International Inclusive Education Summit
24 October 2026
Istanbul
General Report

The Inclusive Education Summit, organised on 24 October in cooperation with the Down Syndrome Association of Türkiye, the European Down Syndrome Association and Maltepe University, was successfully held with a total of 102 participants.

Participant Category	Details / Breakdown	Number
Number of Countries Represented	Countries with international participation, including Türkiye	17 Countries
International Participants	• Professionals and Academics: 22 individuals • Parents: 9 individuals • Young People with Down Syndrome: 5 individuals	36 individuals
Participants from Türkiye	• Public institutions (Ministry of Family and Social Services – ASHB), civil society organisations, special education teachers, university students	66 individuals
Total Number of Participants	International participants, and experts and guests from Türkiye	102 individuals

Table 1: Participation in the Inclusive Education Summit

The summit brought together representatives from Malta, Croatia, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Sweden, Ukraine, Germany, Greece, Denmark, Georgia, Spain, Austria, the Czech Republic, Israel and Belgium. Its Scientific Committee comprised Prof. Dr. Emine Sema Batu, Prof. Dr. Atilla Cavkaytar, Dr. Deniz Dağseven Emecen and Dr. Derya Çıkılı Soylu.

The summit opened with speeches by Gün Bilgin, Dinka Vukovic, Fulya Ekmen and Prof. Dr. Atilla Cavkaytar. It continued with a video message from Katrin Langensiepen, a presentation of the European status report by José Gutiérrez Caballero, an assessment of the legal framework in Türkiye by Attorney Cansu Korkmaz, insights into the 10 key principles of inclusive education by Antonella Mangiaracina, and a presentation on the use of Easy Language by Nils Wöbke.

In the afternoon sessions, experts from different countries presented examples of practice from the field, while international self-advocates with Down syndrome, together with their parents, shared their own educational experiences. In the Practice Examples and Experience Sharing in Inclusive Education panel, moderated by Prof. Dr. E. Sema Batu and Prof. Dr. Atilla

Cavkaytar, panellists Monica Induni (Switzerland), Barış Yıldız (Türkiye), Carlotta Leonori (Italy), Drazenka Kovacevic (Croatia), Dinka Vukovic (Croatia), Michaela Hilgner (Germany) and Ketevan Arjevanidze (Georgia) shared field examples and practical experience from their countries.

In the second session of the Practice Examples and Experience Sharing in Inclusive Education panel, moderated by Fulya Ekmen and psychologist Merve Özman, self-advocates with Down syndrome from different countries – Teodora Gelashvili and Giorgi Shiukashvili (Georgia), Şevval Arapoğlu and Şule Özçelik (Türkiye), Ana Paula Kovačević (Croatia), Fionn & Jonathan Angus (Ireland) and Théophile Planchamp (France) – took the floor as panellists and shared their school experiences and inclusive school models.

Panellists Monica Induni (Switzerland) and Michaela Hilgner (Germany) also contributed to the summit with poster presentations.

The summit concluded with a forum session, moderated by Dinka Vukovic and Gün Bilgin, on expectations from governments and the European Parliament for making schools inclusive, followed by a Q&A session.

The summit was broadcast live on social media.

It was watched by 120 people on the EDSA YouTube channel.

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