

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY TEKMER ATTRACTS ATTENTION WITH ITS INNOVATIVE STARTUPS AT TAKE OFF ISTANBUL 2025

Within the scope of Take Off Istanbul 2025, organized under the leadership of the Republic of Türkiye Presidential Investment and Finance Office, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, and the Türkiye Technology Team (T3), Istanbul Gelisim University TEKMER took a strong place in the ecosystem together with Naturstem Biotechnology, Bilimtech Electronics, and Promech Technology.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES

Naturstem Biotechnology developed biotechnology kits that enable fast, accessible, manual, and device-free isolation of fibroblasts and SVF, aiming to provide rapid and practical cellular resources required in regenerative medicine.

Bilimtech Electronics drew attention with its locally developed, low-cost, AI-supported kamikaze drone prototype featuring autonomous flight capability, designed for defense industry, security, and search-and-rescue applications.

Promech Technology showcased next-generation advanced manufacturing solutions by developing a binder jet 3D metal powder printer offering rapid prototyping advantages, as well as motor control boards designed for UAVs.

STRONG INTEREST IN STARTUPS AND PRODUCTIVE COLLABORATION MEETINGS

Throughout the event, the prototypes developed by the companies attracted significant attention from participants, while numerous productive meetings were held focusing on technology commercialization, R&D-oriented collaborations, and the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The startups introduced their innovative products to national and international stakeholders, strongly representing Türkiye's technology production capacity.

STRONG CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECOSYSTEM FROM ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY TEKMER

Istanbul Gelisim University TEKMER continues to play an active role in the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem by supporting technology-driven startups and adding value to the country's future. Istanbul Gelisim University proudly maintains its position as a leading institution in innovation and technology development.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE ETUGENC CULTURE WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY BUYUKCEKMECE ATATURK ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Istanbul Gelisim University hosted the ETÜGENÇ Culture Workshop organized by Büyükçekmece Atatürk Anatolian High School on December 13–14. The workshop took place with the strong participation of Istanbul Gelisim University Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli, Büyükçekmece Atatürk Anatolian High School Principal Necmettin Sarıkaya, Esenyurt District Directorate of National Education Branch Manager Murat Tetik, Assoc. Prof. Nusret Gedik from the Department of Turkish Language and Literature at Marmara University Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, as well as teachers, students, and parents. Held under the theme of culture, the workshop focused on sessions conducted within literature, history, philosophy, technology, law, and anthropology committees, where the relationship between culture and different disciplines was discussed from multiple perspectives.

“WE ARE A UNIVERSITY THAT KEEPS STUDENTS’ CURIOSITY ALIVE AND SUPPORTS INTERDISCIPLINARY THINKING”

Delivering the opening speech within the scope of the ETÜGENÇ Culture Workshop, Istanbul Gelisim University Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli emphasized that this workshop, shaped around the theme of culture, is not merely an academic sharing platform but a multidimensional journey aiming to develop young people's thinking, discussion, and leadership skills by bringing together diverse perspectives.

Stating that development begins with taking inspiration from courage, Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli continued as follows:

“One of our university’s main priorities is to keep our students’ sense of curiosity alive, to create qualified environments where they can freely express their ideas, and to support a culture of interdisciplinary thinking. We are pleased to see that the ETÜGENÇ Culture Workshop strongly aligns with this vision.

Throughout the workshop, the effects of culture on individuals and society will be addressed from a broad perspective ranging from philosophy to anthropology, and from history to technology; participants will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking, questioning, and new perspectives. We believe that every contribution will enrich the academic and intellectual value of the workshop.

As Istanbul Gelisim University, we consider investing in young people and contributing to the discovery of their potential by bringing them together with science, art, technology, and culture among our fundamental responsibilities. On the occasion of this valuable workshop, we are very pleased and proud to host you on our campus.”

