



# ECO Educational Institute

## Newsletter//June 2019

### News from ECOEI



#### 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Regional Planning Council

The President of the Educational Institute Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ has participated in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 17-20 December, 2018 in Tehran, Iran. During the RPC, eight Sectoral Committees deliberated numerous issues and at the closing session, the Draft Report, Work Program 2019 and the Calendar of Events 2019 were endorsed by the Council, which are to be carried out within the coming year.

ECOEI President Prof. KİREÇCİ discussed the latest academic accomplishments and activities of the Institute and also elaborated the plan of organizing a conference on the teaching of history, literature and cultural heritage in ECO Member States. He emphasized the importance of member states' guidance to ECOEI and invited them to convey their educational and higher education needs and concerns to the Institute.

#### The Workshop on "How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals"

ECOEI organized a workshop on "How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals" in Baku on 3 May 2019 in cooperation with Azerbaijan's Ministry of Education. The workshop's main objective was to enhance the academic writing skills of graduate students seeking a PhD. degree in Azerbaijani universities and implement the procedures for submitting, evaluating and publishing academic journals. The course was attended by about 40 PhD students.

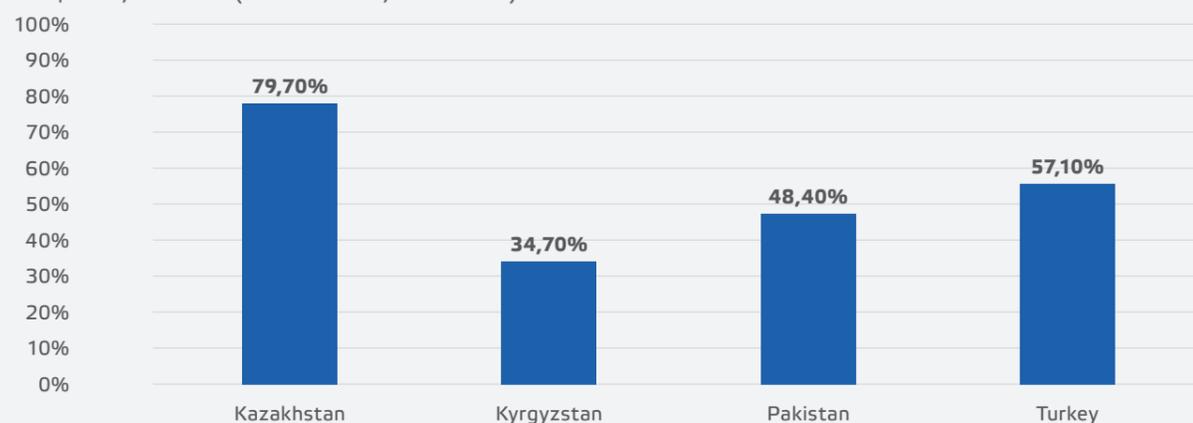
## Education in Numbers

Where do ECO members stand in relation to the ten targets of the Sustainable Development Goals on education?

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) is the education goal of the SDG 2030 which is to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning oppor-

tunities for all”. SDG-4 consists of 10 targets to achieve open and inclusive education around the world.

**Indicator 4.1.1.** Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics at the end of primary education (2014 or latest year available)



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Source: SDG-4 Country Profiles, UNESCO 2019 (<http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/country-profile/>)

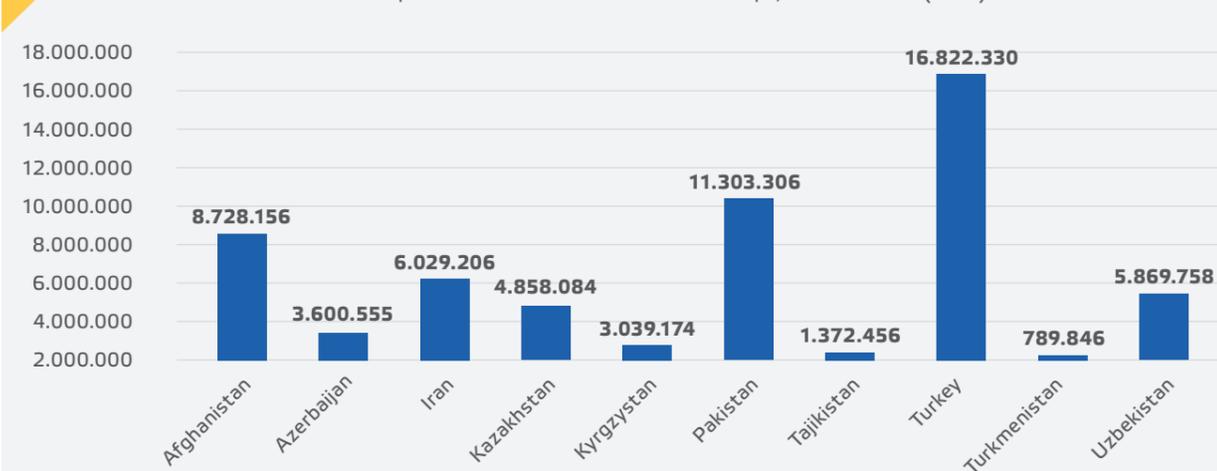
The UN developed several indicators to assess each member states' attainment of SDGs. SDG-4 Data is compiled by UNESCO Institute of Statistics in order to monitor progress towards each SDG-4 target. Here are

ECO Member States' select educational data on Target 4.b, Target 4.1, and Target 4.c.

