34th INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE DEANS' COUNCIL OF FACULTIES OF COMMUNICATION (ILDEK)

FINAL DECLARATION

The 34th International Meeting of the Deans Council of Faculties of Communication (ILDEK) was held in Gaziantep, hosted by the Faculty of Communication of Hasan Kalyoncu University, between 7–9 May 2026, with the participation of the deans and representatives of faculties of communication. A total of forty-two faculty representatives from public and foundation universities in Türkiye and the faculties of communication in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus attended the meeting.

During the three-day meeting, participants extensively discussed the current challenges of communication education, quality assurance and accreditation processes in higher education, the impact of artificial intelligence on communication education, academia–industry collaboration, applied education models in faculties of communication, internship and work-based learning practices, employment of academic staff, the improvement of technical infrastructure and administrative capacity, and the future of the communication discipline.

The recommendations presented during panel sessions, workshops, and the General Assembly were carefully evaluated, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolutions

1) To institutionalize and sustain collaboration among faculties of communication, professional organizations, public institutions, and industry representatives, and to establish continuous communication and information-sharing mechanisms under the coordination of ILDEK.

2) To regularly update the contact information of faculties of communication under the coordination of ILDEK and share this information with relevant professional organizations in order to facilitate the timely dissemination of announcements, collaboration opportunities, events, and requests.

3) To strengthen academia–industry collaboration in order to improve educational activities in faculties of communication in line with industry expectations, and to develop models that enable more active participation of industry representatives in educational processes.

4) To undertake the necessary initiatives to expand internships, work-based learning, project-based education, and industry-supported courses in order to improve the quality of applied education in faculties of communication.

5) To review the curricula of faculties of communication in light of the impact of artificial intelligence technologies on communication education, and to update course content related to AI literacy, data verification, ethical principles, digital content production, and new media technologies.

6) To establish ethical principles governing the use of artificial intelligence in teaching and learning processes and to develop institutional policies that ensure students use AI tools responsibly, transparently, and in accordance with the principles of academic integrity.

7) To promote educational models that enhance analytical thinking, critical evaluation, creativity, problem-solving, digital production, and strategic decision-making skills among students in faculties of communication.

8) To authorize the ILDEK Executive Board to initiate studies aimed at establishing common digital platforms that facilitate experience sharing among faculties of communication in the fields of AI-supported education, digital content production, and communication technologies.

9) To support accreditation and quality assurance processes in faculties of communication by strengthening cooperation with the Communication Education Evaluation and Accreditation Board (İLEDAK) and the Communication Research Association (İLAD), and to encourage wider participation in accreditation activities.

10) To prepare regular reports on the educational, research, and practical needs and recommendations of faculties of communication and submit them, primarily to the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and other relevant public institutions and organizations.

11) To initiate the necessary actions before the **Council of Higher Education (YÖK)** concerning legal and administrative arrangements that will enable professionals with substantial industry experience to participate more actively in the teaching process, with the aim of improving the quality of applied courses in faculties of communication.

12) To undertake the necessary studies to reassess the current legislation governing the employment, responsibilities, and employment rights of instructors working in faculties of communication, taking into account the evolving needs of the communication discipline.

13) To support initiatives aimed at strengthening the infrastructure of faculties of communication, including television and radio studios, editing laboratories, photography

studios, computer laboratories, software infrastructure, and digital content production facilities.

14) To increase the number of technical and administrative staff employed in faculties of communication, support their professional development, and establish institutional structures that will enable them to contribute more effectively to educational and research activities.

15) To establish permanent working mechanisms within ILDEK for identifying the infrastructure investment and technical equipment needs of faculties of communication and for reporting these needs to the relevant public authorities.

16) To ensure that the opinions and recommendations of both internal and external stakeholders are systematically collected and evaluated within the educational processes of faculties of communication, and that the outcomes are shared with the relevant institutions and organizations.

17) To periodically review departmental curricula in accordance with recent developments in artificial intelligence, digital media, data journalism, digital content production, new media technologies, and other emerging fields of communication.

18) To authorize the ILDEK Executive Board to develop common digital communication platforms through which faculties of communication can share best practices, scientific studies, student projects, short films, media productions, and academic events.

