkic States, among numerous others, have made invaluable contributions and demonstrated exemplary cooperation. Their firm commitment has played a pivotal role in advancing the mission and objectives of the ECO Educational Institute.

Furthermore, ECOEI expresses its profound gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for its steadfast support and cooperation throughout the period from 2020 to 2023. The Institute also acknowledges the significant assistance provided by ECO's sister specialized agencies, ECOSF and ECI, whose collaboration has been of immense value.

ECOEI wishes to extend its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for its unwavering support and significant contributions to the Institute's endeavors during the period of 2020–2023. Its generous financial support has been instrumental in making all the initiatives detailed in this report possible. The Ministry of National Education (MoNE), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the General Directorate of the European Union and Foreign Relations of the MoNE deserve special recognition for their continuous support and cooperation, which has greatly contributed to the activities of the Institute.

Last but certainly not least, the Institute wishes to express its profound gratitude to the dedicated teachers, passionate students, and esteemed scholars throughout the ECO region who have consistently demonstrated a strong commitment towards and made invaluable contributions for the betterment of human lives through education. Their dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping the Institute's remarkable success and fostering a vibrant intellectual community. It is through their collective enthusiasm and expertise that the Institute continues to thrive. Their actions undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the Institute's journey, and for that, the Institute extends its heartfelt appreciation and deepest gratitude.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations



ATU	Allameh Tabataba'i University
AU	Ankara University
BİLSEM	Center for Science and Art
BoT	Board of Trustees
CoM	Council of Ministers
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
ECOEI	Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute
ECI	Economic Cooperation Organization Cultural Institute
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECOSF	Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation
EU	The European Union
ERI	Eurasian Research Institute
GESS	Türkiye Educational Technologies and Solutions Fair
HLEG	High Level Expert Group
IBSE	Inquiry-Based Science Education
IIUI	International Islamic University Islamabad
METU	Middle East Technical University
MoNE	The Ministry of National Education of Republic of Türkiye
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OTS	Organization of Turkic States
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
RPC	Regional Planning Council
SGD	United Nations Sustainable Development
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SDG-4	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Education)

STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TGNA	Turkish Grand National Assembly
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
TRNC	Turkish Cypriot State
TÜBİTAK	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye
ETZ	Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VET	Vocational Education Training

Executive Summary



This report is the extended version of the biennial report of the ECOEI President to be submitted to the 4th Meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees as per Chapter I, Article B, Section X of the ECO Educational Institute Rules of Procedure. The report of the president is presented hereby as Extended Biennial Report, which includes all activities and developments since the 3rd BoT Meeting which was held virtually on August 12, 2020.

High Level Meetings

The ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) has held a number of high-level meetings and visits with various stakeholders, representatives of international organizations, member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), embassies, and specialized agencies. ECOEI has welcomed a number of ambassadors and delegations from member states, including Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkish Cypriot State. ECOEI also attended the ECO Regional Planning Council and Council of Ministers Meetings, as well as the 14th ECO Summit and took part in consultation meetings with the ECO Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies to foster collaborative strategies.

Furthermore, ECOEI also met with various ministers and high-ranking officials from different countries, including the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, the Minister of Public Education of Uzbekistan, and the Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as the Minister and the Deputy Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. Important meetings were held with high level officials of the Organization of Turkic States as well. These visits and meetings have played a crucial role in enhancing cooperation, exchanging ideas, and addressing pertinent issues for the development and progress of education within the ECO region. Overall, they demonstrate the strong partnerships and collaborations that ECO Educational Institute has cultivated with a variety of stakeholders in support of its mission and objectives.

Academic Activities

ECO Educational Institute organized various academic and educational activities, events, and initiatives in the ECO region. These include conferences, panels and workshops on topics such as language education, mathematics and fundamental sciences education, internationalization of higher education as well as digital initiatives and online platforms such as ECOpedia.org and StudyinECO.org.

ECOEI organized a Distance Education Experience Sharing Workshop during the COVID-19 pandemic, which aimed to exchange knowledge on distance learning methods. Workshops like “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in Pakistan

were organized to enhance academic writing skills. Moreover, the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) played a pivotal role in orchestrating significant academic events that garnered extensive participation, including the highly acclaimed Preschool Education Summit, held in collaboration with the Future in Education Platform and High Level University Representatives Forum, which brought together representatives from more than 30 universities across the ECO region. The forum served as a platform for fostering cooperation and forging partnerships between academic institutions, encouraging knowledge exchange, joint research projects, and academic collaboration. ECOEI also started a webinar series on Education Thinkers, and consequently organized a face-to-face Symposium on Education Thinkers. These activities were all intended to enhance the quality of education and research from preschool to graduate level across the region.

ECOEI also participated in conferences such as “Good Practices in Language Education” and “International Forum for the Rapprochement of Cultures of Eurasia” which further contributed to knowledge exchange. ECOEI also hosted a panel on “Mawlawi Research in Türkiye” at the 3rd International Conference on Mawlawi. These gatherings actively promote ECOEI’s dialogue with the international educational and academic community.

ECOEI also started several online initiatives that would benefit the region’s youth in a more direct manner. ECOEI introduces a digital platform “StudyinECO.org” that offers extensive data on the research and educational institutions of the ECO nations, together with country profiles and statistics on education. The ECOEI is working on ECOpedia, a digital encyclopedia project that provides details on significant figures, occasions, and movements in ECO member countries. ECOEI also introduced exchange scholarship programs that provides successful students from the ECOEI Member States who are enrolled in postgraduate program in literature and language at universities in the ECOEI Member States. Lastly, the celebration of Mathematics Education Day together with students and prospective teachers highlighted the importance of this subject in education.

ECOEI also organized five workshops as part of its Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series. The first two workshops in this series focused on mathematics education at the secondary and tertiary level, respectively. The series continued with workshops on biology, chemistry and physics education. These gatherings not only foster a sense of community and promote the exchange of ideas, ultimately leading to improvements in science teaching methodologies and curriculum development, but also were instrumental in publication of reports that can immeasurably contribute to informed educational policymaking.

Consultation Meetings

The ECOEI actively collaborates with representatives of the Member States, scholars, and education experts. The President of the Institute constantly seeks the official help and opinion of the educational counselors and officials of the Member States in Ankara as well as relevant authorities for planned activities, symposiums, workshops, and research projects. For this purpose, ECOEI holds lunch meetings with education attachés from the embassies of the ECO Member States and representatives of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. ECOEI also circulates activity proposal forms to Member States to collect their needs and suggestions in the field of education. Additionally, ECOEI convenes consultation meetings with numerous scholars from across the region regarding its projects.

Publications

ECOEI greatly expanded its breath of publications in 2020-2023. Publication of the 8 Language Learning and Teaching Reports and book on *Mathematics Education in the Economic Cooperation Organization Countries: Analysis of TIMSS and PISA Surveys* have been completed. ECOEI also published a two volume book titled *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey* which aims to highlight the historical connections among the neighboring peoples of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Türkiye. ECOEI's separate reports on mathematics, biology chemistry and physics education in Türkiye identify issues and offers solutions in teaching of fundamental sciences at both secondary and university levels. One of the projects that ECOEI is currently focusing on is the production of the "Pocket Book Series," a collection of works that examine significant figures, methods, locations, and landmarks in the ECO region throughout history. International Student Guidebook is another project for prospective students from ECO Member States who intend to continue their studies in Türkiye as an international student.

Background



Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) is an autonomous, specialized agency working to encourage educational cooperation among the member countries and to strengthen academic and educational activities. ECOEI organizes regular meetings, symposia, trainings and seminars related to every level of education, develops policy proposals and publish academic research studies. The primary objective of ECOEI is contribute to the development of Member States through education.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) had been established by Türkiye, Pakistan, and Iran in 1964 under the name of Regional Cooperation for Development. In 1992, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and six former Soviet Republics, namely, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan joined the organization. In 2014, the Turkish Cypriot State acquired the observer country status. ECO, with its ten member countries, is one of the biggest regional blocs.

ECO countries have founded three Specialized Agencies, namely ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran, ECO Educational Institute in Ankara, and ECO Science Foundation in Islamabad through separate international agreements. Each of these agencies has a separate charter, personnel and autonomous management. The founding decision to establish ECOEI in Ankara was taken during the 8th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers, which was held in Almaty on 9 May 1998, (in line with the paragraph on “Special Agencies and Regional Institutions” of the Article 10 of the Treaty of Izmir, 12 March 1977). The Charter of ECOEI was opened for signatures of ECO Member States the same day. So far, all ECO Member States, except Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan signed the Charter, and all the signatories, except Kazakhstan, ratified the Charter of ECOEI.

The establishment of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) is a testament to the collective awareness and recognition among the ECO Member States regarding the vital significance of education. It acknowledges that education, encompassing both mental and physical training, is a crucial driver of economic and social progress. By investing in education, the member countries aim to foster stronger and enduring bonds among their people. Accordingly, ECOEI reflects the commitment of the ECO Member States to prioritize education as a fundamental pillar of their development agenda. By collectively investing in education, they aim to unlock the full potential of their human capital, bridge socio-economic gaps, and build a brighter future for their nations.

ECOEI works towards the shared vision and dedication of the member countries to harness the transformative power of education for the prosperity and well-being of their

societies. Its main purpose is to promote and encourage development through education. For this reason, the ECOEI tries to enhance collaboration among the people and nations through intellectual activity, including but not limited to the exchange of people in the field of education, conducting research and academic activities, training of educators, experts and scholars as well as the exchange of publications and other materials of information.

ECOEI's First Board of Trustees Meeting (BoT) was held on April 3, 2012, in Ankara. ECOEI BoT was composed of the Ministers of Education of Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Tajikistan as well as the Republic of Türkiye, the ratifying Members States at the time. The Board approved ECOEI Rules of Procedure, Staff Regulations, and Financial Regulations. The Board also approved the 2012 Annual Budget of the Institute and decided on the allocation of the contributions to be paid by the Member States.

During the initial three-year period, the ECO Educational Institute faced challenges in securing financial contributions from Member States. Only the Republic of Türkiye provided funding for the first year of the Institute's establishment in 2012. As a result, the Institute had limited resources and staff, hindering its ability to carry out its intended activities and fulfill its approved work program for 2012-2014. However, it is noteworthy that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan joined as full members by ratifying the Charter of the ECO Educational Institute in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

During the period of transition from 2015 to 2017, when the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) was searching for new leadership and restructuring its budget contributions, a significant milestone was reached. The 2nd Board of Trustees Meeting took place in the vibrant city of Istanbul on July 26, 2017, setting the stage for a new era of progress. The dynamic atmosphere of the meeting in Istanbul proved to be a catalyst for further achievements. The Board of Trustees, in their unwavering commitment to the Institute's success, wholeheartedly approved the ECOEI Scale of Assessments, Annual Budget, and the visionary Work Program for the years 2017-2020 and nominated Prof. M. Akif Kireççi to lead the Institute as its founding President. His nomination was approved by ECO Council of Ministers effective from 16 August 2017. These momentous decisions paved the way for a future filled with exciting opportunities and fruitful collaborations.

ECOEI started hiring personnel to facilitate ECOEI activities following revisions made by the 231th meeting of ECO Committee of Permanent Representatives in Tehran on June 19, 2018 on the salary structure of the Educational Institute.

Following the 2nd Meeting of BoT, ECOEI had started the process of acquiring a separate building through the meetings between President of ECOEI and Turkish government. Yet, this was legally predicated on the ratification of a Host Country Agreement between the ECOEI and the Republic of Türkiye. An agreement relating to the rights, privileges, and immunities of ECOEI had been signed on September 17, 2015 but it had not been ratified. Republic of Türkiye requested to further discuss the text. Upon extensive negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental bodies of the Republic of Türkiye, the final text of the Host Country Agreement was agreed upon on 18 July 2018. The agreement was signed on 23 July 2020 between H.E. Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi, President of the ECOEI, and Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, Prof. Ziya Selçuk.

During 2017-2020, ECOEI actively facilitated academic and diplomatic exchanges, fostering collaboration among member states. Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak in China in December 2019, ECOEI demonstrated resilience and adaptability by swiftly transitioning to distance and virtual methods of operation. Throughout this period, the ECOEI remained actively engaged in a wide range of diplomatic, academic, and consultative activities, showcasing its commitment to advancing education within the ECO region. By sharing good practices and policies through virtual meetings, publications and digital platforms, the ECOEI played a crucial role in promoting knowledge exchange and cooperation, further strengthening the educational landscape within the ECO region.

The remarkable journey of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) continued with great enthusiasm and determination, as the esteemed Board of Trustees gathered virtually for their 3rd Meeting on August 12, 2020. This momentous occasion followed the successful hybrid format of the 3rd Meeting of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) of the ECOEI, held on August 10, 2020.

Under the hosting of H.E. Ziya Selçuk, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, the virtual Board of Trustees Meeting was attended by esteemed ministers, deputy ministers, and high-level officials from the member countries of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye. The Turkish Cypriot State also participated as an observer state, demonstrating the inclusive spirit of collaboration within the ECOEI. Notably, the Secretary-General of ECO, along with the relevant staff of the Secretariat, as well as the President of the ECO

Science Foundation and the President of the ECO Cultural Institute, graced the meeting with their presence and valuable contributions.

Recognizing the remarkable achievements and significant breakthroughs made by the Institute, the 3rd Meeting of Board of Trustees, once again nominated Prof. Kireççi as the President of the ECO Educational Institute for a three-year term. This reappointment was approved by the ECO Council of Ministers, with the effective tenure spanning from August 17, 2020, to August 16, 2023. Additionally, the Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the Scale of Assessments and Annual Budget of ECOEI, along with the Institute's comprehensive Work Program for the years 2020-2022. These collective decisions further solidify the ECOEI's commitment to excellence and its unwavering dedication to the advancement of education within the ECO region.

With renewed leadership, a clear vision, and a robust roadmap for the future, the ECO Educational Institute continues to forge ahead, fostering educational collaboration and driving positive change across member countries. The dynamic outcomes of the 3rd Board of Trustees Meeting set the stage for a period of fruitful endeavors and remarkable achievements, as the ECOEI remains steadfast in its mission to promote education as a catalyst for economic and social progress within the ECO region.

The following report documents the remarkable initiatives and diligent efforts undertaken by the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in its journey towards becoming a well-functioning and dynamic organization since 2020. With a steadfast commitment to promoting educational cooperation and fostering academic and training activities among member states, the ECOEI has made significant strides in advancing its mission.

Adhering to the work program for the years 2020-2023, the Institute has remained resolute in its pursuit of achieving targeted goals and objectives, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Institute's unwavering dedication and adaptability have ensured the successful implementation of its activities, reaffirming its commitment to the Member States and their shared vision for educational development. Throughout this period, the ECOEI has actively worked towards strengthening academic collaborations and facilitating knowledge sharing among Member States. By organizing conferences, seminars, and training programs, the Institute has provided platforms for fruitful discussions, exchange of best practices, and capacity building in various educational domains.

Moreover, the ECOEI has diligently carried out its responsibilities in accordance with its mandate, contributing to the formation and implementation of policies that foster



educational excellence and inclusivity. By closely aligning its initiatives with the specific needs and priorities of the Member States, the Institute has played a pivotal role in addressing key challenges and promoting sustainable development in the field of education.

Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, the ECOEI has leveraged technology and innovative approaches to ensure the continuity of its activities. Through virtual platforms and online collaborations, the Institute has fostered meaningful engagements and maintained its momentum in advancing educational cooperation among Member States.

As the ECOEI forges ahead, it remains committed to its mission of promoting cooperation, and excellence in education. The Institute's determination, along with the continued support and collaboration of the Member States, will undoubtedly pave the way for transformative educational reforms and a brighter future for the ECO region as a whole.

Latest Status of the Charter of the ECOEI



During the 8th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization Council of Ministers (COM) in Almaty on May 9, 1998, a decision was made to establish the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) in Ankara. This decision was in accordance with Article 10, specifically the paragraph on “Special Agencies and Regional Institutions,” of the Treaty of Izmir.

The Charter of the ECO Educational Institute was subsequently presented for signatures by the member countries on May 9, 1998. All member countries, with the exception of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, signed the Charter, demonstrating their support and commitment to the establishment of the Educational Institute. The current signature and ratification status of the ECOEI Charter by the ECO Member States is as follows:

	States	Signature	Ratification*	Entry into force
1	Afghanistan	8 May 1998	24 June 2014	29 November 2001 under the article VIII of the ECOEI Charter which stipulates that “The present Charter shall come into force after three of the Member States deposit the Instruments of Ratification or approval with the Government of the Republic of Turkey.”
2	Azerbaijan	8 May 1998	8 December 1998	
3	Iran	8 May 1998	29 November 2001	
4	Kazakhstan	8 May 1998	-	
5	Kyrgyzstan	8 May 1998	31 January 2003	
6	Pakistan	8 May 1998	22 June 2013	
7	Tajikistan	8 May 1998	12 October 1998	
8	Türkiye	8 May 1998	14 November 2007	
9	Turkmenistan	-	-	
10	Uzbekistan	-	-	
	TOTAL	8	7	

* Based on the information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, the depository of the ECOEI Charter.

ECOEI extends its invitation to the Government of Kazakhstan, encouraging the authorities to ratify the ECOEI Charter and join as a full member.

Through formal meetings and written correspondence, the ECO Educational Institute maintains regular contact with representatives from Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. In these interactions, the Institute extends invitations to the Governments of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to sign the Charter of the ECO Educational Institute and become esteemed full members and benefit from the works of the Institute.

Institutionalization



Since 2017, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi has served as the President of ECOEI, overseeing its operations and initiatives. The President is supported by a dedicated team consisting of one protocol assistant, one accountant, and two steno-secretaries. The Institute occasionally benefits from the part-time services of a number of experts and individuals.

ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) has made significant strides in establishing a strong digital presence to support its activities outlined in the approved work plan. The Institute's digital initiatives began with the creation of an official e-mail domain for ECOEI, along with individual e-mail accounts for its personnel. Additionally, the Institute developed a website and established profiles on popular social media platforms, such as Twitter and LinkedIn, to enhance its visibility and engagement. To further amplify its presence, ECOEI invested in professional equipment and promotional materials.

Through these digital initiatives and forthcoming publications, ECOEI aims to strengthen its visibility, expand its reach, and deliver valuable resources to stakeholders in the field of education within the ECO region and beyond.

Legal Status as a Diplomatic Mission

Bearing in mind that the Host Country Agreement to be signed between the Republic of Türkiye and ECO Educational Institute, would be the first and the most essential step in the institutionalization of the ECO Educational Institute, the preparations for the Host Country Agreement started soon after the appointment of Prof. M. Akif Kireççi. He immediately initiated negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, several ministries and other governmental bodies of the Republic of Türkiye to finalize its text. The negotiations over the draft text of the Host Country Agreement were completed on 18 July 2018 upon extensive deliberations between ECO Educational Institute and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as other governmental bodies of the Republic of Türkiye. In October 2019, the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye issued full powers designating the then Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye to represent the State for signing the agreement. On 23 July 2020, the agreement was signed between Prof. Mehmet Akif Kireççi, President of the ECOEI and Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, Prof. Ziya Selçuk. As per ratification rules and procedures of the Republic of Türkiye, the agreement was sent to the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) on 27 October 2020 and was discussed in the TGNA Foreign Affairs Committee on 17 June 2021. The bill regarding ratification of the treaty was voted on and adopted by the TGNA Plenary on 17 March 2022. The bill was then referred to the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye for approval, concluding the parliamentary procedures.

The ratification of the said agreement was approved by the presidential decree no. 5533 dated 26 April 2022. The full text of the agreement was published on the *Turkish Official Gazette* on 27 April 2022. On 6 May 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye informed ECO Educational Institute about above decree via formal note. On 6 July 2022, another presidential decree was promulgated setting the date of the agreement's entry into force as 6 May 2022. With this final enactment, all internal legal procedures regarding ratification were completed.

The ECOEI has acquired the legal status of a diplomatic mission in May 2022 when the procedures for the ratification of “The Host Country Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) Relating to the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities of the ECOEI” are completed. ECOEI is working together with Turkish authorities to make all necessary arrangements to effectively use its rights and privileges granted by this agreement.

The Host Country Agreement marks a turning point in the institutionalization of the ECO Educational Institute. The agreement guarantees the legal status of the Institute as a diplomatic mission and grants the Institute such foundational rights as provision of appropriate accommodation, issuance of identity cards to secure privileges and immunities of the ECOEI staff and personnel, exemption from taxes and duties as well as protection and safety of its premises. The Institute currently works with Turkish authorities to make the necessary arrangements to use its rights, privileges, and immunities granted by the Host Country Agreement and is resolved to continue its work to strengthen the ties between its Member States from the secure base that the agreement provides.

Allocation of an Independent Premise to ECOEI

Since 2019, the Institute has been functioning in a rented flat, funded by its own resources. Government of Türkiye's allocation of an independent premise with the necessary equipment for the ECO Educational Institute had been legally contingent upon the ratification of “The Host Country Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) Relating to the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities of the ECOEI.” Since legal basis for allocation of premises had been established with the ratification and entry into force of the Host Country Agreement in May 2022, the process of searching for and allocating a separate building to the Institute is underway as per the commitments made by the Turkish Government.

The building allocation process encompasses a series of procedures and approvals which involve not only Ministry of National Education but also Strategy and Budget Department

of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, General Directorate of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality as well as district municipalities to ensure safety, efficiency and appropriateness of the premises for a diplomatic mission. ECOEI expresses its gratitude to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye for their valuable efforts in providing a premise for the Institute.

Academic Council and Focal Points

ECOEI Academic Council is a group of experts responsible for overseeing education and training projects at the Institute. Article 3, paragraph 3 of the Charter of ECO Educational Institute stipulates that

The Academic Council shall be responsible for deciding, organizing, monitoring and evaluating the education and training projects and activities in accordance with the aims of the Institute. The Academic Council shall consist of persons in the field of education. Each Member State shall have one representative in the Council, appointed by the Minister of Education or the Minister responsible for educational affairs, for a term of three years. The Academic Council shall meet at least once a year with the presence of not less than 2/3 of the Members.