“WE ARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF AN IDEA, A SHARED CONSCIOUSNESS, AND A CULTURAL JOURNEY”

Speaking within the scope of the workshop, ETÜGENÇ Workshop General Coordinator Tuğçe Olgun from Büyükçekmece Atatürk Anatolian High School stated that they see ETÜGENÇ not merely as a workshop, but as an element that carries the power beneath our roots into the future:

“Culture is the memory of a nation. Our coming together here today is precisely to transfer this memory to younger generations, to keep it alive, and to give it new vitality. As we all know, culture is not a concept frozen in books. Culture is a living structure that touches, changes, develops and those who will keep it alive are exactly you who are here right now.

Therefore, while preparing the ETÜGENÇ Workshop, our goal was to create space for young people to produce ideas, express themselves, and feel that they are a natural part of this culture. Because when culture touches a young person’s hands, it turns into the future; when it touches their heart, it gains meaning.”

ETÜGENÇ Workshop General Coordinator Tuğçe Olgun concluded her speech by thanking Istanbul Gelisim University for hosting the workshop.

“CULTURE IS NOT ONLY REMEMBERING THE PAST; IT IS A STORY YOU REWRITE EVERY DAY”

Speaking within the scope of the workshop, Büyükçekmece Atatürk Anatolian High School Principal Necmettin Sarıkaya emphasized that, as a school, they have adopted Atatürk’s words, “The foundation of the Republic of Turkey is culture,” as a guiding principle, and that they planned this workshop within this framework.

Thanking the Rectorate of Istanbul Gelisim University for hosting the workshop, Necmettin Sarıkaya shared his views on the main theme of ETÜGENÇ, “culture”:

“Culture is not only remembering the past; it is a story you rewrite every day. In your speeches, your behaviors, your music, your dreams... Wherever you look, culture is there. Today, at this workshop, you will not only talk about culture, you will become culture itself. Every idea expressed in the committees will be a cultural trace left for the future.”

TURKISH HISTORY AND CULTURE DISCUSSED AT THE WORKSHOP

Guest speaker of the ETÜGENÇ Workshop, Assoc. Prof. Nusret Gedik from the Department of Turkish Language and Literature at Marmara University Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, delivered literature- and culture-centered talks within the scope of the workshop:

“Although culture has become one of the areas that has been pushed into the background at the state level in recent years, young people’s interest in culture shows that this process will not be permanent. Culture is one of the most fundamental elements that keep nations standing, and despite major cultural and political ruptures, Turkish history has preserved its existence thanks to the continuity of this accumulation. Turkish culture was initially transmitted through oral tradition, and with the Orkhon Inscriptions, the transition to written culture began. The nomadic lifestyle strengthened oral culture, while written culture ensured the permanence of cultural memory. With the transition to settled life, belief systems such as Manichaeism had decisive effects on culture, leading to significant cultural transformations in Turkish history.”

AN ACADEMIC PLATFORM WHERE YOUTH MEETS CULTURE: ETUGENC CULTURE WORKSHOP AT IGU

By hosting the ETÜĞENÇ Culture Workshop, Istanbul Gelisim University provided a qualified academic environment where young people could express themselves with a focus on culture, thought, and interdisciplinary interaction. This gathering, a strong example of university–high school cooperation, once again highlighted Istanbul Gelisim University’s youth-centered educational approach and its vision of embracing culture as a living value carried into the future. With its multidimensional approach ranging from science to art, and from technology to culture, IGU continues to contribute to the development of thinking and producing individuals.

ART THERAPY TRAINING HELD AT IGU FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELORS AND GUIDANCE TEACHERS

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) hosted a professional development training program aimed at specialists working in the field of guidance and psychological counseling. As part of the program, Asst. Prof. Volkan Demir, a Faculty Member of the Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, delivered a seminar on art therapy–based approaches. The seminar addressed the psychological, emotional, and social effects of art therapy in the developmental processes of children and adolescents. The event was attended by IGU Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli, Bahçelievler Guidance and Research Center Director Mehmet Ali Deniz, Head of Special Education and Guidance and Support Services Branch Ebru Uzun, Head of the Psychological Counseling and Guidance (PCG) Department Elif Gür, as well as psychological counselors and guidance teachers working in the Bahçelievler district.