Target 4.1 is to “ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and

quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes” by 2030. 4.1.1 indicator focuses on international large scale learning assessments of children and young people.

**Indicator 4.b.1.** Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships, constant USD (2017)



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Source: SDG-4 Country Profiles, UNESCO 2019 (<http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/country-profile/>)

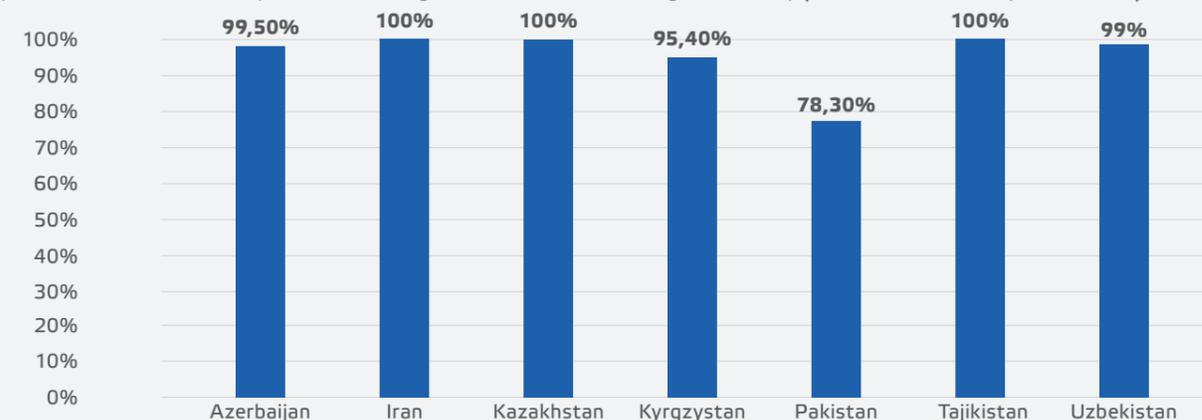
Target 4.b. is to “substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries”. 4.b.1. indicator monitors the official development assistance flows for

scholarship.

Target 4.c. is to “substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooper-

ation for teacher training in developing countries”. Indicator 4.c.1. seeks to determine the proportion of teachers with necessary training in primary education.

**Indicator 4.c.1.** Proportion of teachers in primary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country (2018 or most recent year available)



Source: SDG-4 Country Profiles, UNESCO 2019 (<http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/country-profile/>)

SDG- 4 Education 2030 sets out that the implementation of SDG-4 Targets and collecting the country data on indicators requires “national, region-

al and global mechanisms for governance, accountability, coordination, monitoring, follow-up and review, reporting and evaluation”. The goal of these targets are to create mecha-

nism for partnership and country-led actions. Thus, it requires countries to be inclusive, participatory and transparent when sharing the relevant data.

## Innovative Ideas for Education: Innovative Teaching Methods

The way to create inspiring, motivational and interactive classroom is through implementing innovative teaching strategies. These teaching strategies will help to keep students' attention up and achieve right mindset for effective learning.

### Peer Mindset

The traditional classroom setting is where teacher is in the front or center and lecturing called teacher-centered method yet changing the classroom setting to a student-centered one will allow students to take responsibility and to engage. Teachers need to guide the learning process rather than taking all the stage in the classroom. Thus, the role of the teacher is not just to teach but also to mentor and to coach which will bring nurture and inspiration.

### Flipped Classroom

Flipped classroom model is where the traditional teaching and classroom activities are reversed. Students will have access to classroom materials before the class and will have the re-

sponsibility to come prepared to the classroom, and to take the lead via presentation, discussions and peer-to-peer learning activities. When students put in charge of their own learning, they will take more interest in the subject. This model make students active participants to the class and encourages independent learning.

### Teamwork

Another innovative teaching method is to encourage students to involve with their peers and collaborate for classroom activities and projects. While teamwork is an essential skill for their future, it will also increase and improve their communication, negotiation and empathy skills.

### Creativity

It is not always easy to keep students attention up for the full classroom time which lead teachers to pursue creative teaching activities. In order to achieve creative learning, teachers should follow research-based teaching, and they should stay informed and updated about the new teaching methods.

Also communicating with students to decide the next classroom activity or the game will help teachers to come up with creative ideas.

