



## The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Reaches Over 21,000 Young People in Türkiye, Preparing Youth Aged 14–24 for Life

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Türkiye continues to expand each year, reaching more young people across the country with **181 active Award Centres, nearly 1,000 volunteer Award Leaders and Supervisors, and 5,755 active participants**. Implemented globally in more than **130 countries** and reaching over **13 million young people worldwide**, the program has engaged **more than 21,000 participants in Türkiye** to date. The program aims to support the personal development of young people, strengthen their social skills, foster self-discipline, and enhance leadership capabilities.

The program, implemented in Türkiye under the sponsorship of **Akfen Holding** and represented by the **Human Resources Education and Health Foundation of Türkiye (TİKAV)**, held the **19th Gold Award National Ceremony** on **Monday, February 16**, at **ParibuArt in Terminal Kadıköy**. During the ceremony, **59 young participants who successfully completed the program received their certificates**, while it was once again emphasized that **TİKAV has reached more than 45,000 individuals through the projects it has implemented so far, creating sustainable and measurable social impact**.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Türkiye continues to grow with **181 active Award Centres, nearly 1,000 volunteer Award Leaders and Supervisors, and 5,755 active participants** across the country. Reaching **more than 13 million young people worldwide in over 130 countries and more than 21,000 young people in Türkiye**, the program supports young people's personal development while strengthening their social skills, self-discipline, and leadership competencies. Over the past year alone, **1,087 participants** earned Award certificates and badges across three categories: **764 Bronze, 264 Silver, and 59 Gold**.

Within the scope of the program implemented in Türkiye under the sponsorship of **Akfen Holding** and represented by **TİKAV**, the **19th Gold Award National Ceremony** was held on **Monday, February 16**, at **ParibuArt in Terminal Kadıköy**. During the ceremony, young participants who successfully completed the program received their certificates, and it was once again highlighted that **TİKAV has reached more than 45,000 individuals through its projects, generating sustainable and measurable social benefit**.

The ceremony was attended by **Pelin Akın Özalp**, Member of the Board of Directors of Akfen Holding and Chair of the National Committee of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Türkiye; **Hülya Kırçuval**, Chair of the Board of TİKAV; and distinguished guests.

### Participants Gathered from Different Regions

Participants who qualified for the **Gold Award** this year represented successful young people from different regions of Türkiye and included students from prestigious institutions such as **Bilkent International Laboratory High School (Ankara)**, **İzmir Kemalpaşa Organized Industrial Zone Zülfü Mevlüt Çelik Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School (İzmir)**, **Anabilim Educational Institutions**, **British International Schools**, **İstek Kemal Atatürk Schools**, **MEV College Private**



**Büyükçekmece Schools, and TED Rönesans Anatolian High School (İstanbul).** Throughout the ceremony, the participants' journeys toward achieving their goals and their personal development stories received great appreciation.

**Pelin Akın Özalp**, Member of the Board of Directors of Akfen Holding and Chair of the National Committee of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Türkiye, emphasized during the ceremony that the program offers a strong model preparing young people for life, stating:

“Thanks to the work carried out by TİKAV as the authorized national operator of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Türkiye since 2013, every award granted progresses within the same quality and trust framework as international standards. This structure offers young people not only a certificate, but also a development experience that has real-life value.”

Highlighting that the strength of the program lies in preparing young people not only for **success but for life itself**, Pelin Akın Özalp congratulated the students with the following words:

“Dear young people, today you are crowning your journey toward the Gold Award. This award is not the result of an exam, coincidence, or ‘luck’. This award represents planning, perseverance, responsibility, and effort. Through your achievements, you strengthen not only yourselves but also your families, your schools, and the hope for our country's future.”

**Hülya Kırçuval**, Chair of the Board of TİKAV, emphasized that **The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is one of the rare development models that prepares young people not merely for success, but for life**, stating:

“Here, young people discover their potential not in theory but in practice; they learn how to contribute to society, progress with discipline, and take responsibility. Each young person receiving the Gold Award today strengthens not only their own journey but also the hope for our country's future.”

Hülya Kırçuval also highlighted the importance of TİKAV's **institutional commitment and accumulated experience** in ensuring the sustainable growth of the program in Türkiye. She underlined that since **1999**, TİKAV has been carrying out sustainable initiatives in education and social development, prioritizing reaching young people—particularly those in need of equal opportunities.

## **The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Worldwide**

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award was launched in **1956 in the United Kingdom by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**, and today operates in **more than 130 countries and territories** as an international youth development program. The program offers a comprehensive personal development model that includes **Voluntary Service, Skills Development, Physical Recreation, and Adventurous Journey**.

Each year, **more than one million young people participate** in the program worldwide.



Participants develop essential life skills such as **self-confidence, communication, and problem-solving**, while also contributing to their communities through socially beneficial activities. The program is widely recognized as a **global platform that enables young people to discover their potential and make a meaningful difference in their lives**.

## **TİKAV Has Reached Over 45,000 People**

Operating since **1999**, the **Human Resources Education and Health Foundation of Türkiye (TİKAV)** creates a wide impact through its projects focused on education and social development. Through its flagship **Individual Development Program**, **382 university students** have received scholarships to date, benefiting from four years of programs covering **personal development, foreign languages, culture and arts, volunteering, and career development**.

Through **The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Türkiye**, the program has reached **more than 13 million young people worldwide and over 21,000 young people in Türkiye**, continuing to grow each year with an average of **more than 2,500 new participants annually**.

Within the scope of national projects carried out in Türkiye's rural regions, **women, mothers, and children** have been supported through education and awareness initiatives. In addition, the physical conditions of **seven public schools** were improved through school renovation projects. Furthermore, under the **El Ele Birlikteyiz Scholarship Program**, **3,000 university students from earthquake-affected regions** have received long-term scholarship support.

Through the projects it has implemented to date, **TİKAV has directly reached more than 45,000 individuals**, successfully creating **sustainable and measurable social impact**.