Three members from the Academic Council elected by rotation and in alphabetical order and the President of the ECOEI also form ECOEI's Executive Committee, which is responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the bodies of the Institute. According to Article 3, paragraph 4 of the Charter of ECO Educational Institute

The Executive Committee shall conduct and implement the decisions taken by the bodies of the Institute, shall report the implementation results to the relevant organs, shall prepare draft budget to be submitted to the Board of Trustees with the approval of the Academic Council and shall execute the administrative and the financial tasks of the Institute in accordance with the ECO regulations and the decisions of the relevant Councils. The Executive Committee shall consist of four full-time members, including the President, elected from the Members of the Academic Council for a term of three years, by rotation, and in alphabetical order. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every six months with the presence of at least three Members.

The Institute also has a Focal Point in each member state according to Article IV of the Charter of the ECO Educational Institute.

The Institute shall have its Headquarters in Ankara. The Institute shall also have a Focal Point in each Member State which shall be established in accordance with

the prevailing regulations of each Member State. The Focal Points shall function in close cooperation with the Headquarters and facilitate the implementation of the approved programmes.

In formal meetings and written correspondence, ECOEI regularly requests ratifying Member States to designate Academic Council members and Focal Points and invites them to increase their level of participation. In response to ECOEI's Note Verbale OG/21-07-01/01 dated 7 January 2021 to Member States requesting nominations for Academic Council and Focal Points, the Kyrgyz Republic appointed both a Focal point and an Academic Council member via note verbale on January 15, 2021. Similarly, on 26 January 2021 Republic of Türkiye and on February 19, 2021 the Islamic Republic of Pakistan followed suit and appointed their respective Academic Council members and focal points. On October 20, 2022, the Republic of Azerbaijan communicated names for Academic Council membership and focal point via note. Formal letters from other ratifying member states are awaited. The list of designated Academic Council Members and Focal points is as follows:

REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE					
	Title	Name	Surname	Office	Ministry
Focal Point	National Education Expert	Süheyla	Demirel Yazıcı	General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations	Ministry of National Education
Academic Council	Professor	Hasan	Bacanlı	Faculty of Education	Fatih Sultan Mehmet Foundation University
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN					
	Title	Name	Surname	Office	Ministry
Focal Point	Advisor	Aysha	Gurbanova	International Cooperation Department	Ministry of Education
Academic Council	Head of Department	Tural	Ahmadov	Department of International Cooperation	Ministry of Education
I.R. OF PAKISTAN					
	Title	Name	Surname	Office	Ministry
Focal Point	Director General, (Public Policy, PhD)	Muqeem	Ul Islam	Accreditation, Certification and International Cooperation (AC&IC)	National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC)

Academic Council	Joint Secretary (IC)	Waseem Ajmal	Chaudhry		Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training
KRYGYZ REPUBLIC					
	Title	Name	Surname	Office	Ministry
Focal Point	Leading Specialist	Victoria	Baltieva	Department of Science	Ministry of Education and Science
Academic Council	Specialist	Abubakir	Dzhuraev	Department of Science	Ministry of Education and Science

ECOEI emphasizes the importance of Member States designating their Focal Points and urges those who have not yet done so to appoint them at their earliest convenience as this is a crucial step in ensuring effective communication and collaboration within and among the Members of the Institute.

Financial Support

The support of Member States through financial and technical means is vital for the successful execution of all planned operations by ECOEI. However, the current budget shortfall, including outstanding payments from Member States, significantly impedes the Institute's ability to fulfill its responsibilities. ECOEI expresses gratitude to the Government of Türkiye for its consistent financial support and calls upon other Member States to fulfill their mandatory budgetary contributions including the arrears.

ECOEI's Ongoing Programs, Projects and Activities



A. HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

A. 1. The 3rd Meeting of the ECO Educational Institute Board of Trustees

The 3rd Meeting of the ECOEI BoT was held virtually via Zoom on August 12, 2020, following the 3rd Meeting of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) of the ECOEI which was also held in a hybrid format on August 10, 2020.



The virtual BoT Meeting was hosted by the H.E. Ziya Selçuk, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, and chaired by Burcu Eyisoy Dalkıran, Director-General of the EU and Foreign Relations Directorate under the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye.

The meeting was attended by the respectful ministers, deputy ministers, and high level officials from the ECO Member States,

ECO headquarters and specialized agencies as well as Observers. Hon. Min. of Education of Republic of Azerbaijan Emin Amrullayev, Hon. Min. of Education of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Rangina Hamidi, Hon. Min. of Education of Islamic Republic of Iran Mohsen Haji Mirzaee, Hon. Federal Min. of Education and Professional Training of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shafqat Mahmood, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic Nurlan Omurov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan Miraz Daulenov Muhtarovich and Minister of National Education and Culture of Turkish Cypriot State Nazım Çavuşođlu attended at the meeting the ministerial level and delivered speeches.

The Secretary General of ECO, H.E. Hadi Soleimanpour along with the relevant staff of the Secretariat as well as the President of the ECO Science Foundation H.E. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and the President of the ECO Cultural Institute H.E. Sarvar Bakhti along with their delegation have participated. Secretary General of the Turkish Council, Bagdad Amreyev also attended the meeting.

The BoT renominated Prof. M. Akif Kireççi as the President of ECO Educational Institute for three-years and the reappointment was approved by the Council of Ministers effective from 17 August 2020 to 16 August 2023. In addition, the BoT has reviewed and approved the Scale of Assessments and Annual Budget of ECOEI, and the Institute's Work Program for 2020-2022.

A. 2. Visit to Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Türkiye

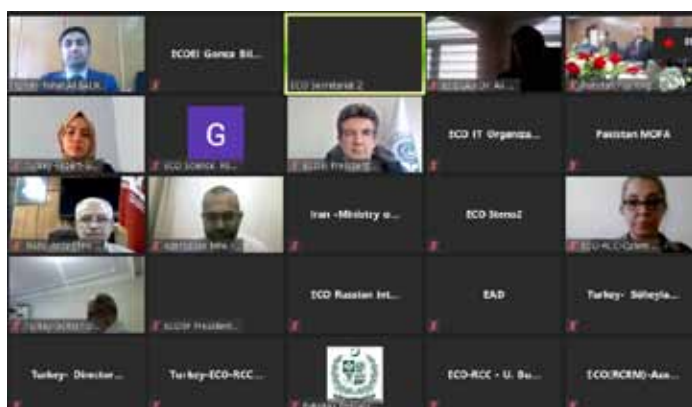


President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi with his delegation paid a visit to the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Türkiye on August 25, 2020. At the meeting, H.E. Ambassador Ishankuli Amanlyev has been informed about the Institute's latest events, activities, and future prospects. Prof. Kireççi invited Turkmenistan to sign and ratify the Charter of ECOEI and informed H.E. Ambassador about the Institute's project concerning Turkmen language. The parties also discussed cooperation opportunities related to ECOEI's functions and aims. H.E. Ambassador highlighted that Türkiye is one of the top study destinations for Turkmen students and there may be room for cooperation with ECOEI in this matter.

A. 3. Visit to Ambassador of Tajikistan to Türkiye

The president of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi with his delegation paid a visit to the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Türkiye on November 13, 2020. At the meeting, H.E. Ambassador Rajabiyon Mahmadali Davlatsho has been informed about the Institute's latest events, activities, and future prospects. President Kireççi invited Tajik authorities to actively take part in the Institute's activities and appoint focal points. The parties discussed the Institute's recent publication the status of mathematics education in ECO countries.

A. 4. Attendance to the 31st ECO RPC Meeting



ECO Educational Institute attended the 31st ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) Meeting, which was held virtually between January 12 and 21, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, and his delegation were present at the Committee of Human Resources & Sustainable Development and the Committee of ECO's International Relations & ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions & Affiliated Bodies Sessions as well as the Plenary Session. At the Committee of Human Resources & Sustainable Development, under the education section, the Committee praised the ECO Educational Institute for organizing successful events and activities, invited ECO members to complete their signing and ratification process of ECOEI Charter, as well as to assign Focal Points and nominate members to the Academic Council of the Institute. The Committee also proposed ECOEI to focus activities around vocational trainings.

At the Committee of ECO's International Relations & ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions & Affiliated Bodies, ECOEI's past activities and future projects are discussed. The Committee praised the ECOEI for successfully holding the 3rd BoT Meeting on August 12, 2020, and congratulated President M. Akif Kireççi for his appointment to the post. The Committee also applauded the Republic of Türkiye and ECOEI for signing the Host Country Agreement on July 23, 2020.

A. 5. Consultation Meeting between the ECO Secretariat and ECO Specialized Agencies



A Consultation Meeting between ECO Secretariat, ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Educational Institute, and ECO Science Foundation was held virtually on January 18, 2021. The President of ECO Educational Institute and his delegation, the President of ECO Cultural Institute and his delegation, the President of ECO Science Foundation and delegation from ECO Secretariat participated to the virtual event. The goal of the meeting was to enhance cooperation and joint activity efforts among the ECO Specialized Agencies and to highlight the importance of culture, education, and science in sustainable development and social progress. At the meeting, all three presidents of the Specialized Agencies agreed on the significance of joint efforts and agreed on planning and organizing joint events, webinars, and projects within the year.

A. 6. Consultation Meeting with the Turkish Ambassador in Tehran

The President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, had a productive meeting with H.E. Derya Örs, the Turkish Ambassador to Tehran on February 25, 2021. During the meeting, ECOEI provided an update to the Ambassador regarding the latest events and achievements of the Institute, as well as the details of the 3rd Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting. The Ambassador expressed keen interest in the activities of ECOEI and commended the Institute for the remarkable progress in its institutionalization process. The President and the Ambassador emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among the ECO Member States and expressed optimism for the future endeavors of ECOEI in the region.

A. 7. First Symposium of Rectors of the ECO Member State Universities



ECO Educational Institute participated in the first official symposium of rectors of the ECO States' Universities virtually on March 4, 2021. The symposium was organized by the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) in partnership with the Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU). The Symposium aimed to provide a platform for discussion of possible opportunities for expanding academic ties between universities. At the symposium, the ECO Secretary-General, the presidents of the ECO Specialized Agencies, the Iranian Deputy Minister for International Affairs, and the Iranian Deputy Chairman for Developing International Cultural Relations and representatives from seventeen universities from the ECO region were present.

In his speech, President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, highlighted the importance of closer contact and cooperation between ECO agencies and universities in the region. Prof. Kireççi also emphasized that the ECO Educational Institute is firmly committed to supporting the advancement of education in the Member States through supporting experts, educators, institutions, and students. Finally, the President brought about the upcoming projects of the ECOEI and invited universities to get involved and participate in the Institute's events and activities.

A. 8. Attendance to the 14th ECO Summit

The ECO Educational Institute attended the 14th ECO Summit held virtually on March 4, 2021 under the chairmanship of Türkiye's president H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Convened under the theme of Regional Economic Cooperation in the Aftermath of

COVID-19, the Summit was inaugurated by H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Summit was attended by Heads of States of all ten Member States, the ECO Secretary-General, as well as the ECO Observers, including the President of Turkish Cypriot State, Secretaries General of the Turkic Council, and the International Energy Charter.



A. 9. Visit by Iranian Embassy Delegation to ECOEI

Deputy Ambassador Ali Aşgyhar Mehrabi and Legal Counsel Mr. Mohsen Hatamina of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara paid a visit to ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi on April 28, 2021. The parties discussed the physical and legal status of the Institute and Prof. Kireççi informed the Iranian delegation about the Institute's upcoming activities. President Kireççi expressed his appreciation for the Iranian government's active interest in the Institute's activities.

A. 10. Visit to the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

President Kireççi visited H.E. Mustafa Şentop, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on May 7, 2021 at the Turkish parliament in Ankara. At the meeting, President Kireççi briefed Mr. Şentop on the activities and background of the Institute and explained the steps taken in negotiation and drafting of the Host Country Agreement between the Republic of Türkiye and ECO Educational institute. He kindly requested acceleration of the process of parliamentary approval of ECOEI's host country

agreement and conveyed all the relevant information pertaining to its ratification to the Speaker of the Assembly.

A. 11. Visit by Uzbek Embassy Delegation to ECOEI



ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi received Mr. Azizbek Z. Salahiddinoy, Counsellor on Trade and Economic Issues and Mr. Khursid Rakhmanov, First Secretary on Trade and Economic Issues from the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Ankara at ECOEI premises on September 15, 2021. Mr. Salahiddinoy and Mr. Rakhmanov have been informed about the Institute's latest events, activities and future projects. Mr. President renewed his invitation to the Republic of Uzbekistan to sign the Charter of Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute and become a full member of the Institute. President Kireççi reiterated that Uzbek institutions and officials are always very welcome to take part in the events and activities organized by ECOEI. Collaboration opportunities on several education-related issues have been discussed, as well.

A. 12. Independence Day Reception of the Republic of Tajikistan



ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi had the honor of attending a prestigious reception hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Ankara on September 21, 2021. The event commemorated the 30th anniversary of Tajikistan's Independence Day and was organized with utmost elegance and significance by the Embassy. Distinguished guests from various spheres, including esteemed politicians, diplomats, government officials, business leaders, and members of the media, were in attendance at the reception.

Prof. Kireççi had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and foster valuable connections with prominent figures in attendance. This gathering provided an excellent platform to strengthen diplomatic ties, foster cultural exchange, and explore potential areas of collaboration between ECOEI and the Republic of Tajikistan.

A. 13. Visit to Ambassador of Turkish Cypriot State



On September 23, 2021, President of ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI), Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, along with his delegation, had the honor of visiting H.E. Kemal Köprülü, the Ambassador of the Turkish Cypriot State, at the Embassy. During the visit, Prof. Kireççi extended an invitation to experts from Turkish Cypriot universities to participate in an upcoming ECOEI event titled “High Level University Representatives Forum,” which focuses on the internationalization of higher education.

Furthermore, President Kireççi expressed his keen interest in involving higher education institutions from the Turkish Cypriot State in a future research project led by ECOEI. This research aims to develop an index that measures the level of internationalization in universities, identifying their strengths and areas for improvement in attracting international students.

Both parties enthusiastically reiterated their commitment to collaboration and expressed their shared vision for future projects.

A. 14. Independence Day Reception of the Kyrgyz Republic





ECOEI President, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, had the honor of attending the Independence Day reception of the Kyrgyz Republic on September 29, 2021, in celebration of its 30th anniversary of independence. The event brought together distinguished guests, including high-level politicians, diplomats, bureaucrats, representatives from the business world, and members of the media.

The reception offered a vibrant and immersive experience, as guests had the opportunity to explore a captivating photo exhibition that showcased the rich history and cultural heritage of Kyrgyzstan. A video presentation highlighting the country's tourism potential further captivated the audience. Attendees were offered delicious Kyrgyz delicacies, amidst the enchanting melodies of folk music played on the komuz, a traditional Kyrgyz instrument. Additionally, the captivating performances by Kyrgyz dancers added an extra layer of cultural immersion and entertainment to the evening.

A. 15. Attendance to the 6th Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council and the 4th Meeting of the International Turkic Academy Science Council

A. 15. Attendance to the 6th Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council and the 4th Meeting of the International Turkic Academy Science Council

On November 4, 2021, President of ECOEI Prof. M. Akif Kireççi attended the Gala Dinner in Istanbul on the occasion of the 6th Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council and the 4th Meeting of the International Turkic Academy Science Council.



The Meeting was hosted by the Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Mahmut Özer and chaired by H.E. Baghdad Amreyev, Secretary General of the Turkic Council. President Kireççi had the opportunity to meet several members of ECOEI's BoT such as H.E. Emin Amrullayev, the Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and H.E. Bolotbek Kupeshov, the Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as H.E. Askhat Aimagambetov, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and H.E. Temurjon Komilov, the Deputy Minister of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, President Kireççi discussed cooperation opportunities with the Turkic Council and exchanged views on widening both organizations' outreach to the education community in the Turkic world. The parties reiterated their belief in education as the driving force for social change, economic development, and welfare in the Member States.

A. 16. 25th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers

The 25th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) preceded by the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on November 27, 2021. The

delegations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Türkiye, Turkmenistan (Host), and the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. ECOEI delegation could not attend the meeting due to ongoing health issues related to COVID-19.

A. 17. Attendance to the 32nd RPC Meeting

ECOEI attended the 32nd Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC), which was organized in hybrid format from January 17 to January 26, 2022. ECOEI participated the sessions on the Committee of Human Resources and Sustainable Development and the Committee of ECO's International Relations and ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies. During the event, the relevant sectoral committees met to discuss and consider their specific areas as well as make appropriate recommendations to the RPC concerning the Work Program and Calendar of Events for 2022.

President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi gave a speech at the 32nd Meeting of ECO at the session of the Committee of ECO's International Relations and ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies on January 26, 2022. In his speech, President Kireççi explained the most recent developments concerning the Host Country Agreement and informed the Council on ECOEI's academic activities. He also emphasized that the ECO Educational Institute has come a long way since its inception and will continue to thrive as an indispensable actor in the advancement of ECO Member States in the field of education.

At the end of the 32nd Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council, the Council endorsed the current ECOEI's Work Program as a Draft Plan of Action on Education until all Member States convey their needs. The Council took note of the successful holding of the First Joint Symposium of the Rectors of ECO Member States' Universities organized jointly by the ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Science Foundation, ECO Educational Institute.

A. 18. Visit to National Assembly Member and Majority Leader

President Kireççi had a productive meeting with İsmet Yılmaz, former Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye and current member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, on March 3, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ratification of the Host Country Agreement of the ECO Educational Institute.

During the meeting, President Kireççi and Mr. Yılmaz engaged in a detailed discussion regarding the ratification process of the Host Country Agreement. They exchanged views

on the significance of this agreement and its implications for the future operations and development of the ECOEI. President Kireççi emphasized the importance of timely ratification to ensure the smooth functioning and growth of the Institute.

The meeting served as a platform for President Kireççi to provide an update on the progress made by the ECOEI and highlight the positive impact that the Institute has had on promoting educational cooperation and fostering regional collaboration. President Kireççi expressed his gratitude to Mr. Yılmaz for his continued support and dedication to advancing the goals of the ECOEI.

A. 19. Visit to the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

On March 9, 2022, President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi had the honor of visiting Mustafa Şentop, the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. During the meeting, President Kireççi provided a comprehensive overview of the negotiations that took place to establish and sign the Host Country Agreement, emphasizing the importance of its swift ratification.

The discussion between President Kireççi and Speaker Şentop was characterized by a shared understanding of the significance of expediting the ratification process. President Kireççi expressed his gratitude to Speaker Şentop for his attention and support in advancing the ratification process. Both leaders recognized the vital role that the ECOEI plays in fostering educational cooperation and development within the ECO region.

A. 20. Visit by the Ambassador of the Turkish Cypriot State in Ankara

On June 15, 2022, the esteemed H.E. Kemal Köprülü, Ambassador of the Turkish Cypriot State (TRNC) to Ankara, paid a heartfelt farewell visit to the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI). This visit served as a testament to the strong bond and cooperation between the TRNC and the Institute.

During the visit, Ambassador Köprülü conveyed his warm wishes and expressed his sincere support for the ECOEI's projects and activities. He commended the Institute for its dedication and contributions to the field of education within the ECO region.

Ambassador Köprülü reassured President Kireççi of the TRNC's unwavering commitment to collaborating with the ECOEI on future endeavors. He emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and expressed confidence in the Institute's ability to achieve remarkable success in its initiatives.

President Kireççi expressed his deep appreciation for Ambassador Köprülü's visit and kind words. He reciprocated the sentiment by expressing gratitude for the longstanding partnership and cooperation between the ECOEI and the TRNC.

A. 21. Visit to the Azerbaijan Embassy in Ankara



President of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI), Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, along with his delegation, paid a visit to H.E. Amb. Reşad Mammadov at the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Ankara. The meeting served as an opportunity for President Kireççi to provide an overview of the ECOEI's function, history, and organizational structure.

During the meeting, President Kireççi shared the latest updates and news from the ECOEI, including upcoming events such as the next meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees (BoT) scheduled for 2023. President Kireççi also expressed the Institute's interest in a potential visit to the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, showcasing the commitment to enhance collaboration between the two entities.

An important topic of discussion revolved around the implementation of the Host Country Agreement, which addresses the rights, privileges, and immunities of the ECOEI. The parties exchanged views and shared their perspectives on the effective implementation of the agreement.

H.E. Reşad Mammadov was presented with copies of the ECOEI's most recent publications. This exchange highlighted the Institute's commitment to sharing knowledge

and fostering mutual growth. The meeting served as a valuable platform to discuss future endeavors and deepen the ties between the ECOEI and Azerbaijan.

A. 22. Visit to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs



On July 29, 2023, the President of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI), Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, had a productive meeting with H.E. Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara. During the meeting, President Kireççi updated H.E. Kaymakçı on the latest events, activities, and recent developments of the ECOEI. President Kireççi highlighted the importance of the implementation of the Host Country Agreement on the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities of the ECOEI, emphasizing its significance for the Institute's operations. The parties also discussed upcoming events, including the next meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees (BoT).

H.E. Kaymakçı expressed his appreciation for the information shared about the ECOEI and congratulated the Institute for its achievements, particularly considering the small team involved. As a gesture of goodwill, copies of the ECOEI's most recent publications were presented to H.E. Kaymakçı, further showcasing the Institute's dedication to knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation between the ECOEI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss future avenues for collaboration and emphasized the shared goal of advancing education and fostering regional cooperation within the ECO region.

A. 23. Visit to the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi with his delegation visited Ambassador H.E. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi at the Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara on August 15, 2022. President Kireççi informed H.E. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi on the future course of

action, projects, and events of ECOEI including the next meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees (BoT) in 2023. The implementation of the Host Country Agreement on the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities of ECOEI was also on the agenda.



