

INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: IGU ATHLETE KUBRA KOCAKUS RETURNS WITH A GOLD MEDAL

Kübra Kocakuş, an athlete of Istanbul Gelisim University Sports Club, won the gold medal in the women's Muay Thai 60 kg final at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Demonstrating fighting spirit, high performance, and consistent gameplay throughout the tournament, Kocakuş delivered a determined performance in the final match, securing the top spot on the podium.

FULL SUPPORT FOR ATHLETES

Abdülkadir Gayretli, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelisim University, stated that this achievement is a great source of pride both for the university and for Türkiye, congratulating the athlete on her success. Highlighting the importance of supporting athletes, Gayretli expressed his belief that more achievements will follow in the future.

Kübra Kocakuş received her award from IGU Chairman of the Board of Trustees Abdülkadir Gayretli, while the National Team Coach Berkan Öner was presented his award by IGU Rector Prof. Bahri Şahin. IGU Sports Club President Dr. Uğur Caba, Vocational School Director Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Soyol, and IGU SKSDB President Uğurcan Doğukan Hanbaba were also present at the award ceremony.

Sharing her emotions after winning the gold medal, Kocakuş said:

“Preparing for this tournament was a long process. Crowning it with a gold medal has been a great honor for us. This is not an achievement gained alone; there are many people whose efforts made this possible. I extend my endless gratitude to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Muay Thai Federation, and Istanbul Gelisim University Chairman of the Board of Trustees Abdülkadir Gayretli, who has sponsored me. Without their support, this success would not have been possible. I am very happy for our country.”

Kocakuş's achievement adds yet another milestone to the rising presence of Istanbul Gelisim University Sports Club on both national and international platforms.

IGU–İSKUR COLLABORATION LEADS THE WAY IN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: NEXT GEN’25

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) Career Guidance Application and Research Center, in cooperation with İŞKUR, organized a major event shedding light on youth employment. Next Gen’25, titled “New Approaches in Youth Employment: The New Face of Career in the Era of Twin Transformation,” brought together academics, industry representatives, and students to comprehensively discuss the ongoing transformation in the world of careers.

“TRUE SUCCESS IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE HARMONY OF UNIVERSITY–PUBLIC–INDUSTRY COLLABORATION”

Next Gen’25, organized in cooperation with IGU Career Guidance Application and Research Center and İŞKUR, began with an opening speech by IGU Career Center Deputy Director Asst. Prof. Kenan Akpınar. Asst. Prof. Akpınar emphasized the importance of collaboration: “True success is possible through the harmony and coordination of university–public–industry cooperation. Bringing together these three forces is the key to unlocking the potential of our youth. The effort we present here today is the product of this understanding. When universities, the industry, and public institutions unite, knowledge, experience and equal opportunity merge and opportunities for our youth multiply.” He highlighted that the primary goal of the event is to bring academics and industry representatives together, foster a culture of collaboration, and develop projects that will strengthen youth employment.

“GREEN TRANSFORMATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CREATE MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH”

In his opening speech, Tarık Bozkurt, Branch Manager of İŞKUR Büyükçekmece Service Center, stressed that green and digital transformation bring significant job opportunities for young people: “İŞKUR is not only an institution that brings together job seekers and employers; it also sees all actors in the labor market as stakeholders, with universities being among the most important. Addressing youth employment today at Istanbul Gelisim University is extremely valuable. The greatest challenge young people face in job seeking is the lack of experience. Meanwhile, rapid global developments are transforming our understanding of careers. Especially green and digital transformation open major opportunities for youth. Today, we will evaluate how these opportunities can reveal young people’s potential and how skill-based competencies can be acquired.”

“THE GREATEST LEGACY WE LEAVE TO OUR CHILDREN IS A QUALIFIED AND COMPETENT WORKFORCE”

In his address, IGU Career Center and Alumni Coordination Office Director Asst. Prof. Mustafa Özan emphasized the importance of collaboration for building the future:

“Our priority at the Career Center is the ‘competency theme.’ Our aim is to train competent and qualified young people. Of course, this is not a process we can achieve alone. Support from NGOs and industry representatives is essential. Today, our students are taking their first steps in their career journey. My team and I accompany them closely during the orientation process. Afterwards, you, our valuable stakeholders, guide them through planning and development. Together, we will build the future. When achieved through unity and cooperation, the greatest legacy we leave our children will be a competent workforce.”