ART THERAPY–BASED APPROACHES DISCUSSED

The aim of the training program was stated as examining the psychological, emotional, and social effects of art therapy in the developmental processes of children and adolescents, raising awareness among professionals working in the field of guidance and psychological counseling, and providing practice-oriented knowledge sharing. Within the scope of the program, Asst. Prof. Volkan Demir’s seminar covered art therapy based approaches, methods supporting child and adolescent mental health, and practical application examples that can be used in the field.

“INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES FIND THEIR PLACE IN PRACTICE”

Speaking at the event, IGU Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli emphasized that universities should support practices that directly engage with the field, in addition to producing knowledge. He stated:

“This training is a valuable initiative that aims to understand and support an individual’s emotional world, inner processes, and communication styles through art. For this reason, we believe it will make a significant contribution to the professional competence of psychological counselors, especially those working with children and young people. As Istanbul Gelisim University, we advocate that education develops not only within campus boundaries but also through continuous interaction with society. In this direction, we are strengthening our collaborations every day with professionals working in guidance, psychological counseling, and special education. Because the healthy development of our children and young people requires social, emotional, and psychological support processes to be addressed holistically, alongside academic knowledge.”

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED ACADEMIC STUDIES CONTINUE

In addition to its academic studies in the fields of guidance, psychological counseling, and special education, Istanbul Gelisim University continues to produce social contributions through practice-oriented training programs and inter-institutional collaborations. By focusing on interdisciplinary approaches that support child and adolescent mental health, the university aims to contribute to the professional development of specialists working in the field through such activities.

EVALUATION MEETING ON JOINT INITIATIVES HELD BETWEEN IGU AND AVCILAR MUNICIPALITY

A comprehensive evaluation meeting was held between Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) and Avcılar Municipality with the aim of strengthening university–local government cooperation, diversifying areas of joint work, and implementing projects focused on social benefit. The meeting, attended by approximately 30 participants, was joined by Avcılar Deputy Mayor Yüksel Can, Deputy Mayors of Avcılar, and representatives of relevant municipal departments. Istanbul Gelisim University was represented by Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin; Vice Rectors Prof. Nuri Kuruoğlu, Prof. Necmettin Maraşlı, and Prof. Arda Öztürkcan; IGU Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli; as well as academic and administrative unit representatives.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITY–LOCAL GOVERNMENT COOPERATION EMPHASIZED

In the opening session of the meeting, the importance of university–local government cooperation within contemporary urban governance and higher education was emphasized. It was underlined that universities are not merely educational institutions, but also centers that generate social, cultural, and academic value for the cities in which they are located. In this context, views were exchanged on developing a more holistic and sustainable relationship between the university and the city.

During the meeting, potential areas of cooperation between the two institutions were evaluated through a multidimensional approach. Joint activities in education, cultural and artistic events, social responsibility projects, and social awareness initiatives were among the main agenda items. Proposals aimed at enabling students to actively participate in local government projects were also discussed.

ACADEMIC CAPACITY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCESSES

The meeting highlighted that Istanbul Gelisim University’s academic capacity—spanning social sciences, engineering, health sciences, communication, and cultural studies—could play a supportive role in Avcılar Municipality’s planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. It was emphasized that the university’s interdisciplinary structure represents significant potential for providing scientific contributions to local government practices.

