

## **R&D SUCCESS FROM EKOKİMYA AT ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY TEKMER WITH TUBITAK 1507 SUPPORT**

Ekokimya Kimyevi Ürünler San. ve Tic. A.Ş., operating under the Technology Center (TEKMER) of Istanbul Gelisim University, has been awarded support under the TUBITAK 1507 – SME R&D Startup Support Program with its R&D project titled “Development of a Highly Effective, Stable, and Environmentally Friendly Organic-Certified Mineral Filter Sunscreen through Encapsulation Technology.” The project’s authorized representative is Hale Yedier, and the project manager is Filiz Arıkan Yazıcı.

### **SCIENTIFICALLY BASED, INNOVATIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE PROJECT STRUCTURE**

The project, deemed worthy of support by TUBITAK, stands out with its scientifically grounded approach, advanced technological applications, and sustainability-oriented structure. Within the scope of the project, the existing sunscreen formulation containing zinc oxide (ZnO) as a mineral UV filter and holding COSMOS organic certification will be further developed using advanced encapsulation technologies.

Through the application of encapsulation techniques, the dispersion and effectiveness of mineral filters within the formulation will be enhanced, while maintaining long-term product performance.

Over the course of the 18-month R&D activities, the project aims to reduce the white cast commonly associated with mineral sunscreens, increase UV protection efficiency and stability, and improve user comfort.

The newly developed formulations, based on plant-derived lipid matrices and environmentally friendly coating approaches in compliance with organic certification criteria, are expected to provide a sustainable alternative to silicone- and microplastic-containing products.

## EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FUTURE R&D ACTIVITIES

At the conclusion of the project, it is planned to obtain innovative sunscreen prototypes that preserve organic certification requirements, demonstrate high performance, and are supported by skin compatibility tests, along with technical documentation and production processes ready for commercialization.

In addition, the encapsulation technology to be developed is expected to serve as a technological infrastructure for future R&D studies involving the encapsulation of different active ingredients.

## AIMING TO ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS IN GLOBAL MARKETS

The TUBITAK support received represents a significant indicator of Ekokimya's R&D- and innovation-driven growth strategy, while also aiming to strengthen the company's competitiveness in the U.S. and Chinese markets where it already operates, and to contribute to the international visibility of Turkey in the field of natural and organic cosmetics.

## CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES

Through projects carried out under TEKMER, Istanbul Gelisim University considers the transfer of academic knowledge to industry, the support of innovative ventures, and the development of sustainable, high value-added technologies among its strategic priorities. By means of R&D projects supported by national and international funding mechanisms, the University continues to contribute to the development of environmentally responsible and competitive products.

## **FROM GELISIM TO THE GLOBAL STAGE: IGU ACADEMIC ASST. PROF. CAN BURAK NALBANTOGLU AMONG THE FIRST 18 SPEAKERS AT WORLDEF DUBAI 2026!**

Asst. Prof. Can Burak Nalbantođlu, a faculty member of the Department of Logistics Management at the Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences of Istanbul Gelisim University (İGÜ), has achieved a significant success by being selected among the first 18 speakers at WORLDEF Dubai 2026, one of the world's largest e-commerce organizations. WORLDEF Dubai 2026, which will begin on February 12, 2026, at Dubai CommerCity and bring together the pulse of the global e-commerce ecosystem, will host Asst. Prof. Nalbantođlu with his keynote speech titled "In the future of e-commerce, speed won't win, intelligent logistics will." In this talk, he will share visionary insights that are set to shape the future of logistics and e-commerce with an international audience.

### **A GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENT: BEING AMONG THE FIRST 18 SPEAKERS IS A GREAT SOURCE OF PRIDE**

Stating that being selected as a speaker at a global-scale event like WORLDEF Dubai 2026 carries great personal meaning, Asst. Prof. Can Burak Nalbantođlu shared his thoughts as follows:

"The first WORLDEF Dubai E-Commerce Fair, held last year, brought together many companies and professionals from all over the world. Being selected among the first 18 speakers for such an important and international organization this year is truly a great source of pride for me. The support, encouraging approach, and vision of Istanbul Gelisim University have been highly motivating throughout this process. Sharing field-based experience in logistics and e-commerce with the world and representing our university has become a much more meaningful and valuable opportunity thanks to this support."