“OUR GRADUATES ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN BUSINESS LIFE ACROSS TURKIYE”

IGU Vice Rector Prof. Arda Öztürkcan underlined the importance of university–industry cooperation:

“Although universities like ours are considered ‘under 25 years old,’ we have achieved successes that allow us to compete with well-established global universities, despite being only 17 years old. Our graduates are actively involved across Türkiye as employers, employees, managers, and entrepreneurs. With our international accreditations, our students’ diplomas are now recognized worldwide. After hosting over a hundred evaluation groups since 2018, we have seen that cooperation with external stakeholders is essential. As a university whose diplomas hold global value, we need more platforms to collaborate with our stakeholders. Through our Continuing Education Centers, we can offer specialized training, and with our advanced research technology centers, we can develop joint projects with you. In addition to education and research, we also maintain our social responsibility mission and conclude today’s event with a sustainability panel—one of the most important topics of our time.”

Prof. Öztürkcan stated that they will continue making December a special period dedicated to academic achievements and alumni engagement.

OVER 100 COMPANIES AND 300 SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES GATHERED AT IGU

During the event, more than 100 companies and over 300 industry representatives came together at Istanbul Gelisim University to discuss labor market needs, the impact of digital and green transformation on employment, and new career models. İŞKUR Job and Vocational Counselor Coşkun Yakıcı delivered an informative presentation, followed by a panel discussion titled “New Approaches in Youth Employment: The New Face of Career in the Era of Twin Transformation.”

The panel, moderated by IGU faculty member Dr. Gonca Yılmaz, featured the following speakers: Aslı Dede – Founder of Sustainable Life School & Communication Consultant, Mehtap Altuğ – Manager of Sustainability and Social Impact, Development and Investment Bank, Dr. Cihan Kurt – Board Member, Çuhadaroğlu Holding, Efe Gökçe – Editor-in-Chief, Yeşil İş Platformu & Business World Global.

STRENGTHENING STUDENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH INDUSTRY–UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION

Next Gen’25 aims to strengthen sectoral stakeholder networks across all academic programs of the university, support students in career planning, and foster sustainable collaborations with the business world. Istanbul Gelisim University, by inviting all its academics to this large-scale event centered on the future of professions and competencies, aims to make a strong contribution to enhancing employment opportunities for young people.

IGU FILM ACADEMY AND IRAQ HILLA UNIVERSITY LAUNCH DOCUMENTARY FILMING IN BABYLON

In collaboration with Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) Film Academy and Iraq’s Hilla University, production has begun on the documentary “The Hanging Gardens of Babylon,” highlighting the historical and cultural richness of ancient Babylon. The project aims to explore Babylon in depth, offering both historical and sociological insights. Designed in a story-drama format, the documentary will feature a diverse cast of both Turkish and Iraqi actors.

HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BABYLON

In the initial filming phase of the project, planned within IGU Film Academy's Babylon studies, expert interviews focusing on Babylon's historical and cultural importance will take place. These in-depth conversations with specialists will provide viewers with a rich perspective on the mysterious past of Babylon.

In the next phase, Turkish actor Sultan Saruhan and Iraqi actor Kadhrm Khanjar will take part. This portion of the documentary, structured in a story-drama format, will approach Babylon's historical and cultural heritage from a sociological perspective.

EXPLORING THE DEPTHS OF BABYLON THROUGH A SOCIOLOGICAL LENS

The documentary will not only highlight the physical structure and historical legacy of Babylon but will also delve into the city's social dynamics, cultural diversity, and sociological depth. With its thousands-year-old history as a hub where multiple cultures once coexisted, Babylon becomes the focal point of an interdisciplinary and internationally collaborative project.

A Cultural and Educational Collaboration: IGU's Leading Role

This significant documentary project is directed by Lecturer Ahmet Bikiç from Istanbul Gelisim University's Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Communication and Design. Under Bikiç's leadership, a team composed of IGU faculty members and students contributes to the documentary's production process, gaining valuable academic and artistic experience.

POST-PRODUCTION AND PREMIERES: A VISION TOWARD BAGHDAD

Following the filming, final touches will be completed in October during meetings held at Istanbul Gelisim University, after which the project will be finalized. A major film premiere will then be hosted in Baghdad, presenting Babylon's mysterious past to audiences on an international platform.



IGU'S INTERNATIONALIZATION VISION AND CROSS-CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

This project stands out as an important step in Istanbul Gelisim University's internationalization vision. The collaboration between Hilla University and IGU offers a valuable opportunity for both institutions to co-produce a significant documentary and develop a shared academic production culture. Such educational initiatives promote global cultural exchange and help strengthen international academic networks.

Led by Istanbul Gelisim University, the project not only explores the deep connection between history and culture but also reinforces the university's academic and artistic contributions on an international scale.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE STUDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROJECT COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU), through its Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit (BAP-K), has launched the Student Research and Innovation Project Competition. Designed to merge students' academic knowledge with innovative ideas and to foster a research culture early on, the competition offers IGU students the opportunity to develop original projects and bring their ideas to life. Students may apply individually or as a team, making this a significant step toward embracing scientific research and innovation.