To ensure that the cooperation process is carried out effectively, sustainably, and in a results-oriented manner, the proposal to establish a joint commission consisting of representatives from both Istanbul Gelisim University and Avcılar Municipality was brought to the agenda. This planned commission was discussed as a mechanism to ensure coordination between the two institutions, monitor the planning and implementation of joint projects, develop solutions to potential needs and challenges during implementation, and ensure that cooperation activities progress within an institutional framework.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED INITIATIVES DISCUSSED

Joint initiatives in the field of social responsibility were also discussed in detail during the meeting. It was stated that projects targeting disadvantaged groups, educational and cultural activities for young people, and practices focused on environmental awareness and sustainability could create a strong impact within the scope of university–municipality cooperation.

AIMING FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE COOPERATION

In the closing session of the meeting, expectations were expressed regarding the advancement of relations between the two institutions toward a more institutionalized, systematic, and sustainable structure. It was stated that, by increasing mutual communication and coordination, the implementation of projects monitored and evaluated through the joint commission is targeted.

This comprehensive meeting is expected not only to serve as a good practice example of university–local government cooperation, but also to contribute to effective and efficient cooperation models that can be established between academia and public institutions. The process initiated between Istanbul Gelisim University and Avcılar Municipality is planned to continue in the coming period with concrete projects, institutionalized mechanisms, and formal collaborations.

AN EXEMPLARY APPROACH TO UNIVERSITY–CITY INTEGRATION FROM IGU

Istanbul Gelisim University draws attention with its collaborations with local governments and public institutions in line with its higher education vision centered on social contribution, supported by a strong academic staff and an interdisciplinary approach. Through its high-quality work in education, research, and social responsibility, IGU aims not only for academic excellence but also to contribute to the development of the city and society in which it is located. With its approach based on university–city integration, IGU presents an exemplary model in higher education.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED BETWEEN THE TURKISH PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION AND IGU

Turkish Psychological Counseling and Guidance Association (Turkish PDR Association) Istanbul Provincial Representative Yusuf Akgün and Deputy Chairman of the Turkish PDR Association Prof. Mehmet Engin Deniz paid a visit to Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU). Within the scope of the visit, a cooperation protocol covering collaboration in the field of guidance and psychological counseling was signed between the two institutions.

PROTOCOL SIGNED COVERING UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVELS

Following the meetings held, the signed cooperation protocol was structured to cover both undergraduate and graduate programs. Within the scope of the protocol, it was agreed that a 10% tuition discount would be applied in undergraduate programs for members of the Turkish PDR Association and their first-degree relatives. For graduate programs, this discount rate was determined as 20%.

INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF GUIDANCE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

The cooperation protocol signed with the Turkish PDR Association aims to strengthen Istanbul Gelisim University's institutional capacity in the fields of guidance, psychological counseling, and student support services. Within the framework of the protocol, it is aimed to conduct joint training and seminar activities and to enhance cooperation in social responsibility projects directed toward the public.

EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABLE PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

It is anticipated that the signed protocol will make a significant contribution to Istanbul Gelisim University's vision of developing sustainable collaborations with professional stakeholders. This approach, based on university-professional association cooperation, is planned to support initiatives that generate both academic and social benefit.

PAINTER BILGIN CELIK'S "COSMIC JOURNEY" EXHIBITION OPENED AT ISTANBUL GELISIM ART GALLERY

As part of the SATMER Art Events organized by the Istanbul Gelisim University Art and Design Application and Research Center (SATMER), painter Bilgin Çelik's exhibition titled "Cosmic Journey" met art lovers at the Istanbul Gelisim Art Gallery. Curated by Asst. Prof. Mustafa Günay, Director of SATMER at Istanbul Gelisim University, the exhibition attracted significant interest from academic circles and art audiences. The opening ceremony was attended by Istanbul Gelisim University Rector Prof. Dr. Bahri Şahin, IGU Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Serdar Egeli, academic and administrative staff, students, and many art enthusiasts from outside the university. The exhibition featured 50 works inspired by themes of space, consciousness, and the inner universe.