President Kireççi gave H.E. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi the news of the publication of the book titled *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Türkiye*, which is the most recent publication of ECOEI. The book explores the shared historical and cultural heritage among these countries and highlights the importance of regional cooperation.

In addition to the book, President Kireççi offered H.E. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi copies of other notable publications of the ECOEI. These included the Language Learning and Teaching Reports, which provide valuable insights into language education practices within the ECO Member States, and the book titled *Mathematics Education in the Economic Cooperation Organization Countries: Analysis of TIMSS and PISA Surveys* shedding light on the current state of mathematics education in the region.

H.E. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi was also informed about past events of the ECOEI, like the seminar series on education thinkers and the High Level University Representatives Forum.

A. 24. Visit to the Organization of Turkic States

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif Kireççi met with the Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States H.E. Baghdad Amreyev at the headquarters of the

Organization of Turkic States (OTS) in Istanbul on 17 August 2022. The parties discussed prospective cooperation opportunities between their respective organizations in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, especially in matters of higher education, regional exchanges, and scholarships.



President Kireççi and H.E. Baghdad Amreyev consulted on possible areas of cooperation in ongoing projects like the Orkhun Process, the Turkic Academy, the Turkic University Union, and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation. They decided to join efforts and foster a mutually advantageous partnership on matters of shared interest.

A. 25. 4th Consultation Meeting between the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Specialized Agencies



The 4th Consultation Meeting of the ECO Specialized Agencies was held virtually on 3 October 2022 with the participation of the President of ECO Educational Institute, the President of ECO Science Foundation and ECO Deputy Secretary General. Due to technical difficulties, the delegation of ECO Cultural Institute was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting started with the greetings of H. E. Ambassador and Deputy Secretary General Hüseyin Avni Bıçaklı representing the ECO Secretariat together with Mr. Alim Ullah, the Head of Section of International Relations. During his greeting speech, Ambassador Hüseyin Avni Bıçaklı emphasized the importance of cooperation and regular meetings among the ECO Specialized Agencies as recommended at the 32nd Meeting of the RPC. He also stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss how education, science, and culture can improve integration in the ECO region.

The opening statement was made by the President of ECOEI Prof. M. Akif Kireççi. He congratulated the new presidents and introduced the agenda items and structure of the meeting. His speech was followed by the statements of the new President of the ECO Science Foundation Prof. Syed Komail Tayebi who introduced himself and his institution. He also reported that the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has signed the Host Country Agreement with ECOSF in December 2021. President Prof. Syed Komail Tayebi highlighted that the ECO Science Foundation continues its endeavors to promote scientific and technological research in order to achieve socio-economic advancement of the Member States. He noted the importance of the Specialized Agencies in implementing the goals and objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization and urged all three agencies to work very closely together in promoting and supporting activities in the fields of education, science, and culture and to establish effective partnerships in order to achieve the goals in line with the ECO Vision 2025.

The President of ECOEI Prof. M. Akif Kireççi updated the Heads of the Specialized Agencies about the latest developments concerning the ECOEI, including the Ratification of the Host Country Agreement by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in May 2022. He also shared ECOEI's projects, publications and activities such as the online seminar series titled "Education Thinkers Seminar Series," the publication of the reports on the Language Teaching and Learning Workshop and the edited two-volume book *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Türkiye*.

A. 26. 5th Consultation Meeting between the ECO Secretariat and the ECO Specialized Agencies



The fifth consultation meeting between the ECO Secretariat, the ECO Cultural Institute, the ECO Educational Institute, and the ECO Science Foundation was held virtually on 17 October 2022.

The Meeting started with the greetings of H. E. Deputy Secretary General Hüseyin Avni Bıçaklı and an opening statement made by the President of the ECOEI Prof. M. Akif Kireççi. The meeting continued with the statements of the President of the ECO Science Foundation Prof. Syed Komail Tayebi, and the President of the ECO Cultural Institute Murodjon Buriboev. The Presidents of ECO Specialized Agencies updated each other on the current activities and projects of their Institutes.

At the meeting, activities and objectives that can be developed together at the institutional, university, and state level were discussed. The parties also elaborated on how to establish institutional channels firstly among affiliated institutions and then among universities or cultural centers. The Heads of Specialized Agencies reached an agreement on establishing a mechanism to ensure better communication between the Institutes. They also agreed on compiling a list of common challenges that are being faced and work together to plan a strategy to overcome them.

A. 27. Visit to Deputy Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye



ECOEI President M. Akif Kireççi and his delegation visited Petek Aşkar, Deputy Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, on 6 December 2022. The delegation gave information about the institutional structure of ECOEI and also explained activities such as Education Thinkers Symposium and workshop series on Fundamental Sciences Education carried out by the Institute. At the same time, delegation gave detailed information about the published book *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Türkiye* and the language reports published by the Institute as well as ongoing publication series such as International Student Guidebook and ECOEI Pocketbook series.

A. 28. Meeting with Minister of Public Education of Republic of Uzbekistan

ECOEI President, Prof. Kirecci met with Honorable Minister of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan Bakhtiyor Adilovich Saidov on November 3, 2022 in İstanbul. During the meeting, the Honorable Minister and ECOEI President engaged in productive

discussions regarding the promotion of educational cooperation and the strengthening of academic and training activities among ECO member states. Both the Minister and the President emphasized the significance of fostering regional networks on higher education, regional exchange, and scholarship programs/mechanisms to enhance cooperation and create opportunities for students and educators within the ECO region.

Prof. Kirecci expressed his admiration for the efforts made by the Minister on the initiatives undertaken by his ministry to improve the quality of education and enhance educational systems in his country. He further acknowledged the importance of sharing best practices and experiences among member states to achieve educational excellence and invited Government of Uzbekistan to sign the Charter of ECOEI and become a full member to the Institute.

A. 29. Visit by Ambassador of Turkish Cypriot State in Ankara



ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi received H.E. İsmet Korukoğlu, Ambassador of the Turkish Cypriot State in Ankara at the headquarters of the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute on December 7, 2022.

President Kireççi provided H.E. Korukoğlu with information regarding the Institute's purpose, background, and organizational structure. He also updated Mr. Ambassador

on recent events and activities including the publication of the edited two-volume book *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Türkiye* that consists of a collection of 46 papers that were presented at the Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization Symposium regarding the common heritage of Member Countries of ECO. H.E. Korukoğlu was also informed about the publication of a series of reports about language teaching and learning in Turkish and English as well as ECOEI's Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education.

President Kireççi also shared upcoming projects of ECOEI, including the Symposium on Education Thinkers, a graduate study visit program to Iran, the development of an International Student Guidebook, a music teacher exchange program, a report on Physics Education in Türkiye, and the creation of the Studyin ECO.org webpage for students interested in studying in the ECO region.

During the visit, Ambassador Korukoğlu and President Kireççi discussed the possibility of organizing a workshop on the internationalization of universities with the participation of rectors from universities in Cyprus and experts from the region. A workshop had been initially scheduled for March 2020, but had faced several delays due to COVID-19. Both parties reaffirmed their dedication to enhancing collaboration.

A. 30. 33rd Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council in Tehran



ECOEI delegation, headed by President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi attended the 33rd Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council in Tehran on 16-19 January 2023. President Kireççi delivered a statement at the plenary session on the first day of the RPC. In his statement, President Kireççi first explained the conclusion of the ratification of the Host Country Agreement, which guarantees the legal status of the Institute as a diplomatic mission. He later informed the RPC about a series of high-level meetings, academic activities and publications by the ECOEI. These included the publication of the edited two-volume book *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey* in

August 2022, workshops on science education, and a symposium on education thinkers. He also talked about the web portal StudyinECO.org designed as an informative platform for foreign students who plan to study at universities in ECO Member countries. In his speech, he stated that the ECOEI has come a long way since its inception and would continue to thrive as an indispensable tool for the progress of ECO Member States. Finally, President Kireçci invited the Governments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to join the Institute and become full members.



During the RPC, the ECO's policies and programmes on trade, investment, transport, communications, energy, environment, agriculture, industry, human resources, sustainable development and tourism were discussed in eight sectoral committees with the participation of delegations from the Member States, ECO Observers, Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies. The ECO Work Programme and ECO Calendar of Events for 2023 were adopted at the meeting's conclusion.

A. 31. Visit to Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran

President Kireçci along with his delegation paid a visit to Hon. Minister of Education Yousef Nouri on January 16th, 2023, in Tehran. President Kireçci informed Hon. Minister Yousef Nouri about the ECO, its Specialized Agencies, and the ECOEI. Prof. Kireçci also provided information about the past and future activities of the ECOEI. The parties also discussed the implementation of the ECOEI Work Programme. Yousef Nouri emphasized the cultural similarities between Türkiye and Iran. He also expressed the importance of educational diplomacy with neighboring countries while highlighting a significant amount of progress on the status of teachers and students in Iran.



At the meeting, deputy ministers of education of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as several experts were also present. The ECOEI delegation was informed about the implementation of policies related to skills diplomacy, technical and educational cooperation between neighboring nations. The Iranian officials also provided information on technical vocational education and technical school buildings in Iran and discussed the possibility of holding skills festivals and Olympiads multilaterally and bilaterally. The officials further explained the activities carried out within and outside of school areas in Iran and discussed the existing capabilities and possibilities for a joint educational program and a joint learning channel for all ECO Members. They also provided input on the development of a curriculum in the education system of Iran.

The meeting of delegations between Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran and ECOEI was a productive exchange of ideas and information and laid a solid foundation for future cooperation in the field of education among ECO members.

A. 32. Visit to ECO Secretary General

President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and his delegation paid a visit to H.E. Amb. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General of ECO, on the sidelines of the 33rd Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC) at the ECO Headquarters in Tehran on January 17, 2023. Prof. Dr. Kireççi provided information about the latest developments concerning



ratification of the Host Country Agreement and the allocation of premises to ECOEI by the Turkish government. President Kireççi also informed Amb. Noziri about ECOEI's recent activities and publications, including the reports on language teaching and learning on eight languages spoken in the ECO region, the edited two-volume book titled *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey*, the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education, and the Symposium on Education Thinkers. President Kireççi further discussed ongoing projects of ECOEI such as StudyinECO.org, ECOpedia, and student exchange programs. Amb. Noziri provided information about the organizational

structure of the ECO Secretary and the number of international and local staff members. He also mentioned the ECO Chronicles and presented President Kireççi a special edition of the ECO Chronicles. The parties discussed possible collaborations for developing a project on the history of ECO.



A. 33. Participation to the 26th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers in Tashkent



President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and his delegation participated in the 26th Meeting of the ECO CoM, which transpired under the chairmanship of the Acting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Saidov, in Tashkent on January 24, 2023. Noteworthy participants in this meeting comprised the esteemed Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Türkiye, and Turkmenistan, alongside the presence of the ECO Secretary General. During the meeting, a thorough review was conducted of the previous activities of the ECO, alongside the consideration of new proposals recommended by the Senior Officials who convened on January 23, 2023. Moreover, the Meeting officially embraced the “Tashkent Communique”, which serves as a significant document accentuating the imperative objective of fortifying regional cooperation and fostering collaborative initiatives among the esteemed Member States.

A. 34. Visit by Seyed Komail Tayebi, the President of ECOSF



Professor Seyed Komail Tayebi, the President of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), paid a visit to the ECOEI office with the objective of fostering collaborative strategies on 1 May 2023. Both parties expressed their enthusiasm for fostering strong collaborative strategies between the two organizations. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to engage in productive discussions and address pertinent issues faced by both institutions.

With a shared commitment to advancing education and scientific research in the ECO region, the primary focus of the meeting was to identify and formulate potential solutions to the challenges that currently confront both ECOEI and ECOSF. During the meeting, key areas of mutual interest were explored, and plans for joint initiatives and projects were discussed. Both parties recognized the significance of synergy and complementarity in their efforts, understanding that through collaborative endeavors, they could better address the educational needs and aspirations of the diverse communities in the ECO region.

A. 35. Visit to Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye





On 25 July 2023, ECOEI delegation headed by ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi paid a visit to Hon. Minister of National Education of Republic of Türkiye Prof. Yusuf Tekin in his office. Deputy Minister of National Education Celile Eren Ökten was also present during the meeting. The purpose of the visit was to brief Hon. Min. Prof. Tekin about the various activities and initiatives undertaken by ECOEI and discuss the preparations about the upcoming 4th Meeting of the ECO Educational Institute Board of Trustees to be held on 4-5 August 2023 in İstanbul.

During the meeting, Prof. Kireççi made a presentation on the background and organizational mechanisms of the Institute. He also informed the Hon. Min. Prof. Tekin about the Institute's past and ongoing activities, including the high level meetings, its academic activities and publications. The delegation also briefed the Honorable Minister on the preparations for the upcoming ECOEI Board of Trustees Meeting. President Kireççi also presented the Hon. Min. with copies of ECOEI's most recent publications.

Hon. Min. Prof. Tekin expressed his appreciation and interest in the work of ECOEI. He acknowledged the significance of ECOEI's efforts in promoting educational cooperation and pointed to prospective partnerships and areas of cooperation in the field of education across the ECO Region.

The meeting served as a platform for both parties to exchange ideas and insights, fostering a stronger understanding of ECOEI's goals. The meeting ensured the groundwork for a seamless organization of the ECOEI Board of Trustees Meeting, with the common goal of advancing educational quality and networks across the ECO region.

A. 36. Visit to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye

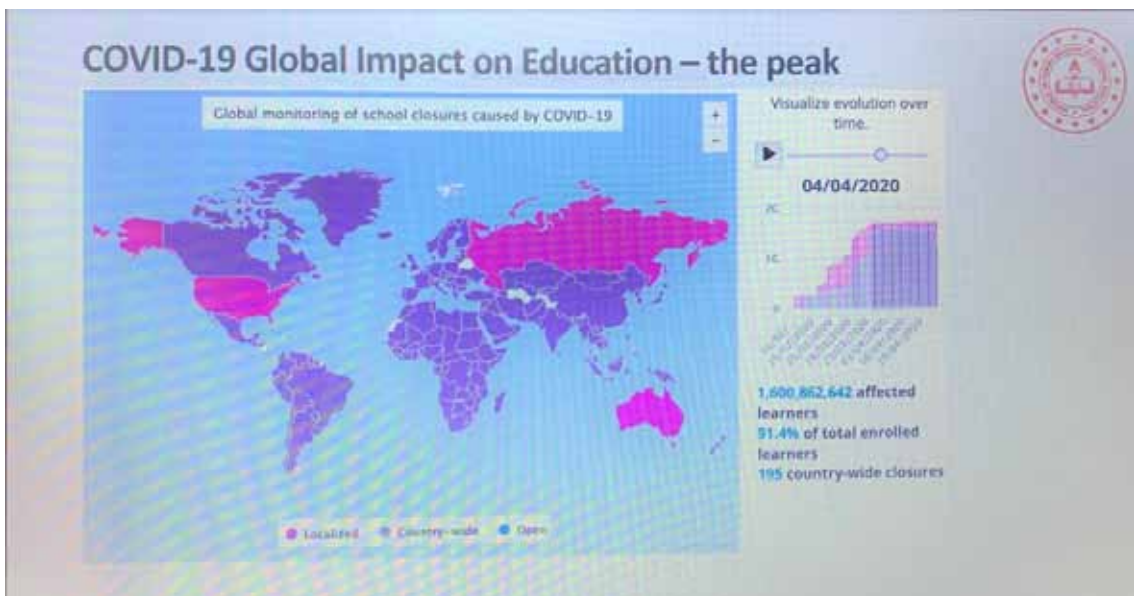


President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi paid a visit to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Amb. Mehmet Kemal Bozay on 27 July 2023. The purpose of this visit was to inform Amb. Bozay on the various activities and initiatives undertaken by ECOEI and to discuss the arrangements made for the 4th Meeting of the ECO Educational Institute Board of Trustees, scheduled to take place on August 4-5, 2023, in İstanbul.

During the meeting, Prof. Kireççi provided Amb. Bozay with a detailed overview of ECOEI's past accomplishments and ongoing initiatives which involved high-level meetings, academic initiatives, and publications. Amb. Bozay expressed his appreciation for the valuable work carried out by ECOEI. The parties also shared updates on the preparations for the upcoming ECOEI Board of Trustees Meeting and reiterate their commitment to ensure smooth and well-coordinated organization of the upcoming ECOEI Board of Trustees Meeting.

B. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

B. 1. Distance Education Experience Sharing Workshop between ECO Member Countries during COVID-19 Pandemic



The Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye in cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute organized a virtual workshop on Distance Education Experience sharing between ECO Member Countries on October 14, 2020. The Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute invited technical experts, heads of departments and general directors at the Ministries of Education of ECO Member Countries to share the experiences and disseminate good practices among ECO Countries in responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Topics discussed include distance education, psycho-social support to students, parents and teachers, and teacher training during the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegates from the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Turkish Cypriot State, Republic of Türkiye and Turkmenistan were present.

B. 2. Panel on “Mawlawi Research in Türkiye” at the 3rd International Conference on Mawlawi



The ECO Educational Institute sponsored the 12th session “Mawlawi Research in Türkiye,” of the 3rd International Conference on Mawlawi, which was held virtually on December 14, 2020 in partnership with the University of Isfahan.

The 3rd International Conference on Mawlawi, which is designed as weekly meetings, has started on November 17, 2020 and continued until December 17, 2020. A total of fourteen meetings were conducted with speakers from Iran, Türkiye, China, the Balkan region, Pakistan and Arab-speaking countries. The ECOEI sponsored panel, “Mawlawi Research in Türkiye” was composed of esteemed scholars Prof. Ali Temizel from Selçuk University, Dr. Fahretin Coşguner from Kırıkkale University, Dr. Kadir Turgut from İstanbul University, whose work on Mawlana made a wide-ranging impact on how we understand and expand his philosophy and love.

3rd International Conference on Mawlawi (Mevlevi)

12th Conference

Mawlawi Research in Turkey (International Mawlawi Research)



Prof. Dr. Derya Örs
Turkish Ambassador in Tehran
Professor of Persian Language and Literature

Speech Title: Love for Mawlid in Turkey and Mawlid's Place in the Cultural World

Prof. Dr. Ali Temizel
Director of Mevlana Research Institute
Selçuk University

Speech Title: Scientific and Cultural Studies on Mawlid in Konya



Dr. Kadir Turgut
Professor of Persian Language and Literature
Istanbul University

Speech Title: A Research on Editing and Publishing Mawlana

Prof. Dr. Hicabi Kırılgaç
Atikun University Vice Rector
Professor of Persian Language and Literature

Speech Title: Works on Mawlid and Related Publications during the Republican Period in Turkey



Dr. Alireza Mozaffari
Professor of Persian Language and Literature
Urmia University

Moderator

Dr. Öğr. Gör. Fahrettin Çoğuncu
Professor of Persian Language and Literature
Kırıkkale University

Speech Title: Rumi Studies in Turkey



December 14, 2020




15:00-17:00 (Tehran, GMT +3:30)

Conference Link

<https://skyroom.ui.ac.ir/ch/mvp>

Conference Website

mvp.ui.ac.ir

 [@molaviresearch.ir](https://www.instagram.com/molaviresearch.ir)  www.molaviresearch.ir  09137848343

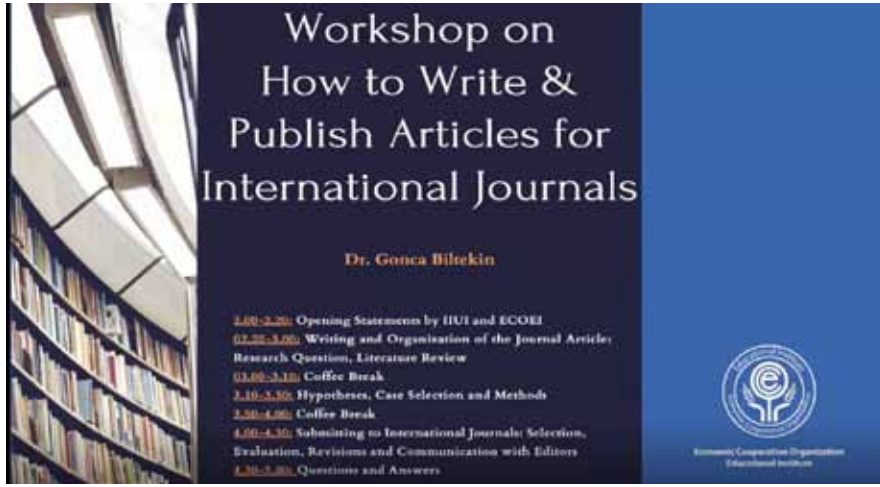
The conference link is available to attend the conference without registration



B. 3. Workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in Pakistan



The ECO Educational Institute organized the third of the “How to Write and Publish Articles in International Journals Workshop” in cooperation with the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Pakistan on 29 March 2021. The first workshop has been held in Baku in May 2019 and the second workshop has been held on 19 August 2020 in cooperation with University of Isfahan. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Gonca Biltekin, who focused on research and writing of scholarly articles as well as the submission and evaluation processes. The virtual 3-hour workshop consisted of three sessions and was attended by 60 graduate students and scholars from the IIUI.



During the workshop, Dr. Bilekin provided valuable insights and guidance on conducting research, crafting scholarly articles, and navigating the publication process in international journals. The workshop aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of the requirements and expectations of high-quality academic writing, as well as the strategies to effectively communicate research findings.

The ECOEI remains committed to fostering academic excellence and promoting scholarly collaboration among its member countries. Through workshops like this, it strives to equip researchers and scholars with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to the global academic community.

B. 4. Preschool Education Summit



ECO Educational Institute co-organized an online Preschool Education Summit with the Future in Education Association on 25-26 September 2021 with the theme “Don’t give up on your dreams” with the participation of more than 700 educators, teachers-to-be, and parents.

ECOEI President M. Akif Kireççi gave an opening speech introducing the aims and activities of ECOEI as well as highlighting the importance of preschool education and ECOEI’s determination to play an active role in improving preschool education practices and rendering it accessible to all children. On the first day of the event, several educators, psychologists, scholars and experts made inspirational speeches on a wide variety of topics such as gamification, children and maths, having dreams and objectives at preschool age, technology use in preschool, preschool education policies from around the World, science and creativity. On the second day, the participants chose from 30 different workshops with equally diverse themes including counteracting cyberbullying, gifted children at preschool age, teaching math using drama, toy-making, gamification, puppet theatre, children’s literature, story-telling, musical activities, speech disorders, origami, introduction to coding and many more.

On future occasions, ECOEI plans to transform the event into a multinational and multilingual gathering of educators, prospective teachers, and parents from all ECOEI Member States.

B. 5. First High Level University Representatives Forum





The ECO Educational Institute organized a High Level University Representatives Forum on Internationalization of Higher Education, which was held online on September 30, 2021 with the participation of 60 experts. The purpose of the High Level University Representatives Forum was to create a high-level platform in order to discuss opportunities and challenges regarding internationalization of and regional cooperation on higher education.

The Forum brought together around 60 high level administrators and professionals of more than 30 universities from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, the Turkish Cypriot State, Türkiye and Turkmenistan in a technical setting, in which they had the opportunity to share their ideas, ongoing projects, challenges, and establish partnerships. The Forum consisted of three roundtables dedicated to active discussion of several subjects. The themes of the roundtables included student mobility within the ECO region, strengthening scientific research collaboration in the ECO region, resource sharing and institutionalization of higher education cooperation. The participants discussed their experiences, challenges and strengths in issues ranging from scholarships, exchange programs, credit transfers, recognition of qualifications and joint degree programs.

During the Forum, ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi announced studyinECO.org, a platform that aims to promote student mobility within the ECO region by facilitating the initial research of prospective students on educational opportunities offered by universities in the region and invited the participating universities to submit the necessary information regarding their institutions to be uploaded on the website.

B. 6. Education Thinkers Seminar Series

 ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE


SEMINAR SERIES ON
EDUCATION THINKERS

İbn-i Sina

Moderator: Hasan Bacanlı
Speaker: Sirm Akbaba

20 January 2022 Thursday, 20.00 Turkey time.
The seminar will be held online in Turkish, with simultaneous
translation into English.
To join: <https://bit.ly/3T488Dg>





 ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE


SEMINAR SERIES ON
EDUCATION THINKERS

Nurettin Topçu's
Educational Philosophy

Moderator: Hasan Bacanlı
Speaker: Cafer Vayni

6 January 2022, 20.00 Turkey time.
The seminar is in Turkish with English interpretation available.





 ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE


SEMINAR SERIES ON
EDUCATION THINKERS

İsmail Hakkı Baltacıoğlu:
An Education Reformer

Moderator: Hasan Bacanlı
Speaker: İrfan Erdoğan

16 December 2021, 20.00 Turkey time.
The seminar is in Turkish with English interpretation available.





 ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

SEMINAR SERIES ON
EDUCATION THINKERS

Hasan Âli Yücel's
Philosophy of
Education

Moderator: Hasan Bacanlı
Speaker: Betül Batır

24 February 2022, 20.00 Turkey time.
The seminar is in Turkish with English interpretation available.
<https://bit.ly/358M1bk>



ECOEI organized an online seminar series on education thinkers who have shaped the educational world of ECO member countries with their ideas and actions. The purpose of the series is to revisit insights from education thinkers in the ECO region to help policymakers, researchers, and teachers to find solutions to our current problems in education. The series addresses both the contemporary and historical ideas, policies, methods, and projects of thinkers, educators, and policymakers on education in ECO member countries or the wider ECO region.

All sessions of the series were held on Zoom and were moderated by ECOEI Academic Council Member Prof. Dr. Hasan Bacanlı. The first session of the Education Thinkers Seminar Series, titled “Ismail Hakkı Baltacıođlu: An Educational Revolutionist”, was held by İrfan Erdođan on December 10, 2021. In the second session on January 6, 2022, Cafer Vayni spoke on “Nurettin Topçu’s Philosophy of Education”. The speaker for the third session on January 20, 2022, titled “İbn-I Sina (Avicenna)” was Sırrı Akbaba. The fourth session titled “Hasan Ali Yücel’s view on education” was held by Betül Batır on 24 February 2022.

ECOEI plans to continue the seminar series and aims to publish a Paper Series on Education Thinkers by commissioning papers of experts on education thinkers in the ECO region.

B. 7. Participation at the Conference on “Good Practices in Language Education: Action Research Conference”



Prof. M. Akif Kireççi gave a talk titled “Difficulties Encountered in Teaching the Languages of the ECO Region, Current Problems and Suggestions for Solutions” at

the “Good Practices in Language Education: Action Research Conference” on May 17, 2022 in Istanbul. The conference was organized by the Board of Education of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye and aimed to disseminate effective language teaching practices and to share the educational content developed in this direction with all language teachers across the country.

At the conference, Prof. Kireççi shared the findings of the ECOEI Language Teaching and Learning workshops with the audience. He stated that all nations need to develop comprehensive language teaching policies that are aligned with economic needs and cultural realities. This includes the creation of flexible and systematic language teaching programs for ECO languages, similar to the European Language Portfolio. In addition, there should be a focus on producing up-to-date, age-appropriate, and scientifically-based materials for language teaching. Integrating new technologies and tools into language teaching practices is also crucial to enhance the learning experience. Furthermore, it is important to take the necessary steps to standardize the assessment processes of ECO languages, ensuring consistency and fairness in evaluating language proficiency.

B. 8. StudyinECO.org



ECO Educational Institute launches a web platform which aims to provide comprehensive information on the scientific and educational institutions of the ECO countries along with country profiles and education statistics. With this website, the prospective students will be able to list available certificate and degree programs, scholarships and exchange opportunities, and filter them according to tuition/fees, languages, application requirements, and process. They will also have access to information on living costs, accommodation, visa, and insurance requirements for each school, and the respective countries. The website may also include interactive features which may allow alumni, prospective students, administrators, and professors to talk to each other, and the ECOEI.

By providing all the necessary information for studying in ECO countries in one database, the web platform aims to make the study choice and application process easier for international students. The database with a wide selection of countries, universities and programs to choose from will also draw the attention of more students and will increase the digital visibility of institutions in the ECO region. ECOEI is currently working to expand the StudyinECO project by acquiring relevant information from the Member States.

B. 9. ECOpedia

ECOEI is currently working on a digital encyclopedia project called ECOpedia that contains information on important people, events, and movements in ECO member countries. The primary objective of the ECOpedia project is to establish an informative platform that fosters a shared cultural understanding among Member Countries. Expert-generated content will be regularly updated and made available on the platform. The project aims to achieve two main goals. Firstly, it seeks to enhance the visibility of the ECO by showcasing its diverse cultural heritage. Secondly, it aims to provide a reliable and accessible source of information on the region's common cultural legacy. ECOEI is dedicated to developing the web design of the ECOpedia project by the end of 2024. The institute is also actively gathering articles and content that cover various topics, ranging from common artistic achievements like paper marbling art to shared scientific legacies such as the Maragheh Observatory, and even natural wonders like Issyk-Kul Lake. ECOpedia is poised to become a valuable resource that celebrates and disseminates the rich cultural heritage of the ECO region.

B. 10. ECOEI Grant for Study Visits in the Field of Language

ECO Educational Institute initiated a scholarship program that offers a limited number of exchange grants each year to outstanding students from the ECOEI Member States who are enrolled in postgraduate programs in literature and language at universities in the ECOEI Member States. The program aims to promote research about the languages in the ECO region, help postgraduate students to develop their research skills, and enhance cooperation opportunities among universities in ECO countries.

The scholarship covers accommodation and travel costs of the student for a duration of 2 weeks at the host institutions which are selected universities at ECOEI Member States with programs that focus on teaching and studying the ECO languages. The students are expected to contact relevant departments and secure an invitation letter from the Host institution for a 2-week period in the fall semester of the next academic year until the specified deadline. The scholarship covers the following fields of study: language teaching, linguistics, literature, translation, and interpretation in Anatolian Turkish, Persian, Azerbaijani Turkish, Kyrgyz, Tajik, and Urdu.

B. 11. Participation to V. International Forum for the Rapprochement of Cultures of Eurasia in Almaty



ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireçci was invited to give a talk at the V. International Forum for the Rapprochement of Cultures of Eurasia on the theme: “Challenges of Global Consciousness: Culture and Conscious Interdependence” organized by UNESCO on October 24-26, 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



In his speech titled “Culture: Reference for Clash or Cooperation?” President Kireççi underlined the importance of peace, coming together and understanding each other in tackling problems humanity is facing and is going to face in the future. With more serious troubles like climate change, diseases and depleting resources, President Kireççi stated that the human race cannot afford to let crises drive us further apart. He underscored the role of trade, science, and education in bringing about more intercultural understanding and restoring cultures of cooperation. He also highlighted the role of education as the most efficient and sensible way to introduce different cultures to people, prevent intercultural discord, eliminate prejudices, and overcome stereotypes at an early age.

B. 12. Participation to Istanbul Education Summit 2022





ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi, together with his team attended the Istanbul Education Summit organized by the Turkish Maarif Foundation on the topic “The Future of School: The Post-Pandemic Needs of Education” on 4-5 November 2022 in Istanbul.

The Summit was attended by the Ministers of Education of various countries, and the global education community including academicians, rectors, teachers, and students from all over the world. One high-level meeting, three panels and one teachers' panel took place where contemporary issues regarding education were on the agenda with a focus on the future of education in the aftermath of the pandemic. In this international platform, topics including “The Future of School: Post-Pandemic Needs of Education,” “Back to School,” “The Future of COVID Generation,” “Differentiated Education,” and “Alternative Pursuits in Education” were discussed for two days.

During the Education Summit, ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and his team actively participated in various social programs that brought together the ECOEI delegation and teachers and students from Maarif Schools in ECO Member states. These programs provided a setting for meaningful interactions and cultural exchanges, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among educators and students from different backgrounds. Through these engagements, the ECOEI delegation had the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the educational practices and experiences of Maarif Schools, contributing to the educational cooperation and cross-cultural learning within the ECO region.

B. 13. Participation to the Workshop “Being an International Student in Türkiye: Problems and Challenges.”

Türkiye'de Uluslararası Öğrenci Olmak
Sorunlar ve Zorluklar Çalıştayı

Öğrenci Konuşmaları

Açılış Konuşmaları

- 1. Durum:** Türkiye'de Uluslararası Öğrenci Olmak
- 2. Durum:** Uluslararası Öğrenci Olmanın Sorunları ve Zorlukları
- 3. Durum:** Uluslararası Öğrencilerin Kurumları ve İşleri
- 4. Durum:** Uluslararası Öğrencilerin ve Öğretmenlerin Perspektifleri

İngilizce Ortamında

22 Kasım 2022 Salı
09:00 - 17:30
0505 355 30 30

Ankara Plaza Boyutları Veli Üniversitesi Mahallesi Salonu
(Ortaokul Mahallesi, Ankara Sok. No: 92/3, Tuz Gölü, Beşiktaş, İstanbul / Türkiye)

TEV **UDEF** **ASSMA KÖPRÜ**



The ECOEI delegation participated in the workshop titled “Being an International Student in Türkiye: Problems and Challenges” on 22 November 2022. The workshop, organized by the Social Sciences University of Ankara, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Federations of International Student Associations, and Asma Kopru International Student Association, comprised of four informative sessions. Esteemed academics, students, and representatives from non-governmental organizations served as speakers, providing valuable insights on various topics related to international students in Türkiye.

The sessions delved into crucial aspects such as the definition of international students in Türkiye and the broader concept of migration, as well as the social perceptions surrounding migration. The second session focused on exploring the expectations of international students and shedding light on the official processes they encounter when dealing with government institutions.

By actively engaging in this workshop, the ECOEI delegation contributed to the comprehensive discussion surrounding the experiences, challenges, and support mechanisms for international students in Türkiye. The collaborative efforts of the organizers and the diverse range of participants fostered an inclusive and informative environment, aiming to enhance the overall experience and well-being of international students in the country.

B. 14. Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series -1 Workshop on Mathematics Education in Secondary Schools in Türkiye





ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) organized a two-day “Workshop on Mathematics Education in Secondary Schools in Türkiye” between 24-25 November in Ankara. The workshop was the first one of the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education that brings together researchers, educators, administrators, and students in the field of science and math education. The aim of these workshops is to address the issues, strengths and best practices in the field, to assist the education of new generations in fundamental sciences, and to contribute to the development of education in various fields such as engineering, economics and medicine.

In this workshop, ECO Educational Institute brought together several academicians from mathematics and mathematics education departments in higher education and secondary and high school mathematics teachers. The first day of the workshop was devoted to the discussion of current issues in the discipline, and on the second day, best practices and policy recommendations were suggested. Each session was followed by a Q&A session, where the other speakers had the chance to ask questions, discuss the topic, and provide valuable input.

The workshop started with the opening speech of President of ECOEI Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi, who highlighted the important role of fundamental sciences in education, and economic development. His speech was followed by the opening speech of Prof. Dr. Ahmet Arıkan from Gazi University, Faculty of Education, Department of Mathematics and Science Education. The first session held by Prof. Dr. Ahmet Arıkan and Ömer

Faruk Çetinkaya from Altındağ Hacı Bayram Veli Sports High School provided a critical approach to the exam-based teaching in mathematics. In the second session, Assoc. Dr. Nazan Sezen Yüksel from Hacettepe University held her presentation titled “New generation questions and the cognitive burden they place on students”. In the third session held by Assoc. Dr. Burçak Boz Yaman from Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University and Gülşad Köse from Ayşe Gülsevîm-Ali Rüştü Kaynak Anatolian High School in Muğla, the speakers discussed the role of high school mathematics teachers’ subject matter and field education knowledge in the learning journey of secondary school students. In the fourth session, Prof. Dr. Berna Cantürk Günhan from Dokuz Eylül University and Behiye Dinçer Aksoy from Kafaca Kaplancık Secondary School in Muğla talked about the problems experienced while teaching and learning mathematical concepts in secondary school classes. The last session was titled “The place and importance of visualization in mathematics education” by Dr. Handan Demircioğlu from Sivas Cumhuriyet University and Sabiha Kartalçı from Sivas Science and Art Centre (BİLSEM). This presentation discussed how to effectively use visual materials in lessons and textbooks.

The second day of the workshop on 25 November 2022 started with the presentation titled “Visualization in mathematics education in the context of nonverbal proofs and origami” held by Dr. Handan Demircioğlu from Sivas Cumhuriyet University and Sabiha Kartalçı from Sivas Science and Art Centre (BİLSEM). Then, Assoc. Dr. Nazan Sezen Yüksel from Hacettepe University together with Tuğçem Eroğlu from Ankara Mamak Science and Art Center (BİLSEM) discussed “Python applications of divisibility rules and proof,” “Algorithmic thinking: Which numbers are prime numbers?” and “Mathematics and Art: Escher and Symmetry Groups.” In the third session, Gülşad Köse from Ayşe Gülsevîm-Ali Rüştü Kaynak Anatolian High School together with Assoc. Dr. Burçak Boz Yaman from Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University shared her personal journey in teaching mathematics in her speech titled “A high school teacher’s journey of conceptual self-development in algebra”. Prof. Dr. Berna Cantürk Günhan from Dokuz Eylül University and Behiye Dinçer Aksoy from Kafaca Kaplancık Secondary School in Muğla presented their talk “Learning the concepts of algebra and geometry through coding in secondary school classes” at the fourth session of the day. Lastly, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Arıkan, Gazi University talked about “Using Voice Assistants” in mathematics lessons, in which prospects for robot mathematics teachers and teacher competencies of the future were discussed.

The findings of the workshop were documented by the research team consisting of Prof. Dr. Selami Ercan from Gazi University, Dr. Hatice Aydan Kaplan from Gazi University, and Dr. Emine Nur Ünveren Bilgiç from Düzce University. The findings of this comprehensive workshop will be published in the form of a report in Turkish and English before the end of 2023.

B. 15. Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series -2 Workshop on Mathematics Education at Undergraduate Level in Türkiye





The Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) organized a two-day “Workshop on Mathematics Education at Undergraduate Level in Türkiye” between 8-9 December 2022 in Ankara. This is the second workshop of the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education that brings together researchers, educators, administrators, and students in the field of science and math education.



In this workshop, several academicians and students from universities came together to discuss the state, strengths, and weaknesses of mathematics education at undergraduate level in Türkiye and talk about possible recommendations and areas that need improving. 10 presentations on mathematics education were held during the two days of the workshop. Each session was followed by a Q&A session, where the other speakers and the audience had the chance to ask questions, discuss the topic, and provide their input.

The workshop started with the opening speech of President of ECOIE Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi, who introduced the Institute and its activities, and underlined the significant role of mathematics education for economic, scientific, and technical progress. His speech was followed by the opening speech of Prof. Dr. Ahmet Arıkan from Gazi University.

The first presentation was held by Tuğba Pakel from Ankara University with the title “Ideas of a student about education in mathematics departments.” Prof. Dr. Sait Halıcıoğlu from Ankara University talked about the problems faced in mathematics education in the Science Faculties and provided suggestions for improvement. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Çiğdem Özcan from Hacettepe University delivered a presentation with the title “Education of mathematicians in a changing world” recommending spending time with students, being aware of their problems and helping them to advance in their personal and academic lives efficiently. In the fourth session, Prof. Dr. Naim Tuğlu from Gazi University highlighted the importance of logic and reasoning in mathematics education. In the last session of the day, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Handan Köse from Ahi Evran University held a presentation titled

“Motivation to Interpret and Model Mathematics” highlighting that the teaching staff at the faculties had to be ready to implement change.

The second day started with the presentation of Dilara Dişlek from Gazi University, who provided an evaluation of the curriculum from the perspective of a student. Prof. Dr. Erdinç Çakıroğlu from METU gave a speech on the fundamentals, problems and future of mathematics teacher training approaches. The third session was held by Prof. Dr. Şenol Dost from Hacettepe University in which he explored the extent of content knowledge a mathematics teacher is supposed to have. Prof. Dr. Selami Ercan from Gazi University talked about “Mathematics Education: Problems and Solutions in the Context of Elective Courses and Teaching Practice” underlining the importance of teaching practice opportunities for pre-service teachers. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Baki Şahin from Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University gave a presentation about mathematics teaching programs and their problems, sharing some of the opinions and concerns of students at mathematic departments.

The findings of the workshop were documented by a reporting committee team consisting of Prof. Dr. Selami Ercan from Gazi University, Dr. Hatice Aydan Kaplan from Gazi University, and Dr. Emine Nur Ünveren Bilgiç from Düzce University. The findings of this comprehensive workshop will be published in the form of a report in Turkish and English before the end of 2023.

B. 16. Symposium on Education Thinkers





ECO Educational Institute organized a two-day symposium on Education Thinkers on December 23rd and 24th, 2022. The first day of the symposium was held at Gazi University and started with opening speeches from Academic Council Member Professor Hasan Bacanlı, ECOEI President Professor Mehmet Akif Kireççi, and Gazi University Rector Professor Musa Yıldız. The keynote speech was given by Professor Niyazi Karasar.



The first panel of the day started with the presentation titled “Ziya Gökalp: The Education Ideologist of the Republic” by Professor Sadık Kartal from Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, Faculty of Education. In the second presentation of the panel, Professor Bahri Ata from Gazi University, Faculty of Education gave a talk on Haşim Nahit Erbil’s views on education to produce modern technology. After that, Dr. Seval Hallaç provided input

on Namik Kemal's views on women's education, followed by Rifat Dağlı from Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, who talked about Muallim Cevdet's thoughts and observations on education.



In the second panel, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bayram Özer from Ondokuz Mayıs University, Faculty of Education discussed Al-Ghazali's views and provided a comparison with

contemporary thinkers. The second speech of the panel held by Yusuf Ziya Aktaş from Gazi University was about Mehmet Zekai Konrapa and the teaching of Islamic History. The last speaker of the second panel Assoc. Prof. Dr. Volkan Duran from Iğdır University, Faculty of Science and Letters presented a talk on Sadreddin Konevi's moral classification in the context of Kohlberg's theory of moral development.



The third and last panel of the day started with Prof. Dr. Selçuk Uygun from Süleyman Demirel University, who delivered a presentation on Kâzım Nami Duru, Duru's place in the history of Turkish education and his philosophy of education. Kadir Ceylan's from Yüksek İhtisas University gave a talk with the title "Educationist Officer Kazım Nami Duru's Thoughts on Education in the Founding Years of the Republic." Lastly, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gönül Türkan Demir from Amasya University made a presentation titled "Sergeant Teachers' Training Centers in the Writings of Primary Education Inspectors Osman Turgut Erkekli and Süleyman Edip Balkır." The so called "Çavuş Öğretmenler Ocağı" (Sergeant Teachers' Training Center) was a project where people who had completed their military service as sergeants were trained for 6 months to be employed as teachers in their own villages, as it was difficult to find trained teachers who were willing to go to the remotest corners of the country.

The second day of the Education Thinkers Symposium was held at a hotel nearby the Gazi University. The first panel started with a presentation by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferah Güçlü Yılmaz, who shared her insights on Sadrettin Celal Antel's educational approach and contributions to the Turkish education system. Her presentation was followed by Prof.

Dr. Hamide Kılıç from Manisa Celal Bayar University, who delivered a presentation with the title “A Multifaceted Educator of the Republican Era: Sadrettin Celâl Antel”. Ömer Faik Numanzade was the topic of the third speech at this panel presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. İkrâm Çınar from Kafkas University. Gülden Günaydın from Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, Hasan Ali Yücel Faculty of Education held the last speech of the panel about people who were raised in the Selahattin Ertürk School.