### **FROM ACADEMIA TO THE GLOBAL STAGE: THE IGU SIGNATURE**

The ideas that Asst. Prof. Can Burak Nalbantođlu will present at WORLDEF Dubai 2026 are grounded in the academic studies he has been conducting at Istanbul Gelisim University. Emphasizing that his research on data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence-based inventory management provides the scientific foundation for his intelligent logistics vision, Nalbantođlu highlighted the significant role played by IGU's technology-oriented research ecosystem in this process.

## “SPEED IS NOT ENOUGH—INTELLIGENCE WINS”

The title of Asst. Prof. Nalbantoğlu’s talk, “In the future of e-commerce, speed won’t win intelligent logistics will,” represents a fundamental paradigm shift in the e-commerce world. Emphasizing that this message prioritizes foresight, data-driven decision-making, resource optimization, and consistency in customer experience over mere speed, Nalbantoğlu offered the following evaluation:

“The issue is no longer just about being fast; it is about positioning the right product in the right place at the right time. Blind speed increases costs, whereas intelligent logistics ensures sustainability. In the future battles of e-commerce, it will not be brute force but brainpower that wins.”

## AI-SUPPORTED LOGISTICS CASE ANALYSES TO TAKE CENTER STAGE

Asst. Prof. Nalbantoğlu stated that his presentation will particularly focus on artificial intelligence–supported logistics systems. He will share up-to-date case analyses with participants on demand forecasting, inventory optimization, warehouse automation, route planning, and last-mile delivery solutions.

Highlighting that artificial intelligence has become a strategic tool that not only accelerates logistics but also reduces costs, minimizes uncertainty, and increases customer trust, Nalbantoğlu noted that this transformation provides long-term competitive advantages for e-commerce businesses.

## DUBAI: THE GLOBAL LOGISTICS HUB OF E-COMMERCE

Drawing attention to the importance of WORLDEF Dubai for the e-commerce ecosystem, Asst. Prof. Nalbantoğlu emphasized that Dubai is not only a trade center but also a global logistics and technology hub shaping the future of e-commerce.

Summarizing Dubai’s importance under three main headings, Nalbantoğlu stated that the city offers access to a large portion of the world’s population thanks to its strategic location; integrates technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain into its legal infrastructure through digital economy strategies; and transforms logistics into a data- and intelligence-driven model through smart infrastructures dedicated solely to e-commerce, such as CommerCity.

## A GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE

Emphasizing that WORLDEF Dubai 2026 offers major opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships for companies and academics from around the world, Asst. Prof. Nalbantođlu drew particular attention to the strong connections established by institutions and individuals participating from Türkiye.

With Asst. Prof. Can Burak Nalbantođlu's significant representation at WORLDEF Dubai 2026, Istanbul Gelisim University once again demonstrates that it is a visionary, innovative, and internationally competitive university where academic knowledge is transformed into practice on a global scale. Through achievements that extend from Gelisim to the world stage, IGU continues to shape the global future of Turkish academia.

## **IGU 2026 PROJECT YEAR ERASMUS+ STUDENT MOBILITY APPLICATIONS ARE OPENING!**

Within the scope of the 2026 Contract Period, Istanbul Gelisim University Erasmus+ Student Mobility applications will be accepted online via the TURNA Portal (<https://turnaportal.ua.gov.tr/>) between 8 February and 28 February 2026. Applications will close on 28 February 2026 at 23:59. Erasmus+ Student Mobility aims to contribute to students' academic, professional, and cultural development by offering opportunities to study or undertake internships abroad.

## REVIEWING THE PRE-APPLICATION GUIDES IS IMPORTANT

Students who wish to apply are required to carefully review the 2026 Project Year Erasmus+ Study Mobility Application Guide and the 2026 Project Year Erasmus+ Traineeship Mobility Application Guide, as well as the Individual Application Guide, due to the new system.

During the application process, the following documents must be uploaded to the system in PDF format:

A current and approved Transcript obtained from the Student Affairs Office or faculties  
Foreign Language Certificate (for applicants requesting exemption from the university-administered language exam)

All documents except the photograph must be uploaded in PDF format.

