

## **T3 Foundation's Model for Engaging Youth in Science Awarded in Europe!**

**- Prestigious Award in Europe for the T3 Foundation, Which Engages Millions in Technology Production!**

Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the T3 Foundation, has been awarded the prestigious “Bright Spark Award,” presented to young leaders by ECSITE, Europe’s largest science communication network. Presented during the “2026 ECSITE Conference” held in Sweden, the award serves as a significant indicator of the international recognition received by the T3 Foundation’s ecosystem, which engages millions of young people in technology production and entrepreneurship processes.

### **A Shining Star from Türkiye: Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır Wins Prestigious Award!**

Turkish Technology Team Foundation (T3 Foundation), Türkiye’s innovative model for engaging young people in technology production, has been honored by Europe’s largest science communication network. Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır, Chairperson of the T3 Foundation’s Board of Directors, received the Bright Spark Award, considered one of Europe’s most prestigious science communication awards. The award was presented during the Mariano Gago Awards ceremony held as part of the 2026 ECSITE Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, organized by the European Network of Science Centres and Museums (ECSITE). Kuzucu Hıdır’s selection for the Bright Spark Award demonstrates that Türkiye’s approach to guiding young people toward science and technology production is gaining international recognition, while also highlighting once again that the technology ecosystem developed by the T3 Foundation is being acknowledged on a global scale.

### **Türkiye Receives Award from Europe’s Largest Science Communication Network!**

ECSITE, which brings together over 400 science centers, museums, research institutions, and science communication organizations from more than 50 countries, is recognized as one of the most influential international networks in the field of science communication. Approximately 900 science communication professionals, museum directors, educators, and industry representatives attended the ECSITE Conference, held June 2–4 at Universeum in Gothenburg, Sweden. At the conference, which is regarded as one of the most important international gatherings in the field of science communication, individuals and institutions making a difference in science communication from various countries around the world

were honored. Representing Türkiye's science ecosystem, Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the T3 Foundation, attended the conference.

### **The "T3 Ecosystem," Which Engages Millions in Science and Innovation, Has Received International Recognition**

T3 Foundation, which continues to transform young people into technology developers through TEKNOFEST, DENEYAP Makers Labs, Bilim Türkiye, entrepreneurship programs, and human resource development initiatives, stands out not only in Türkiye but also in Europe with its approach to science communication that focuses not merely on narration but on participation, production, and social transformation.

### **The TEKNOFEST Model Captured Everyone's Attention in Europe**

TEKNOFEST, the world's largest aerospace and technology festival, is drawing attention as a multi-layered human resource development model that offers young people opportunities for hands-on learning, supports innovative ideas, and encourages technology production. This award, presented by ECSITE, demonstrates that the Turkish model—which transforms young people from technology consumers into technology producers—has gained international recognition.

### **Türkiye's Technology Ecosystem Highlighted on an International Platform**

Following the award ceremony, Dr. Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır met with international participants to discuss Türkiye's science and technology ecosystem, youth initiatives, and the T3 Foundation's efforts to cultivate generations capable of developing technology. During the session, the T3 Foundation's work to engage young people in technology production and entrepreneurship processes was presented to representatives of the international science communication community.

After graduating from Konya Meram Science High School in 2010, Elvan Kuzucu Hıdır was admitted to the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Bilkent University on a full scholarship, having ranked among the top students in Türkiye. Kuzucu Hıdır completed her undergraduate and master's degrees with high honors and earned her Ph.D. from the Department of Electronics and Communications Engineering at Istanbul Technical University. Kuzucu Hıdır has participated in various research projects at institutions such as ASELSAN and TÜBİTAK, and her scientific work has been published in international academic Q1 journals and conferences affiliated with the IEEE. She has also served as a reviewer for international publications such as IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, IEEE Network Magazine, and IEEE Communications Letters.



Hıdır Kuzucu, who has held various roles in the fields of science, technology, and innovation, has served as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the T3 Foundation since 2023 and concurrently serves as a Board Member of the Turkish Space Agency.

[www.t3vakfi.org/en/](http://www.t3vakfi.org/en/)



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