In the second panel, the symposium proceeded with a presentation on Mustafa Şekip Tunç’s philosophy of education in the context of pluralism and personalism given by Prof. Dr. Levent Bayraktar from Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Savaş Karagöz from Aksaray University, Faculty of Education delivered a speech about Süleyman Şevket Tanlı’s understanding of education. Lastly, Erol Kömür spoke on educational pioneers who initiated intelligence and talent testing studies in Türkiye.

In the last panel of the symposium, Musa Bardak from Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University delivered his speech on Ahmet Kemal Pasha and the role of Ottoman education in the transition to public administration. The second speaker of the panel Prof. Dr. Funda Demirel from Ankara University talked about İsmail Hakkı Tonguç’s understanding of economic and social development as an educational thinker. The last speaker was Prof. Dr. Tuğçe Arıkan from Bilkent University, who discussed the Educator İsmail Hakkı Tonguç. The symposium ended with a closing speech by Professor Hasan Bacanlı.

ECOEI intends to repeat similar events regarding education thinkers in Member countries.

B. 17. Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series -3 Workshop on Biology Education in Türkiye





ECOEI organized a two-day “Workshop on Challenges and Solution Suggestions in Biology Education at Middle School, High School and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” between February 23-24, 2023 in Ankara. The workshop brought together academics, teachers, experts, undergraduate and graduate students to discuss the current state of biology education at various levels and explore strategies for its improvement. This is the third workshop of the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education.

The workshop started with opening speeches by Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi, the President of the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute, and Prof. Dr. Mahmut Selvi, the Dean of Gazi University Gazi Faculty of Education.

The presentations on the first day of the workshop mainly focused on the ideal structure of science education, challenges faced in undergraduate programs, issues encountered in middle school and high school programs, deficiencies in teaching materials used at middle and high school levels (such as scientific errors in textbooks and infrastructure deficiencies), inability to conduct laboratory practices, and the topic of pedagogical formation. Opening presentation titled “Science Education in the 21st Century” was by Prof. Dr. Semra Mirici, a faculty member at Gazi University Faculty of Education and the Chair of the Workshop Organization Committee. The second presentation was held by Prof. Dr. Ali Gül from Gazi University Faculty of Education titled “The Challenges and Proposed Solutions in Biology Education Undergraduate Programs.”

In the session where the “Teacher Perspectives on High School Biology Education Programs” were presented, teacher Neslihan Soysal from Private Hacettepeliler Educational Institution Anatolian High School, Yasemin Horasan from İzmir Anatolian High School, Dr. Aynur Elif Bulut from Ankara Science High School and Dr. Kurtuluş Atlı discussed their experiences, addressed the problems encountered both in the classroom and outside, and offered innovative solutions by providing concrete examples.



The next session of the workshop continued with the presentation titled “Analysis of High School and Middle School Biology Education Materials,” by Prof. Dr. Ertunç Gündüz and Prof. Dr. Mehmet Yılmaz, who emphasized how crucial it is for textbooks to be free from erroneous information. The next presentation “Science Education in Primary Education,” was delivered by Prof. Dr. Füsün Eyidoğan from Başkent University, who stressed the importance of imparting higher-order skills such as scientific thinking, inquiry, and problem-solving abilities to students from an early age in order to achieve effective science education. In the session “Challenges and Proposed Solutions in Science Education Undergraduate Programs,” Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Sönmez from Hacettepe University

Faculty of Education highlighted the structure and revisions of the 2018 program by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). In the session “Teacher Perspectives on Middle School Science Education (Biology Education) Program” Aylin Güner Kahraman explained how in-service trainings may help teachers in providing students with lasting learning experiences. The final talk of the workshop “Issues Regarding Pedagogical Formation” was given by Prof. Dr. Tahir Atıcı, who explicated several issues and concerns regarding pedagogical formation certificate programs.

At the closing session of the workshop, the participants took part in one of four focus groups to address and provide solutions for key issues in biology education across different levels. The topics they focused on include curriculum-related challenges, teacher and faculty qualifications, student competencies, teaching environment, textbooks, and teaching methods.

The findings of the workshop were documented by the research team consisting of Prof. Dr. Semra Mirici from Gazi University Gazi Faculty of Education, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Duygu Sönmez from Hacettepe University Faculty of Education, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Alev Özel, Gazi University Gazi Faculty of Education and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurcan Uzel, Gazi University Gazi Faculty of Education. ECOEI has published a report which encompasses the workshop outcomes to maximize its impact, ensuring widespread dissemination.

B. 18. Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series -4 Workshop on Chemistry Education in Türkiye

ECOEI organized a two-day “Workshop on Challenges and Solution Suggestions in Chemistry Education at the Middle School, High School, and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” on 2-3 March in Ankara. The workshop brought together academics, teachers, experts, undergraduate and graduate students from all around the country to discuss the current state of chemistry education at various levels and explore strategies for its improvement. This is the fourth workshop of the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education. The workshop aimed to identify the main problems related to the curriculum of chemistry education at various levels and develop solution suggestions. It also aimed to identify the main issues regarding the qualifications of teachers and instructors and student competencies in chemistry education at different levels and generate solution proposals.

The opening speeches of the workshop were delivered by the ECOEI President Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi, who highlighted the crucial role of chemistry and chemistry education in economic development. In her opening speech titled “Teaching Chemistry as a Science in the 21st Century,” Prof. Dr. Yüksel Altun, faculty member at Gazi University Faculty of Education and the Chair of the Workshop Organization Committee, discussed the purpose and objectives of the workshop, its program, and what is expected from the participants. The final opening speech of the workshop was delivered by Prof. Dr. Mahmut Selvi, the Dean of Gazi University Gazi Faculty of Education.





The first presentation titled “Perspectives on Chemistry Education: Chemistry Curriculum, Skills, and Integration into the Teaching Process” was presented by Prof. Dr. Alipaşa Ayas, from Bilkent University and Dr. Mehmet Bilgi, a chemistry teacher at Gebze TÜBİTAK Science High School, who introduced the skill-based chemistry curriculum that has been implemented at Gebze TÜBİTAK Science High School. Prof. Dr. Eylem Bayır from Trakya University Faculty of Education and Teacher Dr. Fatma Emel Işık focused on addressing the challenges and proposing solutions in teaching chemistry in their talk “Chemistry Education Problems and Solution Suggestions from the Perspective of Chemistry Teachers: The Case of Edirne”. The presentation titled “Inadequacy of Chemistry Laboratory Applications at the High School Level and Insufficient Use of



Particle-Level Representations (Animation & Simulation) in Classes” was presented by Assoc. Prof. Sevil Akaygün from Boğaziçi University. The fourth talk was titled “Nature of Chemistry and Systems Approach” in which Assoc. Prof. Halil Tümay from Gazi University argued that chemistry is a science that deals with complex dynamic systems and highlighted the importance of making this implicit structure accessible to students. The fifth presentation of the workshop, titled “Designing Chemistry Lessons with Teaching Methods and Techniques,” was made by Dr. Yasemin Keskin Çinkaya from Bahçeşehir Educational Institutions, who pointed to students’ difficulties in transferring their knowledge to real-life problem-solving, analytical thinking, and

interdisciplinary thinking. Dr. Aysun İnal from the General Directorate of Secondary Education of the Ministry of National Education, discussed the challenges faced by chemistry teachers working in project-based educational institutions in secondary education. The seventh presentation of the workshop was by Ali Buğday who is a chemistry teacher at Konya Karatay TOKİ Anadolu High School. His presentation discussed the obstacles faced in chemistry education and proposed possible solutions to overcome them.

The second day of the workshop started with the talk titled “Investigating the Problems in Chemistry Education from the Pedagogical Formation Perspective.” by Prof. Dr. Nilgün Seçken from Hacettepe University Faculty of Education. The next presentation by Prof. Dr. Zübeyde Demet Kırbulut Güneş from Gazi University was titled “Anatomy of Student Engagement in Active Learning Environments in Undergraduate Chemistry Courses.” Prof. Dr. Sevgi Aydın Günbatar from Van Yüzüncü Yıl University gave a talk titled “Problems in Chemistry Teacher Education at the Undergraduate Level” which discussed the concept of pedagogical content knowledge as a unique blend of subject matter knowledge and pedagogical knowledge. The final presentation of the workshop titled “Laboratory Usage in Chemistry Education” consisted of two parts. In the first part, Prof. Dr. Faik Karataş from Trabzon Fatih Faculty of Education, discussed the problems related to laboratory usage in chemistry education. In the second part, Özge Göktürk, a teacher working at the Science and Art Center, addressed the issues encountered in laboratories in science and art centers.

At the closing session of the workshop, the participants took part in one of two focus groups to address and provide solutions for key issues in chemistry education at secondary and university levels. The topics they focused on ranged from inter-faculty collaboration to effectiveness and applicability of innovative approaches and good practices. ,

The findings of the workshop were documented by the research team consisting of Prof. Dr. Yüksel Altun, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Yalçın Çelik, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hakkı Kadayıfçı, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sevinç Nihal Yeşiloğlu, and Dilay Dinçdemir. ECOEI has published a report which encompasses the workshop outcomes to maximize its impact, ensuring widespread dissemination.

B. 19. Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop Series -5 Workshop on Interdisciplinary Approach to Physics Education in Türkiye

ECOEI organized a two-day “Workshop on Interdisciplinary Approach in Physics Education at Middle School, High School and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” on 27-28 April in Ankara. This is the fifth and last workshop of the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education that brings together researchers, educators, administrators, and students in the field of Fundamental Sciences Education. “The Interdisciplinary Approach

Workshop in Physics Education at Middle School, High School, and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” aims to explore innovative teaching methods that integrate multiple disciplines into physics education. This workshop provided a platform for educators, researchers, and professionals from various fields to come together and discuss the benefits and challenges of interdisciplinary approaches in physics education.



In this workshop, ECO Educational Institute brought together several academicians not only from physics and physics education departments but also various fields such as faculty of architecture, health, sport, and dentistry etc. On the initial day of the workshop, participants engaged in a comprehensive exploration of the prevailing challenges within the discipline. On the second day, attendees actively shared their insights by presenting exemplary approaches and offering policy recommendations. Each session was followed by an interactive Q&A session, fostering further discussion, encouraging questions from fellow speakers, and facilitating valuable contributions.

The workshop started with the opening speech of President of ECOEI Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi, who highlighted the important role of fundamental sciences in education, and economic development. His speech was followed by the opening speech of Prof. Dr. Ahmet İlhan Şen from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Education, Department of Mathematics and Science Education.

The first presentation was presented by Prof. Dr. Vedat Özsoy from TOBB ETU (Economy and Technology University), Faculty of Fine Arts, Design, and Architecture, titled “From Science Education to Art Education, From Art Education to Science Education!”. In his presentation, he discussed and explored the intersection and connections between science education and art education. The second presentation was held by Prof. Dr. Gıyasettin Demirhan from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Sports Sciences, titled “The Place of

Human Movement in Physics and the Acculturating Movement”. This presentation discussed the relationship between human movement and the field of physics and how physics principles and concepts intersect with various forms of human movement. The third presentation was by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Çolakoğlu from Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University, titled “The Interaction between Physics Science and Engineering Fields”. In his presentation, he discussed how engineering applications and technologies have been developed through the integration of physics concepts. In the fourth session, Merve İkiz from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Health Sciences made her presentation titled “The Physical Foundations of Audiology.” In her presentation, she discussed “How Do We Hear? Physical Principles and the Contribution of Physics Science to Audiology.” The fifth presentation was made by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Fatih Karakaya, TOBB ETU (Economy and Technology University), from the Faculty of Architecture and Design. The last presentation was made by Prof. Dr. Şenol Dost and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nazan Sezen Yüksel from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Education, titled “Understanding and Interpreting Physics through Mathematics.”

The second day of the workshop started with the presentation titled “Astronomy for Physics” by Prof. Dr. Faruk Soyduğan from Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Faculty of Science. Then, Prof. Dr. Meryem Uzamış Tekçiçek and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bengisu Akarsu Güven from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Dentistry made a presentation titled “Where Does Physics Stand in Dentistry?” In their presentation, they discussed and highlighted the physics principles underlying the design and function of various dental instruments and tools, such as ultrasonic scalers, dental drills, and laser devices. The third presentation was made by Dr. Mona Aykul from DAS Academy, titled “The Creative Journey of Technology and Physics” highlighting the use of physics-based algorithms, or gamified language learning platforms. The fourth presentation was by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Davut Sarıtaş from Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University, Faculty of Education, titled “Philosophy, Science, and Physics.” Which pointed to the complementary nature of philosophy, science, and physics and how they inform and influence one another. The last presentation of the workshop was by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gülşah Sever, from Gazi Faculty of Education titled “The Fusion of Music and Physics in Education”. In her presentation, she focused on how the physical properties of sound, such as frequency, amplitude, and harmonics, relate to musical concepts like pitch, volume, and timbre.

The workshop concluded with the panel discussion titled “Reflections of Different Disciplines on Physics Education.” The panelists consisted of Caner Koç from Sınav Schools, Hüsnü Akalın from Renko Educational Tools Production Center, Derya Özen from Etimesgut Science and Art Center, Arife Parmaksızoğlu from the Ministry of National Education Measurement, Evaluation, and Exam Services General Directorate,

Dr. Meral Güngör Babaoğlu from Yasemin Karakaya Science and Art Center, and İnci Çakır, a student from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Education. They discussed several questions such as: “Why can’t we learn physics at the level we imagine? Is physics really difficult? Why do we struggle to relate physics concepts to everyday life? What are we missing when teaching physics? What does physics study? Are the methods and environment we use to teach physics appropriate? What are the reasons for not being able to teach physics at the level we expect in our country?”

The findings of the workshop are documented by the research team consisting of Prof. Dr. Ahmet İlhan Şen from Hacettepe University, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Oktay from Atatürk University, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haki Peşman from Fırat University, Dr. Serkan Ekinci from Hacettepe University, and Head Teacher Arife Parmaksızoğlu from the Ministry of National Education. The findings are published in the form of a report in Turkish and English.

B. 20. Mathematics Education Day



ECOEI partnered with academic institutions, including Gazi University, Middle East Technical University, and Hacettepe University to organize Mathematics Education Day in Ankara on May 9, 2023. The event was hosted by Gazi University.

The objective of Mathematics Education Day was to provide a scholarly platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas within the field of mathematics education. The first speaker, Prof. Dr. Erdinç Çakıroğlu delivered a presentation with the title “Future of The Research on Mathematics Education: Educational Design Research and Outcomes.” With a keen focus on Educational Design Research (EDR), he provided valuable insights into the potential trajectory of mathematics education studies and its impact on educational outcomes. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Yavuzsoy Köse held a presentation titled “The Role of Construction and Construction Problems in Geometric Thinking,” which highlighted the role of geometric constructions and their importance in mathematics education. The third speaker Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Zengin provided an evaluation of the intermediary role of technology in teaching calculus. Zengin argued that that supporting the process dimensions of reasoning, such as justification, comparison, verification, assumption, and generalization, contributes to students’ construction of calculus concepts. Prof. Dr. Dilek Tanışlı’s speech titled “Mathematical Thinking: The Versatility of Algebraic Thinking” highlighted that early introduction and exposure to mathematical concepts, such as patterns and relationships, can significantly support the development of algebraic thinking in students. The program ended with the presentation of the last speaker Dr. Bahadır Yıldız on the technological side of mathematics teaching and introduced models that help understand the challenges teachers face when adopting technology in their teaching practices.





Through these events, ECOIE seeks to build stronger networks among educators and researchers to collectively address challenges and propose sustainable solutions for enhancing education.

C. COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION MEETINGS

C. 1. Consultation Meeting on Internationalization of Higher Education Index

The ECO Educational Institute has created an expert work group and conducted the preliminary consultation meeting on the Internationalization of Higher Education in ECO member states on November 27, 2020. The work group is adjusting and applying an internationalization index to assess and assist universities in ECO Member States in their internationalization efforts.

C. 2. Consultative Meetings with the Web Designers for StudyinECO.org

Several meetings were conducted with web designers to develop the website studyinECO.org. The initial consultation meeting took place on July 23, 2020, and following that, a 10-year domain name “studyinECO.org” was acquired. On February 5, 2021, the web designers presented the first version of the website, along with the StudyinECO logo. Subsequently, professional designers made revisions to the logo, and the second version was submitted on February 26, 2021. The final design for the logo was approved on March 2, 2021.

To ensure that the website meets ECOEI’s requirements, another meeting was held with the web designer on September 7, 2021, where specific features and style preferences were discussed. The mock-up website was shared with participants at the High Level University Representatives Forum, held online on September 30, 2021, to gather feedback and test its functionality. ECOEI also requested Member Countries to provide relevant information about their higher education institutions and programs for inclusion on the StudyinECO website.

C. 3. Meeting with Members of the ECO Academic Council

On April 8, 2021, a meeting was held with Prof. Dr. Hasan Bacanlı, a member of the ECOEI Academic Council. During the meeting, President Kireççi provided Prof. Bacanlı with an overview of the projects and activities planned by ECOEI. There was a fruitful exchange of opinions regarding the Internationalization of Higher Education Project as well as education models. Prof. Bacanlı agreed to write a theoretical work on how to create educational model and present it to ECOEI, while also informing his teammates who would be involved in the project. To further advance the project planning, ECOEI and the team scheduled a virtual meeting to take place within two months.

C. 4. Consultation Meeting with President of the Maarif Foundation

A consultation meeting was held between Prof. Dr. M. Akif Kireççi and the President of the Maarif Foundation Prof. Dr. Birol Akgün on September 6, 2021. During the meeting,

President Kireççi informed Prof. Dr. Birol Akgün about the Institute, its latest events, and achievements. Future collaborations between the Institute and the Maarif Foundation were also discussed.

C. 5. Lunch Meeting with Representatives from ECO Member Countries



The Educational Institute held a lunch meeting with education attaches from the Embassies of ECO Member Countries and representatives of the Ministry of National Education of Republic of Türkiye on October 21, 2021. At the meeting, President of ECOEI Prof. M. Akif Kireççi gave information about the progress in implementing the projects in ECOEI's work program and the effect of the pandemic on some projects. He asked for their cooperation in bringing the postponed projects to full speed in the coming period. Member countries were asked to provide information about the problems their students experience when coming to Türkiye to collect background knowledge for devising an International Student Guidebook, which will eventually cover all ECOEI Member countries. A selection of ECOEI publications and a copy of the work program were presented to the participants.

C. 6. Online Meeting with the Strategy and Budget Department of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye

ECOEI held an online meeting with the Strategy and Budget Department of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye on December 1, 2021. The Strategy and Budget Department proposed a Vocational Education Project to be supervised by the ECO Educational Institute in the upcoming years to foster an exchange of know-how and skills in vocational education in ECO Member states.

C. 7. Participation to the 20th National Education Council of Republic of Türkiye



ECOEI attended the 20th National Education Council organized by the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye in Ankara on December 1-3, 2021. The National Education Councils are organized regularly since 1939 to discuss and take advisory decisions about education in the country. The council is composed of representatives from education-related sectors all across the country and the decisions taken at the council serve as policy recommendations.



During the 20th National Education Council, three specialization commissions were established to focus on key subjects: “equal opportunity in basic education,” “improvement of vocational education,” and “professional development of teachers.” As a notable development, ECOEI was invited as an observer for the first time, demonstrating recognition of its expertise and contribution to the education field. ECOEI actively participated in both the commission on the professional development of teachers and the improvement of vocational education, sharing insights and experiences from the ECO region.

C. 8. Consultative Meetings with the Web Designers for StudyinECO.org

ECOEI held a series of productive and collaborative consultative meetings in February 2022 with the web Designers as the StudyinECO.org project continued. On February 10, 2022, the initial set of test data was provided to the web designers, allowing them to refine and improve the website. These meetings served as crucial milestones in the development of StudyinECO.org, an ambitious initiative by ECOEI to create an innovative and comprehensive platform for international education in the ECO region.

C. 9. Visit to the Ministry of National Education, Republic of Türkiye

On February 21, 2022, ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi paid a visit to Mr. Hasan Ünsal, the recently appointed General Director of EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, in his office. The purpose of the visit was to congratulate Ünsal on his new position and extend well wishes for his role.

During the meeting, Prof. Kireççi took the opportunity to provide an overview of ECOEI and discuss the various activities and initiatives undertaken by the Institute. He highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation between the Ministry of National Education and ECOEI in advancing educational goals within the ECO region.

Ünsal, in turn, expressed his appreciation for the visit and expressed interest in the work of ECOEI. He acknowledged the significance of ECOEI's efforts in promoting educational cooperation and expressed his willingness to work closely with the Institute.

The meeting served as a platform for both parties to exchange ideas and insights, fostering a stronger understanding of each other's roles and goals. It laid the foundation for future cooperation and collaboration between the Ministry of National Education and ECOEI, with the shared objective of enhancing educational opportunities and quality within the ECO region.

C. 10. Consultative Meetings with Digital Experts from Various Universities

ECOEI held two consultation meetings with esteemed scholars and experts from various universities in Ankara on February 21, 2022 and March 23, 2022. The meetings served as an opportunity for experts to provide valuable insights and technical expertise in support of ECOEI's initiatives.

One key focus of the discussions was the enhancement of ECOEI's digital platforms for hosting online seminars. Scholars shared their knowledge and recommendations regarding the use of advanced technology to enable the simultaneous broadcast of seminars in multiple languages. This valuable input will contribute to the development of a more inclusive and accessible platform for knowledge sharing and engagement.

ECOpedia, a knowledge-sharing platform initiated by ECOEI, was a central topic of discussion during the meeting. The scholars generously shared their expertise and insights to enhance the platform's user experience and interface. They identified ways to streamline navigation, enhance search functionalities, and optimize the overall user experience. Their valuable suggestions and recommendations were aimed at making ECOpedia more accessible and user-friendly for a wide range of audiences.

The meeting proved to be highly productive, focusing on significant aspects of the organization's initiatives, including the ECOpedia project.