## SCOPE OF STUDY AND TRAINEESHIP MOBILITY

Erasmus+ Student Mobility covers two activity areas: Study Mobility and Traineeship Mobility. Students may apply for both; however, in this case, a Priority Petition indicating which mobility is preferred must be uploaded to the Turnportal system.

Study Mobility allows students to study at partner universities for one semester or one academic year. Applications are accepted only once a year, and students must consider partner departments, language of instruction, and special requirements when making their preferences.

Traineeship Mobility enables students to undertake a full-time internship abroad for a minimum of two months. Final-year students may also apply. Students who applied while actively enrolled may complete their traineeship within 12 months after graduation under Erasmus+ Traineeship Mobility. Applicants who submit an acceptance letter during the application process receive additional points.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Associate, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students with an established GPA may apply for Erasmus+ Student Mobility. The minimum GPA requirement is 2.20 for associate and undergraduate students, and 3.00 for graduate and doctoral students.

Preparatory class students, students who have graduated, students with disciplinary penalties, as well as final-year undergraduate students, non-thesis master's students, and doctoral students at the proficiency stage are not eligible to apply for Study Mobility.

Students may benefit from Erasmus+ mobility activities for a maximum total of 12 months per study cycle.

## QUOTAS AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The funded quotas for the 2026 Project Year have been announced on an estimated basis, as the grant amount to be allocated by the Turkish National Agency has not yet been finalized. It is stated that changes may occur in quotas and the evaluation calendar, and universities and the National Agency cannot be held responsible for possible delays.



## AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Erasmus+ program aims to provide students with international academic experience, intercultural interaction, foreign language development, and a strong résumé. Through the program, students have the opportunity to gain a global perspective by studying at various universities across Europe.

Istanbul Gelisim University continues to enhance its students' international competitiveness and support their academic and personal development through the Erasmus+ Student Mobility program. With its Erasmus+ activities, IGU maintains a strong educational vision that opens its students to the world.

## IGU CONTINUES ITS GLOBAL RISE IN THE 2026 SUBJECT RANKINGS: MAJOR SUCCESS IN ENGINEERING AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has achieved another significant success in the 2026 World University Subject Rankings announced by the higher education ranking organization Times Higher Education (THE). In the rankings, where 1,555 universities from 98 countries were evaluated based on a total of 18 performance indicators, IGU maintained its strong position in Social Sciences while also entering the rankings in Engineering, demonstrating its academic competence across multiple disciplines.

## ON THE WORLD LIST IN ENGINEERING

Istanbul Gelisim University made a rapid entry onto the international stage by being ranked in the 601–800 band in the THE Subject Rankings for Engineering. In this category, IGU ranked 11th nationwide in Turkey and 7th among foundation (private) universities, gaining remarkable momentum. Its placement as 4th among foundation universities in the parameters of Research Quality and International Outlook in the same rankings stands as a concrete indicator of the university's research ecosystem aligned with global standards.

## SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Continuing the success it achieved last year in the field of Social Sciences, IGU maintained its position in the 601–800 band, demonstrating a stable performance. Ranking 8th among all universities in Turkey in this field, IGU further consolidated its standing as a leading institution in social sciences education by placing 5th among foundation universities.

“THIS SUCCESS IS A NATURAL OUTCOME OF OUR STRATEGIC GOALS”

Evaluating the results within the context of the university’s institutional transformation process, Istanbul Gelisim University Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin stated:

“These international achievements reflect not only our academic outputs, but also our holistic governance approach and our sustainable, quality-oriented development trajectory. The global ranking we achieved especially in Engineering is a confirmation of the importance we place on interdisciplinary innovation and the level of maturity our institutional infrastructure has reached. Our stability in Social Sciences and our breakthrough in Engineering are the clearest indicators of Istanbul Gelisim University’s strategic determination to become a research university.”

