

## BRIDGE - EU PROJECT GROUP

### Organisation

PIC NUMBER	940617246
Legal name of the organisation	ISTODTUMD
Legal name of the organisation in Latin characters (if applicable)	ISTANBUL ODTU MEZUNLARI DERNEGI
Acronym/Organisation's short name	ISTODTU
National ID (if applicable)	not applicable
Department (if applicable)	KÖPRÜ
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### Profile

Type of organization	Non-governmental organisation/association/social enterprise
Is the partner organization a public body?	No
Is the partner organization a non-profit?	Yes

### Background and Experience

Please briefly present the partner organisation.

Middle East Technical University (METU) is one of the most famous and renowned university in Turkey. The İstanbul METU Alumni Association (ISTODTU) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization created by the METU graduates, functioning with more than 4000 members. Its main purposes are: to transfer the knowledge, experience and opportunities that METU offers or the 'METU spirit' to other people in Turkey, and to give METU students the chance to serve their community and shape themselves, their careers, and their lives in the process. For this

purpose, ISTODTU started a scholarship activity to support METU students both financially and socially. The scholarship group including students from METU and graduates from ISTODTU is called KÖPRÜ. KÖPRÜ is comprised of almost 450 students, at least half of which are socially aware and active students, many of whom are awarded scholarships either by the university or ISTODTU. Moreover, hundreds of graduates are in KÖPRÜ.

KÖPRÜ is a very important part of ISTODTU as it is responsible for organizing many of ISTODTU's projects, presenting them to member and non-member students of METU and encouraging them to participate or help. It also cooperates with other similar organizations in Turkey in order to pursue big social projects.

Being aware of the social and environmental problems in Turkey and in the world, our members try to apply the knowledge they have in their field of expertise and solve them. We try to inform people and engage them into social responsibility and awareness. We do so by offering various courses in various fields like foreign languages, music and arts, culture, intercultural communication, human rights etc. Moreover we organize different events and projects in the light of these concerns, like planting trees, building libraries in rural schools, etc.

Most of our projects revolve around young people and children, as we believe that they are the future of the country.

What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?

KÖPRÜ club has been in action since the year 2000 with an array of different social projects and is currently undertaking many more.

Below are listed some of the projects and their main aims:

- 1) Orphanage Project – Helping orphans in their lessons and entertaining them with fun activities, music, arts etc.
- 2) Clothes and School supplies projects – Raising funds and gathering clothes/school supplies from our university students, and gifting them to children in rural areas
- 3)'Books are talking' Project – Reading activities and recording audio books for blind children and adults
- 4)Library Project – Gathering books (novels, school texts, magazines etc) from students/publishers and building libraries for schools in rural areas
- 5)Mobile Library Project – Open library for all METU students
- 6)Community Center Project – A collaboration with the municipality of Ankara to help children in need with their lessons and entertaining them with music and sports activities
- 7)Erasmus Plus Project – Sharing our experience with international partners and benefiting from their experience, in order to entertain and help children by means of arts, music and

cultural activities.

8) Cooperation with LÖSEV: Cooperation with The foundation for children with leukaemia (LÖSEV) for helping and entertaining children with leukaemia in Turkey

Moreover, KÖPRÜ has completed three Youth projects Under EU Education and Youth Programmers. One was in 2004, a youth exchange project organized in Ankara. The other was in 2005, a youth initiative project organized in Kirikkale/Büyükavşar. Finally; KA1 project which is about Active Citizenship has been performed on June 2016.

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

Key persons involved in the project:

**Mrs. Filiz SEKRETER**

She is a graduate of English Language Teaching (ELT), having Masters Degree on European Studies and focuses her studies on education and EU affairs. Has ten years of teaching experience at high school and five years of project management. Moreover, having worked in the Istanbul Provincial Directorate for National Education, she has experience in giving trainings on LLP for the school administrators and teachers, in order to improve their competences and skills. She is really active in the field of EU projects as a leader and initiator for 10 years especially working in Youth in Action, LLP projects and non-formal education. Has participated in various trainings, seminars, and study visits in the related field.

All members of KÖPRÜ have excellent communication skills and a great desire for help and innovation. They are all experienced in social responsibility project as they have succeeded in the above mentioned projects.

**Mrs. Gizem YOLCU**

She is studying Foreign Language Education at Middle East Technical University as a sophomore student. She has been carrying out active volunteer membership in ODTÜMİST KÖPRÜ for three years, during last year she was the coordinator of European Union Projects Team in ODTUMİST KOPRU, as well. She has advanced level of English, beginner level of Italian, at the same time she has one youthpass certificate for her participation in STAND FOR ALL project held in June 2016 by ODTUMİST KOPRU. At present, she is the general coordinator of ODTUMİST KOPRU.

**Mr. Samed Çelik**

He is studying Foreign Language Education at Middle East Technical University. He has been an active volunteer in EU Projects Committee of ODTÜMİST KOPRU for two years. He started his volunteering as Partner Searcher of this committee. He has always been open to improve his skills in this field. In this regard, he participated in "All Inclusive" Training Course held in

Bratislava, Slovakia under the frame of Transnational Training and Cooperation Activities. He received YouthPass certificate upon completing successfully this training. He is a sportsman as well. He is interested in sports like Football, Futsal and Table Tennis and participated in so many tournaments officially so far. Moreover, he is working as a freelance translator and consultant for foreigners in his free times. Once, he became one of the top Turkish freelancer under the Translation & Tutorial category. At present, he is EU Projects Coordinator at ODTÜMIST KOPRU.

### Legal Representative

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If the address is different from the one of the organisation, please tick this box

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### Responsible for the Project

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**Accreditation** (Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?)

Accreditation Type	Accreditation Reference