C. 11. Visit by General Director of EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education to ECOEI

Mr. Hasan Ünsal, General Director of EU and Foreign Relations of the Ministry of National Education, visited ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi at the ECOEI premises on March 28, 2022. President Kireççi informed Ünsal in detail about ECOEI's background and its ongoing projects, like the seminar series on Education Thinkers, the High Level University Representatives Forum, the publication of the Language Learning and Teaching Reports, and the publication of the book *Mathematics Education in the Economic Cooperation Organization Countries: Analysis of TIMSS and PISA Surveys*. President Kireççi also mentioned future plans and projects such as the studyinECO.org website and the International Student Guidebook. General Director Ünsal was also offered copies of the most recent publications of ECOEI.

C. 12. Roundtable Meeting at Tarabya Schools

President M. Akif Kireççi participated to the Roundtable Discussions on Internationalization of Education at Tarabya Schools in İstanbul on April 17, 2022. The President discussed the unequal nature of internationalization in education, the impact of digitalization, and the changing value of university diplomas in a world with abundant knowledge and scarce jobs. He also highlighted the potential of hybrid learning to address some challenges. He pointed out that internationalization is often characterized by an unequal flow of educational programs, foreign staff, and curricula from developed to developing countries, while students mainly come from the developing world. Roundtable Discussions on Internationalization of Education shed light on several complexities and disparities inherent in the process and provided a foundation for meaningful discussions on how to address these issues.

C. 13. Consultative Meetings with the Web Designers for StudyinECO.org

ECOEI held a series of meeting in April and May 2022 to discuss the website design and software development for the StudyinECO.org project. The concluding meeting took place on May 12, 2022 for finalization of the Web design. On June 21, 2022, ECOEI commenced data entry into the website.

These meetings and collaborations with web designers have been instrumental in shaping the StudyinECO.org website, ensuring its functionality, and populating it with relevant and accurate data. ECOEI is committed to providing a comprehensive and user-friendly

platform that facilitates access to information about higher education institutions and programs in the ECO region.

C. 14. Visit by the Turkish Board of Education to ECOEI

A delegation from the Ministry of National Education paid a visit to the ECOEI headquarters on June 17, 2022. The delegation included Bekir Şirin, Head of the Department of Teacher Qualifications and Relations with Higher Education Institutions at the General Directorate of Teacher Training and Development, and Ayhan Öztürk from the Turkish Board of Education. The officials referred to the implications of President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi's speech at the Conference on Applications in Language Teaching held by the Education Board on May 17, 2022, in Istanbul and discussed current problems and suggestions for the challenges encountered in teaching the languages of the ECO region. The Parties also deliberated on ECOEI's contribution to teacher training programs and establishing linkage between higher education institutions and teachers at primary/secondary schools across the region.

C. 15. Consultative Meeting with a Group of Scholars from Dicle University

On June 24, 2022, a productive consultation meeting took place between ECOEI and a group of scholars, including Mehmet Şirin Cengiz, to discuss the ECOpedia project. During the meeting, experts shared their valuable insights and provided suggestions regarding the content and scope of the project. The participants thoroughly examined and compared various versions of similar projects to gather ideas and inspiration. They explored ways to ensure the production of high-quality content and facilitate smooth entry submission for ECOpedia.

In addition, Cengiz kindly agreed to curate the initial articles of ECOpedia, contributing his expertise to the project. This collaboration between ECOEI and Cengiz aims to create an authoritative and comprehensive digital encyclopedia that reflects the rich cultural heritage and historical significance of the ECO member countries.

C. 16. Consultative Meetings with Mathematics Professors from Gazi University and Ankara University

Consultation meetings with Prof. Dr. Ahmet Arıkan and Prof. Dr. Sait Halıcıoğlu were held on August 29, 2022, and September 1, 2022, about the Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop. ECOEI explained the general framework and the purpose of the Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop to Arıkan and Halıcıoğlu and asked for their collaboration for the workshop. The Parties decided that the first two fundamental sciences to be discussed in the workshop should be Mathematics and Chemistry. Arıkan

and Halıcioğlu stated that they would support ECOEI in improving the content of the workshop and identifying prospective participants.

C. 17. Consultative Meetings with Prof. Dr. Hasan Bacanlı

A consultation meeting with Academic Council Member Prof. Dr. Hasan Bacanlı was held on 16 September 2022 in preparation for the Symposium on Education Thinkers. During the meeting, the delegation from ECOEI engaged in in-depth discussions with Prof. Bacanlı to outline the concept and objectives of the symposium. Prof. Bacanlı's vast knowledge and experience provided invaluable insights, helping to refine the focus and themes that would be covered during the event.

During the meeting, the participants formulated a comprehensive concept paper that outlined the scope, key topics, and expected outcomes of the Symposium on Education Thinkers. This concept paper would serve as the foundation upon which the symposium's program and sessions would be built. The venue was set and the announcements for the symposium were made in digital and formal platforms.

In addition to defining the symposium's content, the dates for the event were set as 23-24 December 2022. Prof. Bacanlı and the ECOEI delegation meticulously considered various factors, including academic calendars, potential participants' availability, and logistical arrangements, to ensure the chosen dates were suitable for all involved.

C. 18. Consultative Meetings with the Scientific Committee of the Symposium on Education Thinkers

On 22 November 2022 and 28 November 2022, two separate meetings were held between a scientific committee led by Prof. Bacanlı and ECOEI to prepare for the Symposium on Education Thinkers. In the first meeting, the scientific committee meticulously reviewed all the submissions received for the symposium. Their rigorous evaluation process resulted in the acceptance of a total of 22 symposium papers. On 28 November, the proposals for a keynote speaker were discussed. After careful consideration, the scientific committee and ECOEI jointly finalized the symposium's program.

C. 19. Consultative Meetings with Officials from Çankaya Municipality and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality

The ECOEI has acquired the legal status of a diplomatic mission in May 2022 since the procedures for the ratification of "The Host Country Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) Relating to the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities of the ECOEI" are completed. As the search for a suitable building for ECOEI continued, consultation meetings were held with officials from Çankaya Municipality and Ankara Metropolitan

Municipality on 12 December 2022 and 15 December 2022. ECOEI was informed about the procedures and requirements for buildings to be allocated as diplomatic missions.

C. 20. Consultative Meetings with Officials from Gazi University on Memorandum of Understanding

Consultation meetings with Prof. Dr. Selami Candan from Gazi University were held on 13 December 2022 and 16 December 2022 about the preparations regarding Symposium on Education Thinkers. The Gazi University agreed to allocate a hall for the symposium and support the announcement. The parties also negotiated the terms for memorandum of understanding to be signed between parties to ease the collaboration for both the symposium and future joint events.

C. 21. Consultative Meetings with Prof. Dr. Semra Mirici and Prof. Dr. Yüksel Altun from Gazi University

A consultation meeting with Prof. Dr. Semra Mirici and Prof. Dr. Yüksel Altun from Gazi University was held on 16 December 2022 about the Fundamental Sciences Education Workshops on Chemistry and Biology. ECOEI explained the general framework and the purpose of the Fundamental Sciences Education Workshop to Prof. Mirici and Prof. Altun. As a framework that can be used for the workshops on chemistry and biology education, President Kireççi presented the processes and modalities of the workshops on Mathematics education in Türkiye that were organized by ECOEI in November and early December. Prof. Mirici and Prof. Altun stated that they would support ECOEI in identifying prospective speakers and participants as well as improving the procedures for reporting of the findings and discussions.

C. 22. Visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran



ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and his delegation met with Dr. Seyed Jaleledin Alavi Sabzevari, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran on January 17th, 2023.

President Kireççi, informed Dr. Alavi about recent events and activities of the ECOEI. The parties discussed the upcoming BoT meeting. President Kireççi explained that seven ECO Member States have ratified the ECOEI Charter and one other country's ratification is pending after signing, which makes ECOEI the largest among ECO Specialized Agencies. The parties also discussed possible collaborations for the internationalization of ECOEI. Prof. Dr. Kireççi presented Dr. Alavi the edited two-volume book titled *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey*.

C. 23. Visit to University of Applied Sciences and Technology, Tehran



President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and his delegation visited the University of Applied Sciences and Technology (UAST) in Tehran on January 17, 2023. Prof. Mohammed Hossain Mousazadeh Meibodi, General Director of International and Scientific Cooperation Office, welcomed the ECOEI delegation and made a presentation on the number of students, student employment, curriculum designations, and the education

system at the university. President Kireççi informed the university officials about ECOEI's latest events, activities, and future projects and commended the university on its innovative teaching and training model. President Kireççi requested that the university officials prepare a report on innovative approaches and the role of the government, as well as the outcomes and satisfaction of students and partner companies of the UAST and its model of vocational education. The university officials expressed their willingness to prepare such a report. The parties also discussed the possibility of organizing a joint conference on applied sciences in Shiraz in cooperation with the ECO Science Foundation and ECO Cultural Institute.

This visit served as a platform for fostering mutual understanding, exploring collaborative opportunities, and strengthening the ties between ECOEI and UAST for the advancement of applied sciences education and research.

C. 24. Visit to Golestan Business Group, Tehran



President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and his delegation visited the Golestan University of Applied Science and Technology in Tehran on January 18, 2023. President Kireççi was hosted by Davood Heidari, Vice President of Golestan Business Group, and Fatemeh Daneshnia, Executive Manager, along with their respective delegations. During the visit, university officials delivered a presentation on their partner companies, instructor profiles, the number of students, student examinations, and student employment. Following the presentation, the parties proceeded to visit the partner companies, which serve as both production areas and educational venues for the students. The first stop was Atlas Khodro, a car engine and vehicle service center. They then visited Komatsu, a company specializing in heavy machinery, and Hoti Kara, a food-production company. Finally, the parties engaged in discussions regarding potential future cooperation opportunities.



C. 25. Visit to El-Yurt Umidi Foundation in Tashkent Uzbekistan



President Kireççi and his delegation paid a visit to El-Yurt Umidi Foundation and met with Deputy Director of the Foundation Javokhir Akmedov on 26 January 2023. Mr. Akmedov stated that the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation was established on September 25, 2018 by the initiative of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to raise a highly educated national intellectual elite. He explained that the foundation

periodically announces and organizes scholarships for young people to study for master and doctoral programs at leading foreign universities and research centers, and internship and short term training programs at prominent world agencies and companies. He further added that on the basis of open scholarship contests, the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation in 2018 selected 375 and in 2019 605 talented and promising specialists who are currently studying in the developed countries throughout the world.



President Kireççi commended El-Yurt Umidi Foundation’s rationale and achievements and pointed towards cooperation opportunities such as exchange programs, joint research projects, and collaborations between the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation and educational institutions in other ECO members. Recognizing the significant impact of international exposure and knowledge exchange, President Kireççi emphasized the importance of fostering partnerships that would benefit both Uzbekistan and ECO Members. He proposed the establishment of short term study visits that would enable bureaucrats and officials from Uzbekistan to engage in academic and professional training in other ECO countries, which would broaden their perspectives and enhance their educational experiences.

President Kireççi’s visit to the El-Yurt Umidi Foundation served as a catalyst for strengthening educational ties between ECOEI and El-Yurt Umidi Foundation. Through exchange programs, joint research projects, and collaborations, the two institutions can leverage their respective strengths and resources to foster mutual learning and development.

C. 26. Meeting with the Academic Coordinator of the Chemistry Education Workshop

On February 1, 2023, ECOEI held a productive meeting with Prof. Yüksel Altun from Gazi University, Department of Chemistry Education, to discuss vital logistical aspects for the successful implementation of the forthcoming Chemistry Education Workshop. The primary focus of the meeting was on finalizing arrangements, providing an optimal discussion environment for participants, and securing the necessary resources and technological support to facilitate the workshops.

The discussions centered on various critical aspects, including venue arrangements, resource materials, technical requirements, and participant engagement. Together, they laid the groundwork to create a conducive atmosphere that fosters meaningful learning experiences and encourages active participation from the workshop attendees.

C. 27. Meeting with the Academic Coordinator of the Biology Education Workshop

ECOEI had a fruitful meeting with Prof. Semra Mirici from Gazi University, Department of Biology Education, to address crucial logistical considerations for the successful execution of the upcoming Biology Education Workshop. The meeting focused on finalization of arrangements, ensuring a conducive learning environment for participants, and securing the necessary resource materials and technological support to be used during the workshops.

During the meeting, both parties actively collaborated to create a well-structured division of labour to ensure a seamless and efficient workshop experience. The delegation and Prof. Mirici worked together to identify potential challenges and proactively find solutions to address them.

C. 28. Meeting with the Expert Group on Development of an Apparatus-Based Mathematics Book

ECOEI held an online meeting with Prof. Dr. Işıkhan Uğurel and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nazan Sezen-Yüksel about The Apparatus Based Mathematics Book on February 13, 2023. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding the content, purpose, and potential development of The Apparatus Based Mathematics Book. Subsequently, the utilization of The Apparatus Based Mathematics Book for the identification of gifted children was deliberated among the member states of the ECO.

C. 29. Consultation Meeting with Academic Coordinator of the Physics Education Workshop

On March 6, 2023, a delegation from ECOEI had a productive meeting with Prof. Ahmet İlhan Şen of Hacettepe University, Department of Physics Education. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss and set the timetable for the preparation of Physics education workshop to be organized by ECOEI.

During the meeting, the delegation and Prof. Ahmet İlhan Şen deliberated on various aspects of the workshop, including the themes, speakers, topics, and target audience. They aimed to design workshops that would be highly beneficial and impactful for the participants.

Prof. Şen shared his valuable insights and expertise, providing guidance on crafting effective workshop content and structuring the sessions. The delegation and Prof. Şen discussed potential collaboration opportunities with other academic institutions and experts to further enrich the workshops' content and expand their reach.

C. 30. Consultation Meeting with Academic Coordinator of the Physics Education Workshop

ECOEI met with Prof. A. İlhan Şen from Hacettepe University to address logistical considerations such as venue arrangements, resource materials, and technological support required for the Physics Education Workshops' successful execution.

By the end of the meeting, a comprehensive timetable was agreed upon, outlining the key milestones and deadlines for each stage of workshop preparation, ensuring a well-organized and smoothly run series of events.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from both parties to work collaboratively towards delivering a high-quality workshop that would foster knowledge exchange. The delegation expressed their gratitude to Prof. Şen for his valuable contributions and support in shaping the workshops' success.

C. 31. Consultation Meeting with Academic Coordinators of the Biology and Chemistry Education Workshops

ECOEI delegation met with Prof. Semra Mirici and Prof. Yüksel Altun from Gazi University on 26 April 2023 to discuss and set the timetable for preparation and publication for the two workshop reports and the separate books on Chemistry and Biology education composed of academic articles presented at the workshops organized by ECOEI in February and March 2023.

C. 32. Online Meeting for the Project on Status of Higher Education in Kazakhstan with Experts from Ahmet Yassawi University

ECOEI organized an online meeting to discuss a collaborative project with Ahmet Yesevi University on May 3, 2023. The meeting focused on the project's structure and content, including the preparation of a comprehensive report consisting of fifteen distinct sections. The report will commence with an introduction that concisely summarizes the present state of higher education in Kazakhstan. It will subsequently do a comprehensive assessment, drawing upon data derived from interviews conducted with researchers, academics, students, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Other sections of the report will cover a range of topics, including the internationalization processes of universities, curriculum development procedures, and technical infrastructures.

C. 33. Consultation Meeting with Academic Coordinators of the Fundamental Science Education Workshops

A consultation meeting with Prof. Dr. Semra Mirici and Prof. Dr. Yüksel Altun from Gazi University was held on 12 June 2023 on the outcomes and reports of the Fundamental Sciences Education Workshops on Chemistry and Biology. The parties discussed the processes and modalities of the reports as well as the prospective books composed of academic articles presented at the workshops organized by ECOEI in February and March 2023.

C. 34. Consultation Meeting with Officials from the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye

A consultation meeting was held on 7 July 2023 with Head of the Department of International Organizations Zeynep Öçgüder and Education Expert Seda Kuzgun from the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye for the organization of the 4th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ECOEI to be held in Istanbul on 3-5 August 2023. The program flow of the meeting and the details of the organization were decided.

C. 35. Consultation Meeting with Officials from the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye

A consultation meeting was held on 24 July 2023, bringing together officials from ECOEI and the General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations at the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye, to discuss the organization of the 4th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of ECOEI. The meeting was specifically aimed at planning the upcoming event, scheduled to take place in Istanbul from 3-5 August 2023. During the meeting, both parties carefully reviewed the crucial logistical considerations to ensure the smooth execution of the event. Matters such as venue, accommodation arrangements, and transportation logistics were meticulously reviewed and finalized to guarantee the comfort and convenience of the attendees.

C. 36. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Eurasian Research Institute

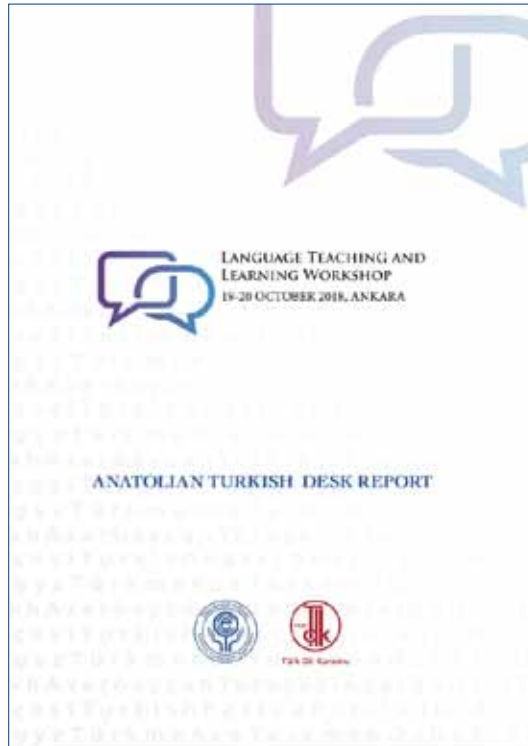
ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi met with the President of the Board of Trustees of Ahmet Yassawi University Prof. Muhittin Şimşek on in Ankara on 27 July 2023. The parties discussed prospective cooperation opportunities between ECOEI and Ahmet Yassawi University's Eurasian Research Institute and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between their respective organizations. Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute and Eurasian Research Institute covers the joint organization of academic activities such as conferences and workshops as well as research projects, publications, and trainings in fields of education, science and culture.

The first joint activity will consist of a research project on the present state of higher education in Kazakhstan. The project aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of Kazakh higher education, drawing upon data derived from interviews conducted with researchers, academics, students, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



D. PUBLICATIONS

D. 1. Report on Anatolian Turkish Language Learning and Teaching



ECO Educational Institute made significant contributions to the field of language teaching and learning by publishing a comprehensive series of reports in December 2021. These reports were based on the outcomes and discussions held during the Language Teaching and Learning Workshop, which took place on October 19-20, 2018 in Ankara. The workshop brought together experts and practitioners in the teaching and learning of various languages, including Turkish, Persian, Kazak, Kyrgyz, Azeri Turkish, Urdu, Uzbek, and the Turkmen language.

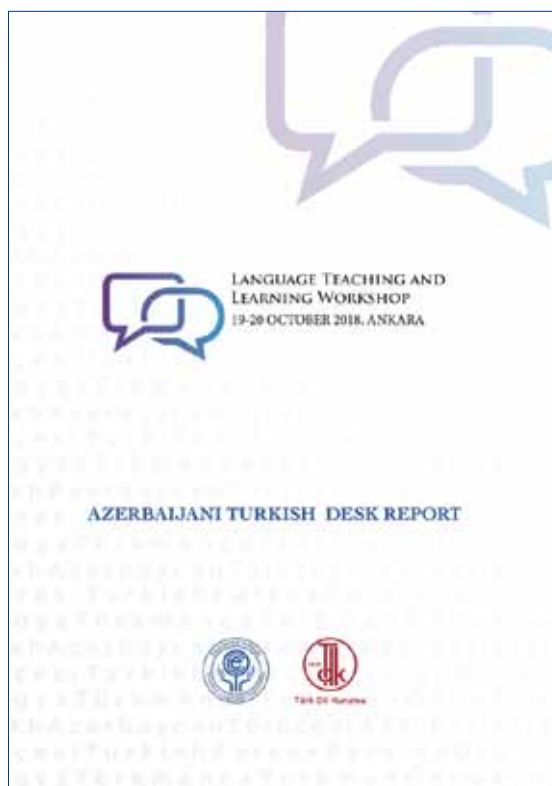
The Report on Anatolian Turkish, published in examines the challenges encountered in the teaching of Turkish and proposes solutions to address them. The problems identified include issues with curricula content and preparation process, the education of instructors and teachers, teaching Turkish as a native language, teaching Turkish as a foreign language, material development, the reading culture, transfer of culture in language teaching, teaching Turkish to immigrants, and standardization and certification in measurement and evaluation.

The report also highlights various teaching methods, good practices, public outreach and analyses of needs, dissemination of academic studies, applications outside schools, collection-based dictionaries, applications on the reading culture, and applications for teaching Turkish to foreigners.

To address these challenges, the report proposes actions such as the production of materials, curriculum development, educating instructors, facilitating the transfer of culture, and implementing effective teaching methods.

By implementing these proposals, it is possible to enhance the teaching and learning of Turkish, improve material development, foster a strong reading culture, promote cultural understanding, address the needs of immigrant learners, and establish standardized evaluation methods.

D. 2. Report on Azerbaijani Turkish Language Learning and Teaching



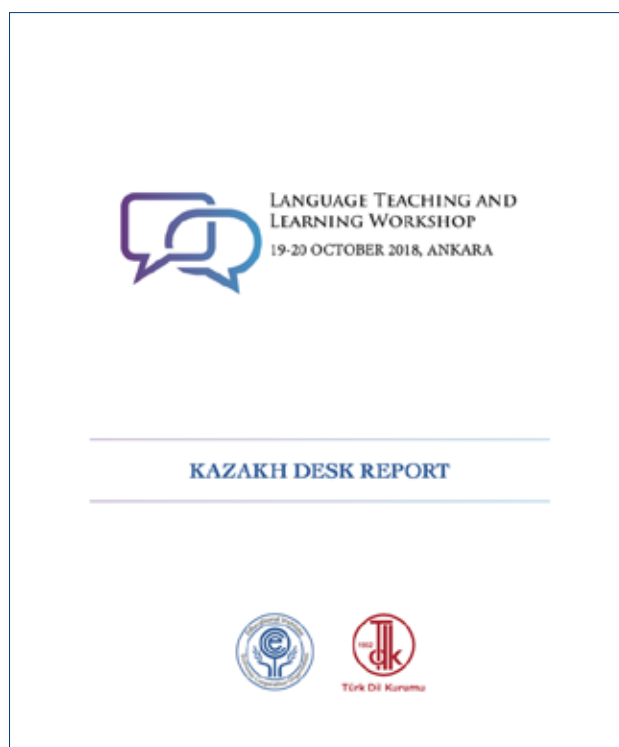
The report on Azerbaijani Turkish Language Learning and Teaching focuses on the challenges encountered in the teaching of Azerbaijani Turkish and provides proposals to address them. The difficulties identified in the report include problems related to academic studies on Azerbaijani Turkish grammar, the distancing among the Turkish languages and

the effect of foreigners, problems of readiness and motivation in students, curricula and scope, and the lack of course materials.

The report also highlights examples of good practices in teaching Azerbaijani Turkish, as well as language teaching methods that can be effective in this context.

The suggestions in the report include devising frameworks to teach Azerbaijani Turkish as a related language, implementing effective language teaching methods, producing materials specifically designed for teaching Azerbaijani Turkish, and proposes improvements in curricula. The report highlights the importance of grammar studies for effective teaching frameworks, suggests techniques to foster motivation and readiness in students and proposes development of appropriate course materials, which would enhance the overall teaching and learning experience of Azerbaijani Turkish as a related language.

D. 3. Report on Kazakh Language Learning and Teaching



The report on Kazakh language teaching and learning examines the challenges encountered in the teaching of Kazakh and proposes solutions to address them. The difficulties identified include the problem of treating the language as a dialect, teaching Kazakh as a related language, transfer of culture in language teaching, the impact of alphabet changes on language learning, student motivation, lecturer and curriculum-related issues,

deficiencies in materials development, and problems related to measurement, evaluation, and standardization.

The report also highlights examples of good applications in language teaching, such as the Grammar Translation Method, Historic-Geographic Method, and the use of digital technologies. These methods can enhance the teaching and learning experience of Kazakh.

The report puts forward proposals that can help overcome the difficulties faced in teaching Kazakh, foster cultural understanding, improve student motivation, develop comprehensive course materials, establish effective measurement and evaluation practices, and improve the overall teaching and learning experience of Kazakh as a language.

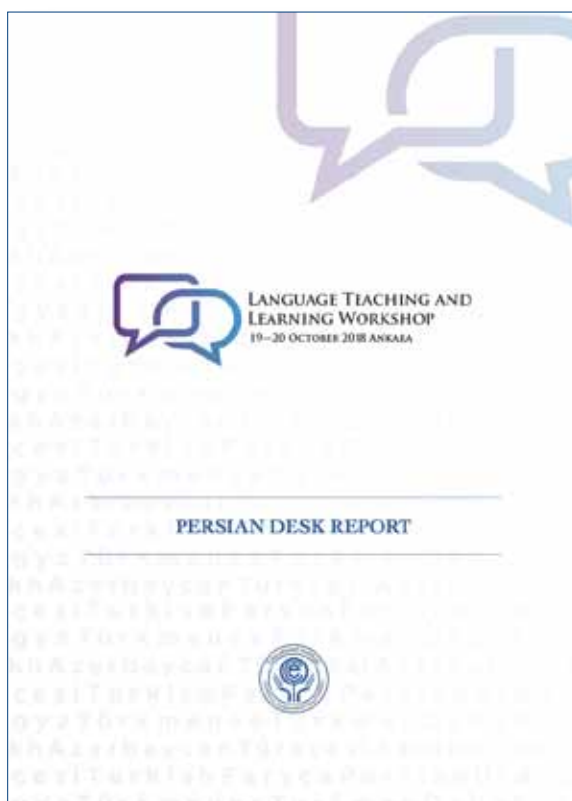
D. 4. Report on Kyrgyz Language Learning and Teaching



Kyrgyz Language Teaching and Learning Report examines the challenges and opportunities in teaching Kyrgyz as a related language. It covers the curriculum, transfer of culture, lack of teaching materials, methods in language education, best practices, and recommendations. Key findings include the need for a comprehensive curriculum integrating culture, the importance of preserving Kyrgyz culture through language

instruction, the scarcity of teaching materials, and the effectiveness of interactive teaching methods. The report concludes with recommendations for strategy development, resource centers for teachers, and collaboration between institutions and organizations.

D. 5. Report on Persian Language Learning and Teaching



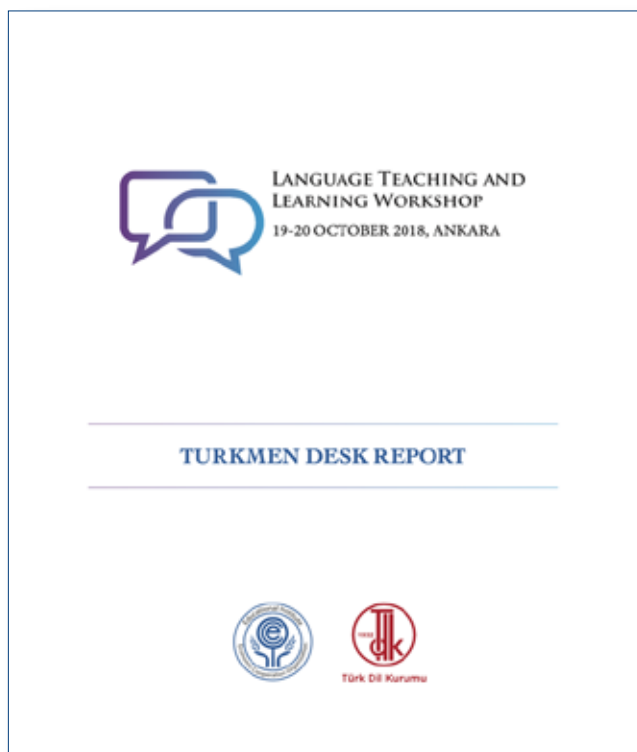
Persian Language Learning and Teaching Report investigates the difficulties faced in Persian language teaching and suggests remedies to overcome them. The problems identified include the motivation problem of students, issues related to curricula, difficulties in the teaching skills of instructors, and limitations in the availability and development of quality teaching materials.

The report also highlights different methods of language teaching, such as the Grammar-Translation Method and the Communicative Method, which can be effective in teaching Persian.

To address these challenges, the report proposes various solutions. These include supporting the departments of Persian Language and Literature, overcoming the problem of student motivation, enhancing course resources and material development, improving

the teaching skills of instructors, making improvements in curricula, and utilizing digital technologies in language teaching. Putting these recommendations into practice, may enhance the instruction and acquisition of Persian, boost student motivation, create comprehensive learning materials, provide support for instructors, make enhancements to curricula, and integrate digital technologies to establish a more efficient and captivating learning atmosphere for learners of the Persian language.

D. 6. Report on Turkmen Language Learning and Teaching



Turkmen Language Learning and Teaching Report addresses the challenges faced in teaching Turkmen, focusing on phonetics and pronunciation, morphology and vocabulary, curricula-related issues, and problems with alphabet instruction. It explores language teaching methods prevalent in the teaching of Turkmen and presents examples of successful practices. The report concludes with recommendations aimed at improving Turkmen language instruction.

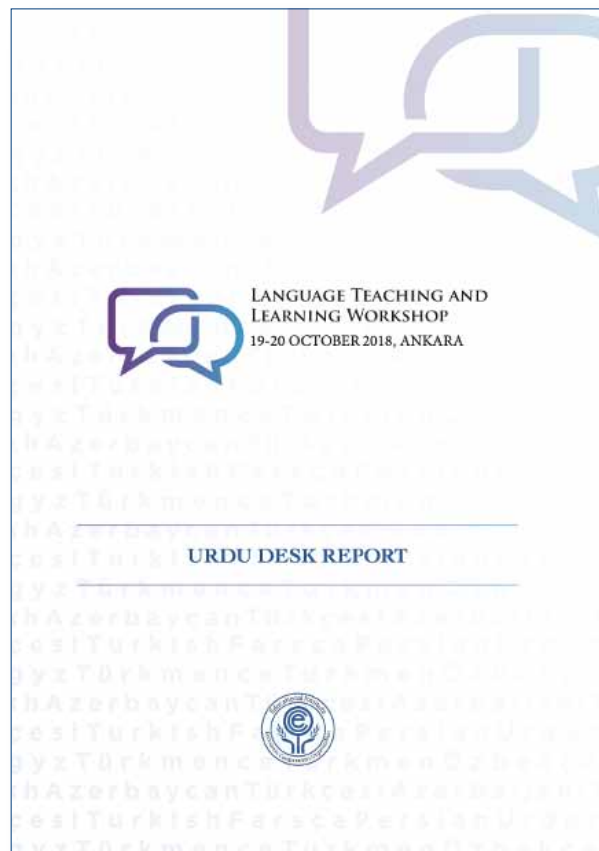
D .7. Report on Urdu Language Learning and Teaching

The Urdu Language Learning and Teaching Report addresses the difficulties encountered in the teaching of Urdu language and provides recommendations to overcome them.

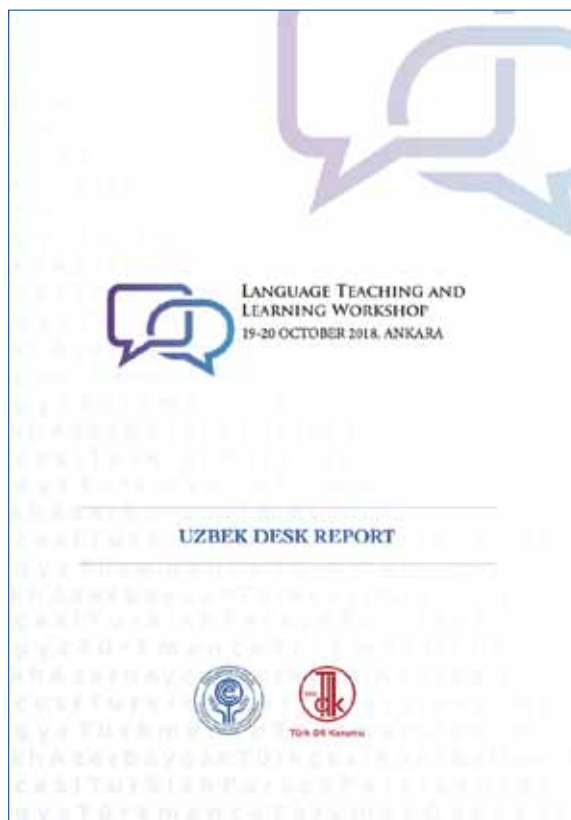
The challenges identified include problems with naming and introducing the language, the transfer of culture, teaching the alphabet, student motivation issues, instructor and curriculum-related problems, and a lack of teaching materials.

In response to these challenges, the report proposes recommendations aimed at policymakers, curricula refinement, instructor professional development, enhancement of course resources and materials, and adoption of effective teaching methodologies.

The report also highlights various language teaching methods such as the Grammar Translation Method, Direct Method, Communicative Method, and new methods and innovative approaches in language instruction. Additionally, good practices including the use of digital sources, drama, dialogue, animation, and writing and translation activities are discussed. The implementation of these recommendations has the potential to overcome the aforementioned challenges in language instruction, bolster student motivation, elevate the quality of teaching materials, provide support to instructors, and facilitate the adoption of pedagogically sound teaching approaches.



D. 8. Report on Uzbek Language Learning and Teaching



Uzbek Language Learning and Teaching Report identifies the challenges in teaching Uzbek Turkish, which include treating it as a dialect rather than a distinct language, phonetic difficulties, the transition to the Latin script, motivating students, inadequate training for instructors, lack of standardized curricula and materials, integrating culture, and the need for innovative teaching methods. Proposals include developing specialized curricula and materials, providing training for instructors, incorporating cultural elements, promoting immersion programs, creating online resources, conducting research, and fostering partnerships. These efforts can enhance the teaching and learning of Uzbek Turkish.

The language reports delve into the challenges faced in the teaching and learning processes of these languages and provide valuable insights and policy recommendations. These reports aim to enhance the effectiveness of language education and promote the preservation and promotion of linguistic diversity within the ECO region. By highlighting the specific issues and areas of improvement for each language, the reports serve as a valuable resource for educators, policymakers and language learners.



Through the publication of these reports, the ECO Educational Institute demonstrates its commitment to fostering excellence in language education and facilitating effective communication and cultural exchange among the member countries of the ECO.

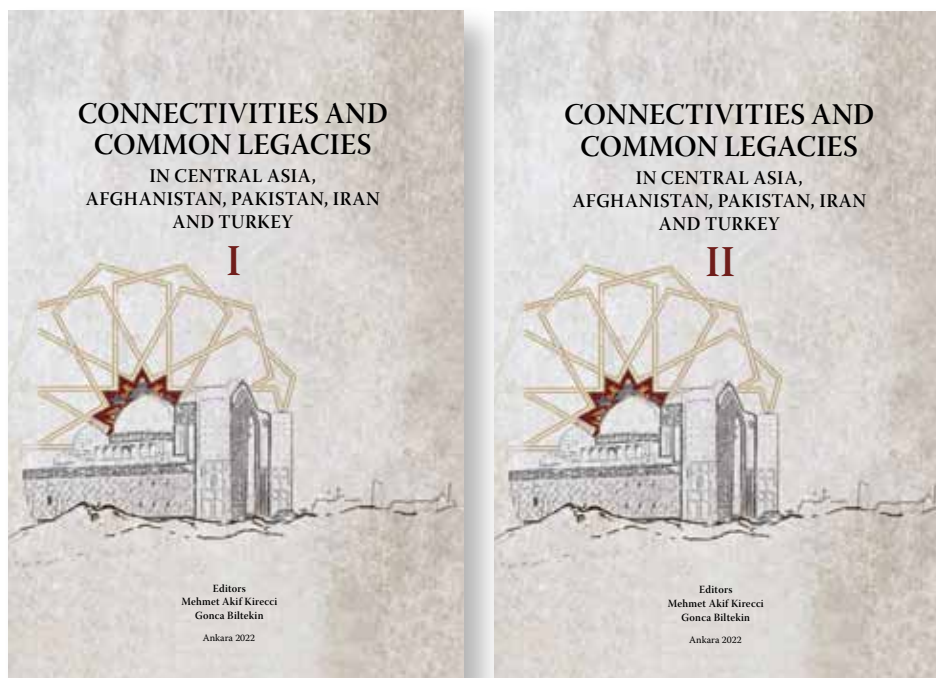
D. 9. [Book] *Mathematics Education in the Economic Cooperation Organization Countries: Analysis of TIMSS and PISA Surveys*



ECOEI has published a book titled *Mathematics Education in the Economic Cooperation Organization Countries: Analysis of TIMSS and PISA Surveys* in December 2020. The book is the final output of a research project by ECOEI on the status of mathematics education in ECO Member States.

The project started with a series of meetings have been held with a group of scholars and education experts on the subject in July, September, and October 2019. Following the series of consultative meetings, ECOEI commissioned a research project by two scholars on mathematics education in the ECO Member States, which includes a comparative analysis of mathematics results in TIMSS and PISA in Azerbaijan, İnan, Kazakhstan, and Türkiye to reflect the status of member countries in mathematics education. The book not only covers comparisons of results of the TIMSS 2015 and PISA 2018 mathematics achievement tests but also incorporates the findings of student, teacher, and administrator surveys administered alongside the achievement tests. The researchers analyze various factors that can influence mathematical achievement in these countries.

D. 10. [Book] *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey*



ECOEI published the book *Connectivities and Common Legacies in Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Türkiye*, which consists of a collection of papers that were presented at the Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization Symposium on 27-28 September 2019 in Ankara.

ECOEI had issued a call for papers to the Symposium, which had been disseminated from 17 July 2019 to 25 August 2019. More than 300 abstracts had been received and 80 papers on historical and contemporary examples of connectivities among ECO member countries were selected to be presented at the symposium. 46 of these articles were edited by President Prof. M. Akif Kireççi and Dr. Gonca Biltekin to be published in the book.

The two-volume book was published on August 5, 2022. Copies of the book were distributed to the authors, to the Embassies of ECO Member States in Türkiye, to public and university libraries around the world, as well as different institutions, associations, think tanks, and international organizations.

The main purpose of the book is to draw attention to the many ways the neighboring people of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Türkiye have been connected throughout history. By raising awareness about the shared culture of the ECO Member States and contributing to understanding the culture, worldview, and customs of each other, ECOEI aims to strengthen cooperation and communication in the region. This book constitutes a long-standing testament to the common ground which ECO Member countries share.

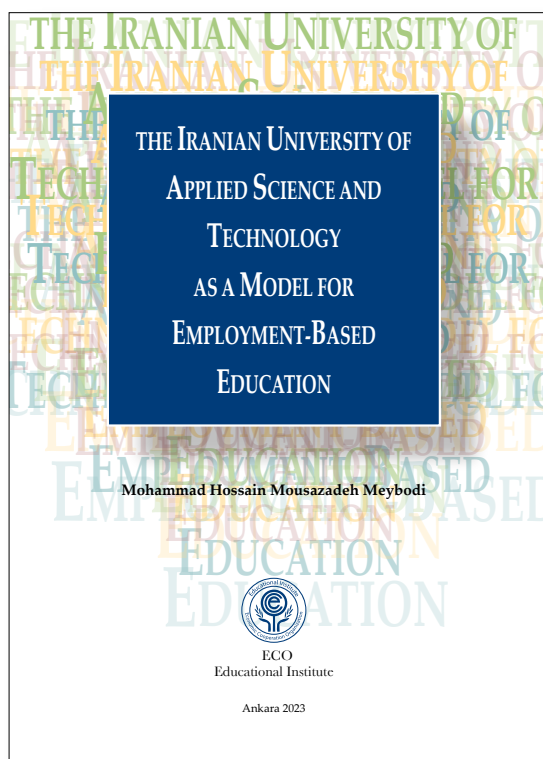
D. 11. Book] *Türkiye’de Matematik Eğitimi: Sorunlar, Çözüm Önerileri ve İyi Örnekler*



ECOEI published a book titled *Türkiye’de Matematik Eğitimi: Sorunlar, Çözüm Önerileri ve İyi Örnekler* (*Mathematics Education in Türkiye: Challenges, Proposals for Solutions and Good Examples*) in June 2023. The book consists of papers presented at two separate workshops held in Ankara on November 23-24, 2022, and December 8-9, 2022, discussing the status and issues of mathematics education at various levels in Turkey.

The book is a testament to ECOEI’s conviction that improving mathematics education is the most crucial step that can be taken to establish the necessary mathematical foundation for scientific research in the ECO region and to ensure quantitative literacy essential for a democratic society. As the connections between education, technological productivity, and economic development strengthen, addressing scientific literacy and enhancing students’ mathematical skills from primary to higher education is the most effective way to foster progress in all scientific fields and sectors of member countries. The book is the first one in a series of books on fundamental sciences education and aims to serve as a source of inspiration for new approaches and more effective educational policies in mathematics instruction.

D.12. Report on the Iranian University of Applied Science and Technology as a Model for Employment-based Education

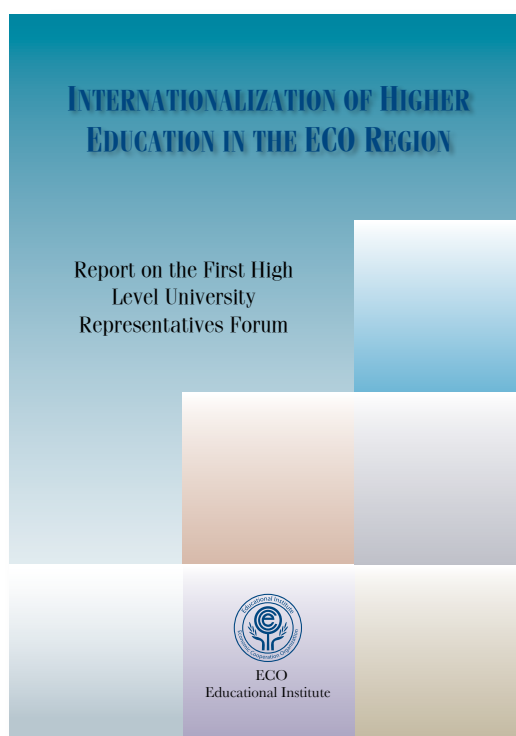


ECOEI published a report on vocational and technical education, which aims to provide an introductory overview of the University of Applied Science and Technology (UAST) as a model for employment-based education. Through meticulous research and analysis, Prof. Mousazadeh Meybodi explores the university's history, objectives, and innovative approaches in practice. By examining the unique features and impactful initiatives of the UAST, ECOEI seeks to inspire collaboration and knowledge exchange among vocational education and training organizations within the ECO region.

The report focuses on UAST's unique model of bridging the gap between academia and industry, by equipping students with practical skills and knowledge directly relevant to the demands of the job market. By fostering strong partnerships with local businesses and industries, UAST ensures that its curriculum remains up-to-date and aligns with current industry needs. This approach not only enhances the employability of graduates but also contributes to economic development by providing a skilled workforce that can readily meet the demands of the professional world.