PRIMARY GOAL: BRINGING INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO LIFE

With the Student Research and Innovation Project Competition, IGU aims to encourage associate and undergraduate students to participate in research, development, and innovation processes at an early stage. The competition allows students not only to generate ideas but also to transform these ideas into concrete projects, develop prototypes, and produce outcomes through scientific methods. Guided by academic advisors, participants will have access to the university's laboratories and R&D infrastructure.

Additionally, the competition provides students with opportunities to apply for national and international project calls, engage in funding programs, and step into the entrepreneurship ecosystem—strengthening their preparation for future academic and professional pathways.



THEMATIC AREAS: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The competition spans a wide range of thematic fields based on IGU's strategic research priorities. These themes offer students opportunities to develop innovative projects across various disciplines:

Aviation and Space Technologies

Artificial Intelligence, Hardware, Autonomous Systems and Robotics

Digital Technologies, Chip Technologies, Informatics, and Communication

Energy and Sustainability Technologies

Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Health Technologies

Education, Society, and Human-Centered Technologies

Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Technologies

Architecture, Design, Creativity, and Visual Innovation

Aligned with IGU's ecological, economic, technological, social, and cultural sustainability principles, these areas enable students to work collaboratively across disciplines, gaining practical experience while generating innovative and applicable outputs.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR SUPPORT: ENSURING PROJECT QUALITY

Each project must have an academic advisor. This requirement ensures that projects are developed in accordance with scientific methods and ethical standards, reinforcing cooperation between students and academics. Advisor guidance not only enhances project quality but also helps students develop research skills and strengthens a shared research culture. This collaborative process enables students to become more academically equipped while allowing academics to contribute to the development of innovative ideas.

SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

Projects that succeed in the competition will be awarded certificates and prizes. Additionally, IGU's relevant research centers will monitor these projects closely. They may be directed toward intellectual property applications such as patents, utility models, or copyrights. Successful projects will also be supported in applying for national and international funding programs, preparing for commercialization processes, and transforming results into academic publications.

These steps, aligned with IGU's research-oriented vision, help ensure that student projects generate social and economic value—strengthening both academic impact and the university's role within the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

IGU STRENGTHENS ITS VISION OF BECOMING A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Through the Student Research and Innovation Project Competition, IGU aims to enhance the scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial development of student projects. This initiative reinforces the university's vision of becoming a research-oriented institution while empowering students to propose innovative solutions to societal challenges. By cultivating a culture of research and innovation among young entrepreneurs, IGU aims to contribute to scientific advancement and economic development.

IGU CLUB PROMOTION WEEK HELD WITH HIGH PARTICIPATION AN EVENT BRINGING TOGETHER 96 CLUBS ENERGIZED THE CAMPUS!

Istanbul Gelisim University transformed into a space of discovery and connection during the Club Promotion Week held on December 11–12, 2025, at the J Block Mehmet Akif Ersoy Conference Hall. A total of 96 student clubs operating under the university gathered to present their work in various fields, offering students a wide range of options. The event, which attracted significant participation, provided both new and returning students the opportunity to closely explore the university's club culture. For two days, the event area remained vibrant with colorful booths, promotional presentations, and special activities organized by the clubs.

STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER NEW COMMUNITIES BASED ON THEIR INTERESTS

During the Club Promotion event, students explored clubs that catered to their interests in areas such as social responsibility projects, technological initiatives, culture and arts activities, sports clubs, entrepreneurship, and scientific research communities. Club representatives established one-on-one communication with visitors, providing detailed information about membership processes and the projects planned for the academic year.

The interest shown in clubs that support students' personal development and help them adapt to campus life once again highlighted IGU's student-centered approach and the importance of the event.

CAMPUS INTERACTION STRENGTHENED AS STUDENTS BUILT NEW CONNECTIONS

The organization not only served the purpose of club promotion but also created a social environment that enhanced interaction among students. Participants experienced both enjoyable and productive moments through mini activities and hands-on presentations held by the clubs. Reflecting the university's cultural diversity and vibrancy, the event demonstrated the strong culture of collaboration and solidarity among IGU students.

THE UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTIONAL VISION REACHED A WIDER AUDIENCE THROUGH STUDENT CLUBS

Club Promotion Week served as an important platform for communicating IGU's vision, which supports academic and social development together. The event emphasized the importance of strengthening club activities and increasing student engagement as a way to broaden the reach of the university's institutional identity.

The recruitment of many new members by various clubs at the end of the event signaled that community activities at IGU will continue with even more momentum throughout the year.