

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this message to seek your assistance in finding a partner Alumni Association from an EU State for a project. And, I am writing in my capacity as 2019-2020 Representative of the Mentoring Programmes Working Group of ODTUMIST (Istanbul ODTU Orta Dogu Teknik Universitesi / Middle East Technical University Alumni Association) which is a registered Civil Society Organisation based in Istanbul Turkey: <https://odtunist.org/> Ms Sebnem Karagol, who is in the cc section of this email, is the General Secretary of ODTUMIST.

ODTUMIST members are graduates of ODTU (Middle East Technical University) in Ankara: <http://www.metu.edu.tr/> ODTUMIST is one of many ODTU Alumni Associations which are spread around the world.

We are a group of volunteers that coordinate mentoring programmes to form learning partnerships among ODTUMIST members and ODTU students who receive need and merit based scholarships from the ODTUMIST Bursary Fund. Over the past 5 years, our structured mentoring programmes have resulted in 322 alumni and students to form such partnerships.

In the past year, we have begun efforts to create projects to strengthen our Alumni Association. For example, we are awaiting the result of an application we made for an EU Grant for our 4-year "Circular Economy Mentoring Programme" project that will bring our members and students as well as those of another well-established Turkish university together with mentors from an international organisation to raise awareness on environmental issues and solutions among the project participants as well as the general public through conferences and other events.

At the moment, we are drafting a new project to apply for another EU Grant: [EuropeAid/166483/ID/ACT/TR Supporting Civil Society Dialogue Between EU and Turkey Grant Scheme \(CSD-VI\)](#) through which, "grant support will be provided to projects jointly developed by associations, foundations, federations/confederations of associations and foundations, and non-profit making cooperatives from Turkey with the non-profit making organizations from EU member states."

Our draft project summary is as follows:

TITLE: "EU and UN GLOBAL GOALS"

ACTION: WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD: "EU and UN GLOBAL GOALS" COLLECTIVE ACTION IDEA CAMPS

PARTNERS: ODTUMIST and a University Alumni Association from an EU member state

WHAT: 6 ODTU undergraduate students and 6 ODTUMIST members will form a learning partnership with 6 undergraduate students and 6 Alumni Association Members from an EU Member State. A total of 24 partners will meet twice (or 3 times) in Collective Action Idea Camps (once or twice in Turkey and once in the partner Association's country). Collaboration will also continue electronically. Project Participants will research EU regulations / networks / publications to identify best practices and create projects and partnerships on "What is being done / can be done around EU to reach UN Global Goals"

OUTCOME: "We can change the world: EU and UN Global Goals" website / project closing document / partnerships and projects

DURATION: /The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 12 months nor exceed 15 months.) November 2020 - March 2022

LOCATIONS: (Actions must take place in Turkey and EU Member States.) Assos (Turkey) and/or Istanbul and partner's location.

We expect these "Priority areas" of the "Call for Proposals" will be met:

- Creating or developing networks among CSOs in Turkey and European countries.
- Reinforcing/establishing regional and international networks and platforms between the EU and Turkey to promote knowledge and skills sharing among CSOs;
- Promoting common cultural values and policies, cultural diversity and tolerance;
- Actions to augment the impact of the previous projects implemented by partner organizations

We expect these "action priorities" will be met:

- Establishing long term sustainable cooperation at local, regional and national levels between CSOs in Turkey and their European counterparts on areas within the scope of EU acquis and policies
- Development of the cooperation models based on the transfer of knowledge, sharing of experiences and best practices within the scope of EU acquis and policies;
- Capacity development for Turkish CSOs for developing collaboration with their counterparts in EU member states regarding the accession process and EU policies;
- Encouraging participation of CSOs in Turkey's accession process by strengthening their capacities for analysing and monitoring of the implementation of current legislative framework;
- Capacity building actions for Turkish CSOs for advocacy and policy engagement in cooperation with European CSOs;
- Implementation of the advocacy and policy engagement actions in relation to particular EU acquis or policy;
- Creating or developing networks among CSOs in Turkey and European countries.

- Influencing the general public opinion within Turkey and EU on importance, positive effects and benefits of membership of Turkey to the EU
- Identifying the current concerns and misperceptions within the EU and Turkey and promoting the initiatives to discuss and overcome them;
- Improving public awareness and understanding on the EU policies and illustrating the impact of EU accession process on the daily lives of citizens in Turkey;

This last item links to our recently completed project: "ODTUMIST UN Global Goals Collective Action Idea Camp" (September 2019) which brought together 12 of our scholarship recipients (who completed English Preparatory School and are now in their 1st year at university). Please see the e-book:

https://www.canva.com/design/DADmGPcJaOs/LhlujbS_mP66t08oswAi9w/view?utm_content=DADmGPcJaOs&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishpresent#1 and the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPhj6_CekJI&feature=youtu.be

To apply for this [grant](#) we need a partner Alumni Association (preferably one that offers scholarships to students of their Alma Mater and also preferably one that has previous EU Grant Application experience and a [PADOR](#) account) that is based in an EU State (not UK due to Brexit).

I wonder if you could forward this email to your members. Here is the list of undergraduate programmes at ODTU: <http://www.metu.edu.tr/undergraduate-programs-and-degrees> We are looking forward to hearing from Alumni Associations of EU universities with similar study areas.

Deadline for submission of concept note is 12.11.2019 and therefore we would need to be contacted by any interested Association as soon as possible. We would need 2-3 weeks to co-review and refine our project ideas and finalise the Concept Note.

Full Application is to be submitted by 21.04.2020.

I will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Many thanks for your assistance and

Kind regards

Selda Mansur

Volunteer and Member of ODTUMIST (Istanbul ODTU Orta Dogu Teknik Universitesi / Middle East Technical University Alumni Association)

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