AN ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST NARRATIVE LANGUAGE OBSERVED IN THE EXHIBITION

The works displayed in the exhibition revealed that the artist adopted an abstract expressionist narrative language. Created with organic abstractions and fantastical imagery, the paintings featured forms evoking marine creatures, cosmic beings, and cellular structures.

It was noted that the works followed an approach distant from figurative representation, addressing themes related to nature, consciousness, and the inner world through a visual language.

PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GELISIM ART MUSEUM

Delivering the opening speech of the exhibition, Istanbul Gelisim University Rector Prof. Dr. Bahri Şahin emphasized that Bilgin Çelik's works, centered on the theme of space, possess a striking aesthetic depth.

Prof. Bahri Şahin also touched upon the Gelisim Art Museum project planned to be established within the university under the leadership of SATMER, stating that it is aimed to include one work from each exhibiting artist in the museum's collection.

"I WANT TO EVOKE FEELINGS, NOT EXPLAIN"

Speaking at the exhibition, painter Bilgin Çelik stated that the core idea behind his works is "not to explain, but to evoke feelings," and said:

"There are no clear figures or specific stories in my paintings. I mostly try to capture the shared flow of nature, emotions, and our inner world. I used colors and organic forms in an intuitive language. It is very valuable to me that each viewer can find a feeling or meaning of their own in these paintings."

IGU STRENGTHENS ITS ACTIVE ROLE IN ART AND CULTURE

While inviting viewers on an intellectual journey between universal consciousness and inner discoveries, the “Cosmic Journey” exhibition once again made Istanbul Gelisim University’s active role in the field of art and culture visible.

Cultural and artistic events carried out under the leadership of SATMER continue to strengthen IGU’s vision of positioning art as an integral part of academic life.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WIN GOLD MEDAL AT THE INTERNATIONAL GASTRONOMY FESTIVAL!

Students of Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) achieved a significant success at the 22nd International Istanbul Gastronomy Festival, one of Turkey’s longest-standing and most prestigious organizations in the field of gastronomy. Competing in the “JPT 2 – Best University Team of the Year Competition,” IGU teams earned gold medals with their outstanding performance. In addition, the students who won the gold medal were presented with certificates of appreciation by Abdülkadir Gayretli, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University.

AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING POINT OF THE GASTRONOMY WORLD

Held between December 17–20, 2025, at the Bahçelievler Congress Center, the International Istanbul Gastronomy Festival was organized by the Turkish Chefs and Cooks Federation (TAŞFED) in cooperation with the World Association of Chefs’ Societies (WACS). The festival aimed to promote sectoral knowledge sharing and international interaction by bringing together professional chefs, academics, gastronomy students, and young talents on the same platform.

One of the festival’s most prominent competitions, JPT 2 – Best University Team of the Year, was held as a prestigious event showcasing universities’ practical skills and teamwork in gastronomy. In the competition, teams were evaluated based on technical proficiency, taste, presentation, and time management, as they prepared original menus within a specified time.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY IGU STUDENTS

The first team representing Istanbul Gelisim University consisted of Mevlüt Ubeyde Can, Onurcan Öçeş, and Emine Toraman. The team presented a menu featuring Malkara lentils with shrimp sautéed in butter as the appetizer, sous vide duck with potato pavé as the main course, and caramelized quince dessert with tahini ganache for dessert.

The second IGU team was composed of Emrullah Saraç, Umutcan Yılmaz, and Şeyma Nur Bayrak. Their menu included sea bass ceviche as the appetizer, turbot fish with Jerusalem artichoke purée as the main course, and crème citron with forest fruits for dessert.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS OF PRACTICE-ORIENTED EDUCATION

The gold medal won by IGU students at the International Istanbul Gastronomy Festival was evaluated as a concrete outcome of the university's practice-oriented educational approach in gastronomy. This achievement once again demonstrated not only the students' professional competencies, but also IGU's industry-responsive education model and its international competitiveness.