### Self-Reflection

Teachers should conduct self-assessment to discover which methods work and which do not work based on students' respond to these teaching methods. With self-evaluation, teachers can focus on successful strategies and improve their teaching.

### Flexible Learning Space

Teachers can also be creative with the use of classroom space. Even the small changes like moving the furniture around can affect student's attention and motivate them to be more active in the classroom. A classroom space should be able to provide areas of collaboration, ways for students to both work alone and interact with their peers. The flexible learning space could also cover informal settings beyond the classroom such as field trips or school clubs.

### A Place for All

Teachers should also take different personalities in the classroom into consideration. Extroverts, introverts, energetics all have different needs in the classroom and different ways of learning. Whenever possible teachers should offer options for students to choose activities based on their learning style and create classroom setting where all of them could find their space.

### Critical Thinking

Students need to have choices and voice in the classroom which will create a space for critical thinking. Teachers could utilize open-ended questions

to which students can answer from various point of views. It will create a conversational atmosphere and help students to realize their potential and connect with each other through sharing their knowledge and experiences. Design-thinking process, where students identify and solve a problem they encounter in the class, could also support critical thinking.

### Guest Speakers

Inviting guest speakers regularly to the classroom is a great way to inspire and motivate students. It will also create a venue for them to communicate, express themselves and reach out. These

meetings could be virtual, in the classroom or outside the classroom.

### Technology

The use of technology is an important way to reach out students who are the tech generation. This could be through use of smartboards in order to create better visual materials and activities, cloud computing or other ways to share, storage and present lecture materials or more advanced technologies like virtual reality and 3D printing. Technology offers a lot of resources for teachers and allow students to engage with different kinds of learning environments.

#### Sources:

10 Ways Educators Can Make Classrooms More Innovative, Forbes, 2018.

(<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robynshulman/2018/11/19/10-ways-educators-can-make-classrooms-more-innovative/#5a30fa7e7f87>)

Innovative Methods of teaching Strategies: That Will Help Every Teacher in the Classroom, Fedena, 2019

(<https://fedena.com/blog/2019/02/innovative-methods-of-teaching-strategies-that-will-help-every-teacher-in-the-classroom.html>)

Teaching Methods for Inspiring the Students of the Future, Joe Ruhl, TEDxLafayette, 2015

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCFg9bcW7Bk>)

## Future Events and Opportunities

**November 6, 2019:** Turkey Fulbright Commission will provide research grants to scholars wishing to do research at U.S. universities and research centers for the academic year of 2020-2021.

**Deadline:** If using post office, the deadline to send the application package is 6 November 2019 the latest in order to be received by 8 November 2019. If delivering by hand, the deadline to receive the application is 6 November 2019.

**How to apply:** Complete your application package and deliver it to Turkey

Fulbright Commission Office in Ankara before the deadline.

**To see the list of application package:** [https://fulbright.org.tr/data/\\_files/Metin%20İci%20PDF%20Dosyaları/Akademik%20Arastirma%20Evrak%20Kontrol%20Listesi.pdf](https://fulbright.org.tr/data/_files/Metin%20İci%20PDF%20Dosyaları/Akademik%20Arastirma%20Evrak%20Kontrol%20Listesi.pdf)

**For more information:** If you have any question for the application process please reach out educational counseling unit at [advising@fulbright.org.tr](mailto:advising@fulbright.org.tr)

**November 12, 2019:** UNESCO 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference will start its activities on November 12, 2019 at its head-

quarters in Paris, France and continue until November 27. The UNESCO General Conference meets every two years and attended by representatives from Member States and Associate Members, together with observers for non-Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The goal of the General Conference is to plan lines of work and policies of the organization along with upcoming programs and budgeting. It also elects the Members of the Executive Board and appoints, every four years, the Director-General.

## Education News around the World

**March 12, 2019:** Iran launched its 1<sup>st</sup> National Game & Learning Plan for children which aims to benefit from the impact of intellectual games over students' mental, physical, emotional and social growth. The first pilot education center in Iran has started the implementation of the plan in District 7 of Tehran. At this school, students learn their lessons by playing games and using creative learning techniques. This method makes educational concepts stick into students' minds.

**April 24, 2019:** The Fourth General Assembly of the Turkic University Union was held in Turkistan hosted by the Hoca Ahmet Yesevi International Kazakh-Turkish University. The participants agreed to improve the capacity of the Orkhun Exchange Program and discussed the issues of mutual recognition and equivalence of education documents and academic degrees. The General Assembly also decided to establish an e-education platform as well as a research group on science and innovation.

**May 7, 2019:** The Board of Higher Education in Turkey lifts limits for university admission for international students. Previously, foreign students could only comprise up to 50 percent of the total students in any program. With the recent change, Turkish universities can now apply to the Board of Higher Education to enroll more foreign students. The change does not apply to the medical and dentistry schools. The decision aims to make Turkey an education hub and attract more international students.