19) To establish the following thematic committees for the purpose of identifying common challenges faced by faculties of communication, developing policy recommendations, fostering collaboration with relevant institutions, and proposing sustainable solutions.

Committees Established

Infrastructure, Administrative and Technical Personnel Committee

- Prof. Dr. Elif Asude Tunca (European University of Lefke)
- Prof. Dr. Hatice Aydın (Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University)
- Prof. Dr. Veysel Çakmak (Aksaray University)

Public Relations and Advertising Committee

- Prof. Dr. Pelin Hürmeriç (Yeditepe University)
- Prof. Dr. Murat Koçyiğit (Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University)
- Prof. Dr. Hatice Aydın (Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University)
- Prof. Dr. Raci Taşçıoğlu (Atatürk University)

Journalism and New Media Committee

- Prof. Dr. Aslı Sezgin Büyükalaca (Çukurova University)
- Prof. Dr. Aslıhan Ardıç Çobaner (Mersin University)
- Prof. Dr. Gül Esra Atalay (Üsküdar University)
- Prof. Dr. Deniz Yengin (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University)

Radio, Television and Cinema Committee

- Prof. Dr. Aysel Aziz (Honorary Member)
- Prof. Dr. Meral Özçınar (Manisa Celal Bayar University)
- Prof. Dr. Fevzi Kasap (Near East University)

Visual Communication and Graphic Design Committee

- Prof. Dr. Emre Tandırlı (Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Begüm Aylin Önder (Atlas University)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. İhsan Eken (İstanbul Medipol University)

20) To authorize the above-mentioned committees to identify issues within their respective areas of responsibility, develop recommendations for their resolution, establish cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations, and submit their reports and recommendations to the ILDEK Executive Board.

21) To evaluate the reports prepared by the committees established to enhance education, research, practical training, and industry collaboration within faculties of communication, and to submit the resulting recommendations, where appropriate, to the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), relevant public institutions and organizations, and professional associations.

22) To promote joint projects, collaborative research initiatives, and academic events under the coordination of ILDEK in order to enhance the national and international visibility of communication education and strengthen scientific cooperation among faculties of communication.

23) To further strengthen the institutional framework of the International Symposium on Communication in the Digital Age (CIDA), jointly organized by İLAD and ILDEK, and to hold the 2028 CIDA Symposium under the auspices of the Faculty of Communication of Yeditepe University.

24) To hold the 35th International Meeting of the Deans Council of Faculties of Communication (ILDEK) in 2027, hosted by the Faculty of Communication of Fırat University in Elazığ, Türkiye.

25) To continue ILDEK's mission as the foremost consultative and coordinating body dedicated to strengthening collective wisdom, academic solidarity, quality culture, practice-oriented communication education, and academia–industry collaboration among faculties of communication.

26) To authorize the ILDEK Executive Board to oversee the implementation of the resolutions adopted during the meeting, conduct the necessary consultations with relevant institutions and organizations, coordinate the activities of the established committees, and report the progress achieved at the next ILDEK General Assembly.

27) To elect the following members to serve on the 2026–2027 ILDEK Executive Board:

2026–2027 ILDEK Executive Board

Chair

- **Prof. Dr. Gilman Senem Gençtürk Hızal** – Başkent University

Permanent Member

- **Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol** – Maltepe University

Executive Board Members

- **Prof. Dr. Gül Rengin Küçükerdoğan** – Hasan Kalyoncu University
- **Prof. Dr. Ümit Arklan** – Süleyman Demirel University
- **Prof. Dr. Pelin Hürmeriç** – Yeditepe University
- **Prof. Dr. Kenan Demirci** – Fırat University

Alternate Members

- **Prof. Dr. Raci Taşçıoğlu** – Atatürk University
- **Prof. Dr. Elif Asude Tunca** – European University of Lefke

The Executive Board listed above shall represent ILDEK throughout its term of office, undertake the necessary initiatives on behalf of the Council, oversee the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 34th ILDEK Meeting, and coordinate activities aimed at advancing communication education and inter-institutional cooperation.