“WE EMBRACE AN APPROACH THAT CONNECTS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION WITH EVERYDAY LIFE”

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University, Abdülkadir Gayretli, emphasized the university’s strategic objectives in his evaluation of the achievement, stating:

“These results, achieved within internationally recognized evaluation systems, are a reflection of Istanbul Gelisim University’s long-term academic vision and quality-focused investment approach. The future of universities lies not in strengthening a single field, but in building structures where different disciplines can interact and where production and thought progress together. At Istanbul Gelisim University, we adopt an approach that places students at the center, values permeability between academic fields, and connects knowledge production with everyday life. The visibility of this approach today across different fields demonstrates the consistency of the path we have chosen.”

## STRENGTHENING ITS POSITION IN THE GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM

The achievements in THE rankings reveal that Istanbul Gelisim University's approach centered on academic quality and its multidimensional development strategy have found recognition at the international level. By extending its strong academic foundation in Social Sciences to other disciplines, IGU continues to strengthen its position in the global higher education ecosystem through its scientific output and research capacity spanning a wide spectrum from engineering to social sciences.

## **GREAT SUCCESS BY ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT THE WUSHU TURKEY CHAMPIONSHIP!**

Students of Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) successfully represented their university at the national level by achieving remarkable results in various disciplines across both men's and women's categories at the Wushu Turkey Championship. IGU athletes who reached the podium in Wushu Sanda, Taichi Quan, and Taijijian Quan not only showcased their individual performances but also demonstrated the university's strength in the field of sports.

## PODIUM SUCCESS IN DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES

At the Wushu Turkey Championship, İbrahim Sarıdemir, a student from the Department of Exercise and Sports Sciences for the Disabled, achieved second place in the Wushu Sanda 75 kg category. Sarıdemir drew attention with his determined performance throughout the tournament and earned a significant achievement.

Competing in the women's category, Rüyada Yıldız, a second-year student in the Department of Sports Management, completed the championship with podium finishes in two different disciplines. Yıldız placed third in Taichi Quan and second in Taijijian Quan, bringing two separate successes to the university.

During the championship, Istanbul Gelisim University SKS Sports Coordinator Kaan Oğulcan Hanbaba served as the head of the delegation and the team coach.



## FULL SUPPORT FROM IGU FOR ITS ATHLETES

Istanbul Gelisim University adopts an educational approach that supports its students in continuing their academic education while also developing in the sports disciplines they are passionate about. The sports infrastructure, training opportunities, and practices that maintain a balance between academics and athletics within the university contribute to students' active participation in national and international organizations.

## VİSİT FROM ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY TO THE EMBASSY OF NIGERIA IN ANKARA

As part of its internationalization vision, a delegation from Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) paid a visit to the Embassy of Nigeria in Ankara and held a meeting with the Nigerian Ambassador to Ankara, Zayyad Abdussalam. Representing the IGU delegation were Chairman of the Board of Trustees Abdülkadir Gayretli, Member of the Board of Trustees Ahmet Gayretli, International Student Director Umedjon Haitmurodov, and Gökkuşuğu College Student Admissions Officer Ali Hegab.

## IGU'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INITIATIVES SHARED WITH THE EMBASSY

The main purpose of the meeting was to share the initiatives carried out by Istanbul Gelisim University in line with its goal of becoming an international university, to present projects implemented within the scope of international agreements, and to introduce the academic and social opportunities offered to more than 12,000 international students studying at the university. During the meeting, particular emphasis was placed on the facilities provided to nearly 300 Nigerian students studying at the university to ensure they receive education in a qualified and sustainable learning environment.

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENTS DISCUSSED

During the visit, the academic, social, and practical training opportunities offered by Istanbul Gelisim University, its strong academic staff, modern campus infrastructure, and the achievements it has attained both nationally and internationally were discussed in detail. It was stated that the university is a higher education institution with a strong international presence and a high ranking in the field of higher education.

## FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

As a result of the meeting, both parties expressed mutual goodwill and a commitment to taking significant steps in the coming period toward student recruitment from Nigeria, promotional activities, and academic collaborations between Istanbul Gelisim University and the Embassy of Nigeria in Ankara. The parties emphasized that this engagement would not be limited to short-term cooperation but would instead lay a strong foundation for long-term and sustainable joint projects.