The report showcases UAST's employment-based education model as an example for other institutions in the ECO region seeking to create meaningful connections between education and employment, ultimately paving the way for a more prosperous and empowered workforce.

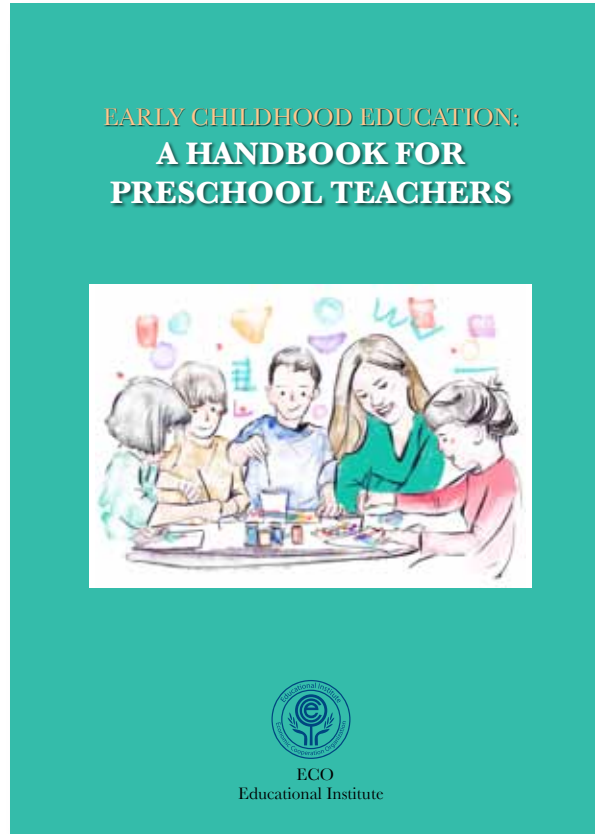
D. 13. Report on Internationalization of Higher Education in the ECO Region



ECOEI published a report on *Internationalization of Higher Education in the ECO Region*, which aims to highlight the significance of internationalization in higher education and sets the stage for a deeper exploration of its benefits, challenges, and trends in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region. It encapsulates the essence of the “High Level University Representatives Forum,” organized by Economic Cooperation Organization Educational Institute (ECOEI) on 27 September 2021. The primary objective of the forum was to promote and foster the internationalization of higher education within the ECO region. By facilitating higher coordination and collaboration between universities both within and outside the ECO region, the forum aimed to create a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas, expertise, and technologies among ECO universities. The event brought together 60 experts representing 30 universities from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkish Cypriot State, Türkiye and Turkmenistan, providing them with the opportunity to share insights on ongoing projects, address challenges, and forge valuable partnerships. The present report provides an overview of the forum, delving into the key insights, outcomes, and potential future directions towards fostering internationalization in higher education.

The report starts with opening speeches from rectors and presidents of participating universities, setting the stage for further discussions. The next three sections of the report are dedicated to roundtable sessions, which brought together experts from international offices of universities. These parts are organized around specific themes to facilitate targeted discussions on select issues. In the first section, the participants discuss student mobility within the ECO region, sharing numbers from their institutions and explaining their efforts about future projects. At the second section, the experts share their experiences and perspectives on strengthening scientific research collaboration in the ECO region and resource sharing such as joint use of libraries, educational technologies and systems and laboratories. In the last section, they discuss issues pertaining to institutionalization of higher education cooperation, with a special focus on accreditation, credit transfer and accumulation systems, consortia, recognition of qualifications and joint degree programs. The report concludes by highlighting conceivable policy directions that can be inferred from discussions made throughout the Forum. We believe that the report provides some insights and recommendations that can inform policy makers and readers on potential measures to enhance internationalization of higher education, foster student mobility, address funding challenges, strengthen accreditation systems, promote multilingualism and intercultural competence, and support overall educational advancement within the Economic Cooperation Organization region.

D. 14. [Book] *Early Childhood Education: A Handbook for Preschool Teachers*



Since its inception in 2017, the Economic Cooperation Organization Education Institute has been a driving force in championing the importance of early childhood education as the foundation of educational development. Recognizing the transformative power of early education, the institute is dedicated to fostering initiatives that promote the dissemination of best practices throughout the ECO region, with a particular focus on reaching children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special needs.

The Economic Cooperation Organization Education Institute partnered with “Gelecek Eğitimde Platformu” (Future in Education Platform), a renowned and dedicated education platform in Türkiye. Together, to organize online Preschool Education Summit, which drew participation from over 700 educators, aspiring teachers, and parents:

During the two-day event, several educators, psychologists, scholars, and experts made inspirational speeches on a wide variety of topics, such as gamification, children and math, having dreams and objectives at preschool age, technology use in preschool, preschool education policies from around the world, science, and creativity. The participants were also

invited to choose from 30 different workshops with equally diverse themes: counteracting cyberbullying, gifted children at preschool age, teaching math, using drama, toy-making, gamification, puppet theater, children’s literature, story-telling, musical activities, speech disorders, origami, introduction to coding, and many more.

These workshops included tangible strategies, methods and techniques that preschool teachers can use to address the most challenging issues they face on a daily basis. Therefore, ECOEI decided to publish a comprehensive book, which encapsulates the wealth of knowledge, expertise, and inspiration shared during the event.

Early Childhood Education: A Handbook for Preschool Teachers is a meticulous compilation of insights, experiences, and practical strategies that may inform early childhood education practices. It covers a wide range of topics, including the latest pedagogical approaches, innovative teaching methodologies, inclusive education practices, and the integration of technology in early childhood classrooms. Renowned scholars, educators, and experts from around the globe have contributed their insights and expertise, making this book a valuable resource for educators, policymakers, and anyone passionate about early childhood education.

The book not only highlights successful practices and innovative ideas but also provides a roadmap for implementing these strategies in diverse educational settings. It delves into the challenges faced by educators, offers practical solutions, and encourages a mindset of continuous improvement and innovation in early childhood education. In line with the summit’s theme, it emphasizes the importance of nurturing dreams, fostering creativity, and cultivating a supportive environment where children can thrive.

D. 15. International Student Guidebook [in print]

ECOEI is currently working on publishing an International Student Guidebook for students from the ECO Member States who plan to continue their education in Türkiye as international student.

The International Student Guidebook project comprises the preparation, publication, and dissemination of a guidebook for each ECO Member State, which includes summary information on degree programs, living costs, health insurance and services, accommodation and transportation options, student transfers, preparatory language courses, application criteria, visa requirements, and processes applicable to students holding the passport of one of the other ECO Member States. The expected outcome is facilitating the students’ application and adjustment processes by targeting their need for information.

On October 26, 2021, ECO Educational Institute requested a list of suggestions regarding the content of the ECOEI Project “International Student Guidebook” from the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Ankara such as the problems encountered by students from their respective countries who pursue higher education in the Republic of Türkiye, most frequently asked questions, and other issues deemed useful based on the experience of the Embassies. ECOEI started to work on the first guidebook, which is intended for the use of international students in Türkiye and plans to publish it by August 2023.

D. 16. ECOEI Pocketbook Series on Common Heritage

ECOEI Pocket Book Series on Common Heritage is a series of works about important people, methods, places and ways of teaching, and learning throughout history in the wider ECO region. One of the primary objectives of ECOEI is to promote cooperation in the teaching of history, literature, geography, and culture among member states, with the aim of fostering closer bonds among the people. To achieve this goal, ECOEI has initiated various activities, including the development of teaching materials encompassing printed, online, and audiovisual sources. These collective efforts contribute to the advancement of teaching common history, culture, and civilization among the ECO member states at all educational levels, further nurturing understanding and collaboration among the diverse communities of the region.

The books in the series are designed to be used as educational material, which stimulate interest and public awareness among the peoples of the region about the shared culture and common heritage. As such they can be used in teaching of History, Literature, Geography of the Member States for establishing closer ties among the peoples. As part of the series, ECOEI commissioned two books, both of which are currently under production.

D. 17. Report on Biology Education in Türkiye: Issues, Solutions, Best Practices

ECOEI has recently published a comprehensive report that provides a summary of the presentations made during the “Workshop on Challenges and Solutions in Biology Education at Middle School, High School and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” which was held on 23-24 February 2023, the shared perspectives reached at the concluding debates and the findings from the focus groups.

The report discusses the main challenges in biology education in Türkiye and present solutions supported by current literature. It identifies significant challenges linked to biology education curricula at the secondary, high school, and undergraduate levels and proposes effective solutions to address these challenges. It highlights the key obstacles concerning the competencies of biology teachers and lecturers at various levels, the challenges associated with student competencies in biology education, as well as those

related to the teaching environment and textbooks in biology education. Furthermore, it identifies the challenges pertaining to teaching methods and techniques in biology education and presents viable solutions.



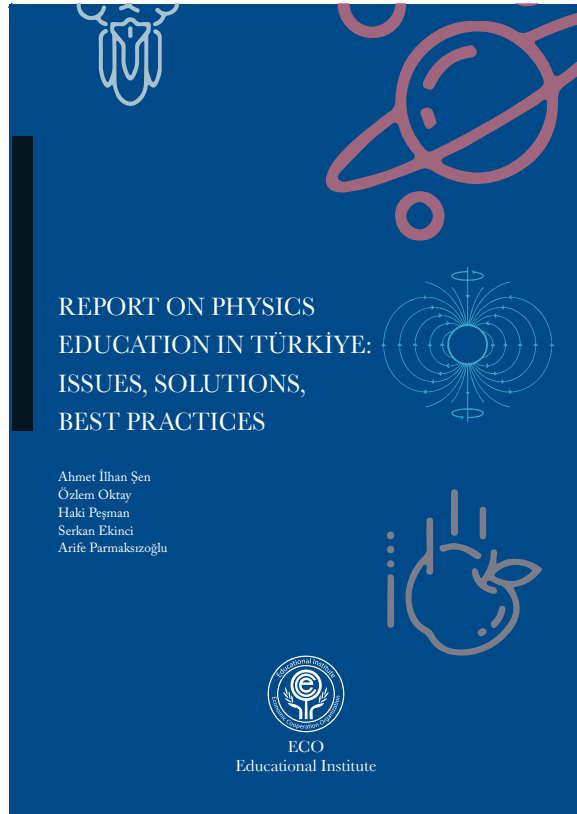
The comprehensive report serves as a valuable resource, providing an overview of the workshop’s proceedings, highlighting significant challenges in biology education, and offering evidence-based solutions. It serves as a guiding document for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to promote advancement in biology education in Türkiye.

D. 18. Report on Physics Education in Türkiye: Issues, Solutions, Best Practices

ECOEI published a report on physics education in Türkiye, which not only encapsulates the insights discussed during the “Workshop on Interdisciplinary Approach in Physics Education at Middle School, High School and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” organized by ECOEI on 27-28 April in Ankara but also explores various challenges in physics education in Türkiye.

Firstly, it evaluates the shortcomings in physics education curriculum in high schools and the assessment processes, offering solutions to address these issues. It specifically

examines classroom and school-based assessments, as well as national and international examinations and their impact on physics education.



The challenges and potential solutions related to undergraduate physics teaching programs are also discussed, highlighting the need for relevant and multidimensional professional development opportunities for the prospective physics teachers. The report also addresses challenges in the professional development of in-service physics teachers, including the lack of motivating factors and limited consideration for teachers needs in devising training programs. The report also emphasizes the absence of a monitoring mechanism and evaluation of the effectiveness of professional development programs.

The issues and solution suggestions regarding material and equipment use in physics education are identified, focusing on the limited time and resources allocated to physics lessons and the limited pedagogical knowledge of teachers in devising and using teaching materials. The report also points to the shortage of instructional materials specific to physics and the limited access to Turkish resources. Furthermore, it addresses the negative attitudes and lack of motivation towards physics classes among students and explores challenges and solutions related to utilizing non-school environments in physics education.

Lastly, the report examines the implementation challenges of interdisciplinary approaches in physics education and their impact on interdisciplinary education.

The report provides valuable perspectives, assessments, and recommendations aimed at enhancing physics education in Türkiye. It serves as a precious resource for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders, providing guidance on how to tackle the challenges identified and elevate the standard of physics education across different levels. By adopting the proposed strategies, Türkiye has the potential to cultivate a dynamic and forward-thinking physics education system that equips students with the essential knowledge and skills needed for their future pursuits.

D. 19. Report on Chemistry Education in Türkiye: Issues, Solutions, Best Practices



ECOIEI has published a report that captures an overview of the good practice examples presented at the “Workshop on Challenges and Solution Suggestions in Chemistry Education at the Middle School, High School, and Undergraduate Levels in Türkiye” organized by ECOIEI on 2-3 March in Ankara.

This event marked the fourth workshop in the Workshop Series on Fundamental Sciences Education and served as a platform for the convergence of academics, teachers, experts, undergraduate and graduate students hailing from different regions of the country. Their collective goal was to engage in discussions surrounding the present state of chemistry education across various levels and devise strategies for its enhancement.

The report first discusses various innovative approaches and good practices identified during the workshop. These examples serve as models for effective teaching methods and are presented in detail, highlighting their relevance and impact on enhancing chemistry education. The report also analyzes the effectiveness and applicability of these approaches, considering their impact on student learning outcomes and engagement.

The report examines various challenges faced in chemistry teaching, such as curriculum design, teacher training, resources, assessment methods, and classroom dynamics, aiming to facilitate the development of targeted strategies and interventions. It also explores the impacts of these challenges on students and society, emphasizing the importance of addressing them to ensure a scientifically literate workforce. It provides recommendations for future research and action, outlining key areas for further investigation and suggesting strategies for improving chemistry teaching practices. The potential benefits and challenges associated with implementing these recommendations are discussed, along with insights on addressing potential obstacles.

D. 20 [Book] *Education Thinkers* [in print]

ECO Educational Institute is working towards publishing a book on *Education Thinkers* which is composed of articles presented at the Symposium on Education Thinkers held on 23-24 December, 2022 in Ankara. The book promises to be a valuable and comprehensive compilation of the insights, research, and contributions shared during the two-day event. It aims to serve as a significant resource for educators, researchers, and scholars interested in the rich history of philosophy of education and diverse perspectives of education thinkers. By delving into the philosophies and ideas of prominent figures in the field of education, the book provides a deeper understanding of their influence on shaping educational practices and systems. Through the diverse range of topics covered in the symposium, the book offers a multifaceted exploration of various educational approaches, ideologies, and historical contexts, fostering a broader appreciation of the complexities within the realm of education. As an essential reference, this publication will continue to inspire future discussions and research in the pursuit of enhancing and transforming education for generations to come.

Through the publication of the book on Education Thinkers, the ECO Educational Institute underscores its dedication to promoting academic discourse, intellectual exchange, and a deeper understanding of the diverse perspectives and historical contributions of education thinkers within the member countries of the ECO. This comprehensive compilation serves as a testament to the institute's commitment to advancing education and facilitating the dissemination of knowledge, fostering mutual learning, and inspiring innovative approaches to education across the region.

The Status of Implementation of the Work Program Adopted at the 3rd Board of Trustees Meeting



ECOEI Work Program (2020 – 2022)			
	Objective	Action	Status
1.	Expert Working Group on Internationalization of Higher Education in the ECO Region	Expert Working Group has been created and held consultation meetings	Ongoing
2.	Measuring Internationalization of Higher Education Index	Expert Working Group has started its work for ECO countries.	In Progress
3.	High Level University Representatives Forum	Convened virtually on September 30, 2021.	Realized
4.	StudyinECO.org Web Platform	The data entry started in May 2022 and continues.	In Progress
5.	International Student Guidebook	On October 26, 2021, ECO Educational Institute requested a list of suggestions regarding the content of the ECOEI Project “International Student Guidebook” from the Embassies of the ECO Member States in Ankara.	In Progress
6.	Pocket Book Series	As part of the series, ECOEI requested lists from the member countries & expert scholars met twice to compose a list & two books are being prepared for publication	Ongoing (awaiting information from Member States)
7.	100 Canonical Works for High School Students	ECOEI has requested the names of canonical works from the Member States and will publish the collected list.	Ongoing (awaiting information from Member States)
8.	Production of audio/visual materials on common heritage		On hold due to budgetary constraints Ongoing
9.	ECOpedia	Entries are commissioned. The Website design is ongoing.	In Progress
10.	Exchange visits among music teachers across the ECO region to integrate regional folk songs and tunes in the curricula.	Candidates were contacted from different countries and schools but Covid19 lockdown hampered the process	Postponed due to COVID19
11.	ECO Youth Forum	ECOEI brought up joint organization of Youth Forum with ECI and ECOSF at consultation meetings in 2021 and 2022. The Forum was rescheduled for 2023 due to COVID-19.	Postponed due to COVID lockdown

12.	Study Visit Program for Ph.D. students studying the languages of ECO states	The scholarship announcement has been made to prospective participatory universities for recipient nominations.	In Progress (2 students were identified from Türkiye to visit Iran)
13.	Material Development Seminars for Teaching of ECO Languages		Ongoing
14.	Language Teaching and Learning Book Series	ECOEI completed the publication of the 8 books on teaching and learning of each ECO language.	
		Turkmen Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-6-7	Realized
		Kyrgyz Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-7-4	Realized
		Uzbek Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-5-0	Realized
		Kazakh Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-4-3	Realized
		Urdu Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-3-6	Realized
		Azerbaijani Turkish Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-0-5	Realized
		Anatolian Turkish Desk Report ISBN: 978-605-71158-1-2	Realized
		Persian Desk Report 978-605-70155-8-7	Realized
15.	Establishing a Material Pool in Language Teaching and Learning	ECOEI created a book gallery on its website as a material pool in language teaching and learning upon recommendation of the Turkish Language Association. ECOEI will continue to expand the pool as information is being received from other Member States.	In Progress (awaiting information from Member States)
16.	Common Vocabulary Bank (Web platform)	A consultation meeting with linguists from the ECO region is scheduled to convene in September 2023.	Ongoing
17.	Symposium on Distance Learning and Digital Technologies	ECOEI organized a “Distance Education Experience Sharing Workshop between ECO Member States during the COVID-19 Pandemic” on October 14, 2020.	Realized

18.	Training Seminars for Creating Online and Distance Education Courses	ECOIE organized two productive consultation meetings with scholars from the Social Sciences University of Ankara to enhance ECOIE's digital platforms for hosting online seminars. Scholars shared their knowledge and recommendations regarding the use of advanced technology to enable the simultaneous broadcast of seminars in multiple languages.	In Progress
19.	Commissioned Research on the Future of Universities in ECO	Report on Internationalization of Higher Education in the ECO Region was published in July 2023. ECOIE also commissioned a research on Higher Education in Kazakhstan with researchers from Eurasian Research Institute (ERI) at Akhmet Yaassawi University.	Realized & Ongoing
20.	Establishment of the ECOIE YouTube Channel and reinvigoration of ECOIE social media, such as YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.	ECOIE continues to actively use its Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. The Institute is currently working on creating content for other social media channels to reach out to more people and expand its network.	Ongoing
21.	Participation at the International Türkiye Educational Technologies Summit (TÜRKIYE ETZ) and GESS Türkiye Educational Technologies and Solutions Fair	Switched to online meetings due to COVID-19.	Realized
22.	Commissioned Research on Human Development Index and Education	Two expert group meetings were held.	On hold due to budgetary constraints
23.	Commissioned Research on the Status of Fundamental Sciences Education in ECO members at university level	ECOIE organized a workshop series on fundamental sciences education, which comprised of five workshops from 24 November 2022 to 28 April 2023. Three reports were published on biology, chemistry and physics education. One book is published on Math. Three books are to be published in 2023. ECOIE plans to repeat similar workshops in other ECO Member states.	4 reports are completed 4 books to be completed in 2023

24.	The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States (Comparison of different Approaches to Teaching Mathematics)	ECOEI published a book on Mathematics Education in the Economic Cooperation Organization Countries: Analysis of TIMSS and PISA Surveys in December 2020 and organized two workshops on math education in Türkiye. The findings of the two workshops are published as an edited book on math education. ECOEI plans to repeat similar workshops in other ECO Member states.	Realized
25.	Workshop on indicators of SGD-4 (i.e. disadvantaged students' education or gender equality) and Commissioned Research on the accomplishment of SDG-4 targets in ECOEI member countries.	The ECOEI attended the workshop on "Exchanging Experiences in Achieving Educational Goals of SDG" in Ankara on March 5, 2020. The workshop was jointly organized by Turkey's Ministry of National Education (MoNE) in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and UNESCO.	Realized & Ongoing
26.	STEM School Camp Project		Canceled due to COVID19 Lockdown
27.	Workshop on How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals	ECOEI has organized two online workshops in August 2020 and March 2021 with colleagues in Iran and Pakistan.	Realized (for Iran and Pakistan)
28.	Early Childhood Education Workshop	ECOEI organized the Pre-School Education Summit which took place on 25-26 September 2021 with the participation of around 700 teachers.	Realized
29.	Master Trainers Training (Vocational Education Training)	ECOEI is coordinating with prospective partners to organize a VET in Spring 2023.	Canceled due to COVID19 Lockdown
30.	International Forum on Science Education and Workshop on Capacity Building in Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) in Türkiye	ECOEI organized a workshop series on fundamental sciences education, which comprised of five workshops on math, biology, chemistry and physics education. ECOEI plans to repeat similar workshops in other ECO Member states to. Lay the groundwork for an international forum on science education.	On hold due to budgetary constraints
31.	Accreditation of Models in Education	1_ ECOEI has commissioned a report on Models in Education to lay the groundwork for the project. 2_ Educational Institute also published a report on vocational education model of University of Applied Sciences and Technology (UAST) in Iran as the first in a series of publications of education models.	Realized & Ongoing

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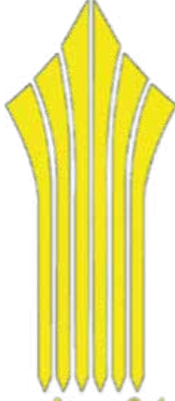


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