34th INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION FACULTIES DEANS' COUNCIL (İLDEK) MEETING FINAL DECLARATION

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

During the three-day meeting, the participants comprehensively discussed current issues in communication education, quality assurance and accreditation processes in higher education, the impact of artificial intelligence on communication education, academia–industry collaborations, applied education models in communication faculties, internship and workplace-based training practices, faculty employment, the development of technical infrastructure and administrative capacity, and the future of the communication discipline.

The proposals presented during panel sessions, workshops, and the General Assembly were evaluated, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by all participants:

1. To institutionalize and ensure the sustainability of collaboration among communication faculties, professional organizations, public institutions, and industry representatives; to establish continuous communication and information-sharing mechanisms under the coordination of İLDEK; and to regularly update and share the contact information of communication faculties with relevant professional organizations to facilitate the timely dissemination of announcements, collaboration calls, events, and information requests.
2. To strengthen academia–industry collaborations in communication faculties in order to improve educational activities; to develop models that enable more effective participation of industry representatives in educational processes; and to initiate efforts before the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) regarding the necessary legal and administrative regulations to facilitate the active involvement of faculty members with industry experience in educational processes.
3. To undertake the necessary efforts to expand internship programs, workplace-based training, project-based applications, and industry-supported courses to enhance the quality of applied education in communication faculties.

4. To revise course contents concerning artificial intelligence literacy, data verification, ethical principles, digital content production, data journalism, and new media technologies in consideration of the impact of artificial intelligence technologies on communication education, and to periodically review departmental curricula in line with current developments in these fields.

5. To establish ethical principles regarding the use of artificial intelligence applications in educational processes and to develop institutional policies and practices that ensure students use AI tools consciously, transparently, and in accordance with the principles of academic integrity.

6. To support educational models that foster analytical thinking, critical evaluation, creativity, problem-solving, digital production, and strategic decision-making skills in communication faculties, and accordingly, to submit a proposal to the Council of Higher Education requesting that the university entrance examination score type for communication programs be changed to the "Equal Weight" category.

7. To authorize the İLDEK Executive Board to establish common digital platforms that facilitate experience sharing among communication faculties in AI-supported educational practices, digital content production, and communication technologies, and that enable the dissemination of best practices, scientific studies, student projects, short films, media productions, and academic activities.

8. To support accreditation and quality assurance processes carried out by communication faculties; to enhance cooperation with İLAD and İLEDAK to promote a culture of quality; and to increase participation in accreditation activities.

9. To regularly evaluate the opinions, recommendations, and needs concerning the educational, research, and practical activities of communication faculties, along with reports prepared by commissions, and to communicate these findings to relevant public institutions, professional organizations, and particularly the Council of Higher Education.

10. To conduct the necessary studies regarding the reassessment of existing legislation governing the employment conditions, duties, and personnel rights of lecturers serving in communication faculties in accordance with the needs of the communication discipline.

11. To strengthen the software infrastructure and digital production environments of facilities where theory and practice are integrated (such as laboratories, workshops, and studios); and to establish permanent working mechanisms within İLDEK to

determine infrastructure investment and technical equipment needs and report them to relevant public institutions.

12. To increase the number of technical and administrative personnel employed in communication faculties, support their professional development, and establish institutional structures that enable their more effective contribution to educational processes.
13. To systematically collect and evaluate the opinions of internal and external stakeholders regarding educational activities conducted by communication faculties and to share the outcomes with relevant institutions and organizations.
14. To establish the thematic commissions listed below in order to address common issues faced by communication faculties, develop cooperation with relevant institutions, and prepare policy recommendations. These commissions shall identify problems within their respective areas, develop solutions, collaborate with relevant institutions, and submit their reports to the İLDEK Executive Board.

Established Commissions

Infrastructure, Administrative and Technical Personnel Commission

- 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 Commission

- 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 Commission

- 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 Commission

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

Visual Communication and Graphic Design Commission

- 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)

15. To encourage joint projects and activities coordinated by İLDEK in order to enhance the national and international visibility of communication education, strengthen scientific collaborations among communication faculties, and support collaborative research activities.
16. To strengthen the institutional structure of CIDA – Communication in the Digital Age Symposium, jointly organized by İLAD and İLDEK, and to initiate the necessary procedures for the 2028 CIDA Symposium to be hosted by the Faculty of Communication of Yeditepe University.
17. To hold the 35th International Communication Faculties Deans Council (İLDEK) Meeting in Elazığ in 2027, hosted by the Faculty of Communication of Fırat University.
18. To continue the activities of İLDEK as the highest advisory platform that promotes collective wisdom, academic solidarity, a culture of quality, applied education, and academia–industry collaborations among communication faculties.
19. To authorize the İLDEK Executive Board to monitor the implementation of the resolutions adopted during the meeting, conduct the necessary consultations with relevant institutions and organizations, coordinate commission activities, and report developments at the subsequent İLDEK meeting.
20. To determine the composition of the İLDEK Executive Board for the 2026–2027 term as follows:

İLDEK Executive Board (2026–2027)

President

- Prof. Dr. Gilman Senem Gençtürk Hızal

Permanent Member

- Prof. Dr. Asaf Varol – Maltepe University

Executive 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 Gündoğdu – Atatürk University
- Prof. Dr. Elif Asude Tunca – European University of Lefke

It was unanimously resolved that the above-mentioned Executive Board shall represent İLDEK throughout its term of office, undertake the necessary initiatives on behalf of the Council, and oversee the implementation of the decisions adopted.

These resolutions were unanimously approved by all participants of the meeting.