## **TUBERCULOSIS HAS NOT BECOME A THING OF THE PAST: EXPERTS WARN “IT IS STILL AMONG US”**

Once thought to be a disease of the past, tuberculosis (TB) is back on the agenda today with rising case numbers. Commenting on the issue, Assoc. Prof. Nurten Elkin, a Public Health Specialist and Faculty Member at Istanbul Gelisim University, Faculty of Health Sciences, stated: “When tuberculosis is mentioned, most of us think of sanatoriums and diseases that belong to the past. However, the reality is that tuberculosis has neither disappeared nor lost its impact.”

## STRIKING FIGURES WORLDWIDE

Evaluating the global situation of TB cases, Elkin drew attention to World Health Organization data, saying:

“The most up-to-date figures from the World Health Organization are striking: In 2023, 10.8 million people worldwide contracted tuberculosis, and 1.25 million people lost their lives due to this disease. In other words, in the post-COVID-19 period, tuberculosis has once again become the deadliest infectious disease. These figures tell us one thing clearly: TB is still among us and much closer than we think.”

Elkin also emphasized that Türkiye has made significant progress in the fight against tuberculosis, but the risk still persists. “Türkiye is one of the successful countries in the fight against tuberculosis. Thanks to a strong vaccination program and free diagnosis and treatment services, case numbers have decreased significantly compared to the past. However, this success should not lead to complacency. According to current data, the incidence of TB in our country is approximately 11.2 per 100,000. This means that thousands of people encounter this disease every year.”

## TUBERCULOSIS IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT A SOCIAL DISEASE

Elkin also stressed that tuberculosis should not be seen merely as an individual disease:

“The biggest mistake is to see TB only as ‘the problem of the sick person.’ Tuberculosis is transmitted through the air. An untreated patient can unknowingly infect those around them for months. Therefore, TB is not just an infectious disease; it is directly a public health issue. A delayed diagnosis in one person can pave the way for dozens of new cases in society.”

## STOPPING TREATMENT EARLY IS A MAJOR DANGER

Reminding that TB treatment is long-term, Assoc. Prof. Nurten Elkin pointed out common mistakes made by patients:

“Tuberculosis treatment is long and usually requires at least six months of regular medication. The most common mistake patients make is stopping their medication early with the thought, ‘My symptoms are gone, I’m cured.’ However, the disappearance of symptoms does not mean that the bacteria have been completely eliminated. When treatment is discontinued prematurely, the disease returns, the person becomes contagious again, and most importantly, the bacteria develop drug resistance.”

## DRUG-RESISTANT TB MAKES TREATMENT MORE DIFFICULT

Assoc Prof. Elkin also addressed the causes of drug-resistant tuberculosis:

“Drug-resistant TB occurs when standard TB medications are no longer effective. This condition most often arises as a result of irregular or incomplete treatment. In drug-resistant TB, treatment can take years rather than months, the medications used have more side effects, and the process is much more challenging for both the patient and the healthcare system. In short, not taking medications on time and completely creates a risk not only for the individual but for society as a whole.”

## VACCINATION AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS SAVE LIVES

Assoc. Prof. Elkin also emphasized the importance of the BCG vaccine:

“The BCG vaccine especially protects infants and children from the most severe and fatal forms of tuberculosis. It prevents life-threatening conditions such as TB meningitis and disseminated tuberculosis. Therefore, vaccination programs are one of the cornerstones of the fight against TB. The protection provided by the vaccine is indispensable for public health.”

Highlighting the importance of early diagnosis, Elkin said:

“Persistent cough, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue..these symptoms should not be postponed with the thought that ‘they will pass.’ Tuberculosis is a completely treatable disease when detected early. Early diagnosis shortens treatment duration, prevents transmission, reduces the risk of drug resistance, significantly lowers mortality rates, and when diagnosis is delayed, the cost is heavy for both the individual and society.”

**“THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS IS NOT OVER”**

Regarding tuberculosis, a disease that can lead to serious health problems and even death if left untreated, Assoc. Prof. Elkin concluded:

“The fight against tuberculosis is not over. Trusting vaccination, taking symptoms seriously, and applying to healthcare institutions in a timely manner are the most effective ways of protection, both individually and socially.”