INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SUMMIT

İSTANBUL

24.10.2026

SUMMIT PROGRAMME

Time	Programme
09:00	**Registration**
09:30	**Opening Remarks**
09:30-09:55	**E. Gün Bilgin**, President, Türkiye Down Syndrome Association **Dinka Vukovic,** President, European Down Syndrome Association **Fulya Ekmen,** Vice President, Türkiye Down Syndrome Association **Prof. Dr. Atilla Cavkaytar,** Head of the Department of Special Education, Maltepe University; Member of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Board of Türkiye Down Syndrome Association Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Otrar, Director General of the General Directorate of Special Education and Guidance Services, Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye
09:55-10:00	What Does the European Union Expect from Member States Regarding Inclusive Education? (Video) : **Katrin Langensiepen**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance Member
10:00	**Inclusive Education and Europe Session**
10:00-10:30	European Status Report on Inclusive Education: **José Gutiérrez Caballero,** Vice President, European Down Syndrome Association
10:30-11:00	Students with Special Educational Needs and Mainstream Education in Türkiye: Legal Framework and Key Issues - **Cansu Korkmaz,** Attorney at Law- Türkiye Down Syndrome Association Board Member
11:00-11:30	Poster Presentations and Coffee Break

11:30-12:00	Ten Pillars Shaping the Future of Inclusive Education: **Antonella Mangiaracina**, Activity Manager, European Agency for Inclusive Education
12:00-12:30	The Importance of Easy Language in Inclusive Education - **Nils Wöbke**, Director of Landsverband der Lebenshilfe Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
12:30-14:00	Poster Presentations and Lunch Break
14:00	**Practical Examples and Experience Sharing in Inclusive Education Session- Moderators: Prof. Dr. E. Sema Batu, Prof. Dr. Atilla Cavkaytar, Fulya Ekmen, Psychologist Merve Özman**
14:00-15:30	Sharing Classroom Practice Examples in Inclusive Education: Monica Induni - Swiss , Barış Yıldız - Türkiye , Carlotta Leonori - Italy , Drazenka Kovacevic - Croatia, Dinka Vukovic - Croatia, Michaela Hilgner - Germany
15:30-16:00	Poster Presentations and Coffee Break
16:00-16:30	"Experience Sharing by Self-Advocates with people with Down Syndrome Georgia , Türkiye, Croatia and more"
16:30	**Forum Session- Moderator: Dinka Vukovic**
16:30-17:30	Development of an Inclusive Education Manifesto Questions: What actions are expected from governments to make schools inclusive?
	What actions are expected from the European Parliament to encourage effective inclusive education policies?
17:30-18:00	Q&A and Evaluation of the Day
19:30	**Dinner -Turkish Cusine Night - Reservation needed -Self paid**

Confirmed Speakers:

- **E. Gün Bilgin** – President, Turkish Down Syndrome Association
- **Fulya Ekmen** – Vice President, Turkish Down Syndrome Association / Vice President, European Down Syndrome Association
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Otrar** – General Director of Special Education and Guidance Services, Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey
- **Dinka Vukovic** – President, European Down Syndrome Association

- **Prof. Dr. Atilla Cavkaytar** – Head of the Department of Special Education, Maltepe University / Member of the Scientific Committee and Advisory Board, Turkish Down Syndrome Association
- **Atty. Cansu Korkmaz** – Board Member and Advisory Board Member, Turkish Down Syndrome Association
- **Katrin Langensiepen** – Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA Group / Vice-Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
- **José Gutiérrez Caballero** – Vice President, European Down Syndrome Association
- **Antonella Mangiaracina** – European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education *(or European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education)*
- **Nils Wöbke** – Managing Director, Capito Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- **Panelists:** Monica Induni, Barış Yıldız, Carlotta Leonori, Drazenka Kovacevic, Dinka Vukovic, Michaela Hilgner
- **Self-advocates** with Down syndrome from various countries

General Information

- **Venue:** Eyüpsultan Culture and Art Center *(Merkez, Silahtarağa Cd. No:18, 34050 Eyüpsultan/Istanbul)*
- **Date:** October 24, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM