

Newsletter 2024

TESOL
TÜRKİYE

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES



Dear Esteemed Members,

The past year has been a profound journey of growth, resilience, and collaboration for TESOL TÜRKİYE. As we reflect on the achievements of our professional councils and special interest groups, we are reminded of the incredible strength and creativity that each member brings to our community. Even amidst national and global challenges, our collective spirit has allowed us to navigate adversity and emerge stronger, united by a shared commitment to our mission.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Evrim Üstünlüoğlu for her remarkable leadership during these demanding times. Her unwavering dedication has played a pivotal role in shaping TESOL Türkiye's progress and direction. November 2024 marked a new chapter for our association, as we welcomed Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu as our new President. Her dynamic leadership style, coupled with her vision and integrity, has already driven the launch of new and exciting initiatives.

As we forge ahead, we are energized by the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to nurture innovation, build stronger connections, and pursue excellence in everything we do as a community.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

OUR HISTORY

OUR MISSION,
VISION AND
VALUES

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

PROFESSIONAL
COUNCILS

SPECIAL
INTEREST
GROUPS

AFFILIATES

Newsletter 2024



HISTORY

Everything started when a small group of teacher trainers got together to form a professional group. T-PLUS was born then, and it continued functioning as an informal professional organization. T-PLUS organized 10 big events over the period of 5 years giving a chance to ELT professionals to share their experiences.

When T-PLUS grew bigger, and reached around 200 members, it was time to change it to a formal association. For that reason, all the formalities to establish an association were completed and T-PLUS became TESOL in Türkiye.

In the year 2018, the dream about being an affiliate of TESOL International came true. The application process was completed and TESOL International approved TESOL Türkiye as a formal affiliate. Upon receiving this good news, the name of the association was changed as TESOL Türkiye.

MISSION STATEMENT

İngiliz Dili Öğretimi ve Mesleki Gelişim Derneği (TESOL) is a national association of ELT professionals committed to advancing the quality of English language teaching by contributing to the sustainable quality of teacher education and in-service professional learning in Türkiye through collaboration, open exchange of practice, research, standards, and advocacy.

Newsletter 2024



VISION STATEMENT

To become an international association trusted for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching, teacher education and in-service professional learning.

The fundamental goals of İngiliz Dili Öğretimi ve Mesleki Gelişim Derneği (TESOL Türkiye), in line with the mission and vision statements specified above, are as follows:

- To provide a platform where a large community of teachers and teacher educators can exchange views, experiences, practices, research so as to learn from each other and offer mutual professional support
- To encourage collaboration for professional development and quality assurance
- To help members develop their professional areas of interest through Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- To develop links with Teachers' Associations throughout the world for teachers to share knowledge and experience globally
- To offer professional development opportunities and awards open to all members
- To offer practical assistance to those who wish to establish their own professional development center and/or to those who need professional development at an institutional level by offering courses, roadshows, webinars, local events
- To implement research based activities that will help understand the member needs for both personal and professional improvement

Newsletter 2024

TESOL

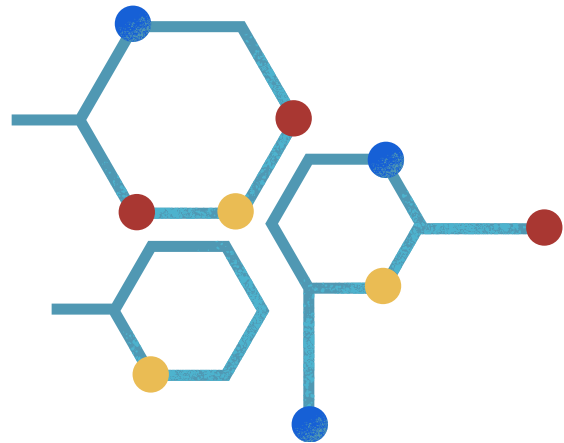
TÜRKİYE

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES



CORE VALUES

- Integrity guided by ethical and transparent action
- Professionalism demonstrated by excellence in standards, research, and practice that improve learning outcomes
- Commitment to life-long learning
- Respect for diversity





Message From the President

Dear Esteemed Members of TESOL Türkiye,

It is with great honor that I write to you as the President of TESOL Türkiye for the 2024-2025 term. As we continue our journey, I reflect on the growth of our association, founded in June 2017.

I would like to express my appreciation to our past presidents—Bahar Gün (2017-2021), Sibel Tüzel Kandiller (2021-2022), Sinem Atamsoy Koşar (2022-2023), and Evrim Üstünlüoğlu (2023-2024)—whose dedication and vision have always been a foundation for the continued success of TESOL Türkiye.

We are also grateful to the former board members and the many contributors across our association, including our SIG coordinators, executive committees, and professional councils, whose collaborative efforts have shaped our vibrant and dynamic TESOL Türkiye community.

Reflecting on our collective journey, I am reminded of the words of Charlie Mackesy in *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*:

"We have such a long way to go," sighed the boy.

'Yes, but look how far we've come,' said the horse."

While we have much to achieve, it is important to take pride in how far we have come as a community. In this newsletter, you will witness the significant achievements of TESOL Türkiye in 2024 and the strong global connections we have fostered.

Looking ahead, I am happy to introduce the 2024-2025 board of directors: Aslı Yılmaz Ercan as

President-elect, alongside Evrim Üstünlüoğlu, Nilgün İner, and Cristina Manae Gültekin. Together, we are committed to delivering impactful events, professional development opportunities, and initiatives that empower educators and support the growth of ELT across Türkiye.

I would like to end with Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's powerful words:

"Teachers are the one and only people who save nations."

Thank you for your trust and dedication to our shared mission. We look forward to working together to make 2025 a year of growth, collaboration, and progress for TESOL Türkiye.

Sevgilerimle,

Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu





Professional Councils

- Associate Network Professional Council
- Events Planning Professional Council
- Grants and Scholarship Professional Council
- Membership Professional Council
- Promotion Professional Council



Special Interest Groups

- Leadership and Management Special Interest Group (LAMSIG)
- Measurement, Evaluation, Testing and Assessment Special Interest Group (METASIG)
- Teacher Education and Development Special Interest Group (TEDSIG)
- Quality in English Language Teaching Special Interest Group (QUASIG)

PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Associate Network Professional Council

Like many other associations, TESOL Türkiye aimed to build bridges with international teacher associations. We started sending emails to neighboring associations, inviting them to sign memorandums of understanding and share experiences to facilitate mutual learning.



The positive responses from TESOL Ukraine, TESOL Spain, TESOL Greece, Nile TESOL Egypt, Kuwait TEFL, HUPE Croatia, NELTA Nepal, ELTA Serbia, CETE/TESOL Georgia, and BETA Bulgaria led to meaningful collaborations. Through webinars, we shared our concerns and experiences, providing a therapeutic outlet during crises like the war in Ukraine, earthquakes in Türkiye, and floods in Spain.

Further, these collaborations through webinars and online zoom meetings culminated in an online joint conference in April 2024, where around 300 participants discussed challenges such as disasters, mobility, refugees, and technological advancements from their geographical perspectives and realities. We discussed the impact of these challenges on teaching in our language classes. This was followed by the International TESOL Affiliates Summit in May 2024 in İzmir Türkiye, bringing together affiliates from various countries. The summit provided a platform for collaboration, helping us navigate the future of language teaching. It allowed us to update teachers on the latest ELT methodologies, enhance pedagogical skills, and equip them to meet diverse learner needs. Most importantly, it fostered safety, trust, and resilience through trauma-informed practices. The summit produced a handbook, "Trauma-Informed Teaching: Crafting Safe and Supportive Environments for Students," summarizing the experiences and insights shared by affiliates from Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Kuwait, Nepal, Serbia, Spain, and Ukraine. You can access the e- book via [Link to the handbook](#).

<https://tesolturkey.net/our-affiliates>

PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Events Planning Professional Council

The Events Planning Professional Council (EPPC) supports İngiliz Dili Öğretimi ve Mesleki Gelişim Derneği (TESOL Türkiye) by ensuring that the annual conference, seminars, webinars, workshops, regional events and seminars are planned effectively in collaboration with other Professional Councils and the Board of Directors.



EPPC sets overall goals for each event and provide advice and guidance as needed. The EPPC shall ensure that the content and program of TESOL Türkiye's events are focused on current issues that impact the field of English Language Teaching, responsive to the diverse needs of members and the TESOL field and aligned with the strategic direction of the association.

The council consists of 10 dedicated educators with high motivation in the field of ELT and a strong commitment to the association, working at various levels, institutions, and locations. Aylin Dewan, Begüm Kut, Cristina Manea Gültekin, Esra Yatağanbaba, Mehmet Durmaz, Nesibe Bilgiç, Sinem Atamsoy Koşar, Songül Tömek Batcıoğlu and Tuğçe Temir have been serving under the leadership of Aslı Yılmaz Ercan since June 2023. The Events Planning Professional Council planned, organized and moderated webinars, conferences and various pieces of training throughout 2024 in collaboration with various TESOL Türkiye Professional Councils and its Affiliates.

- Revisiting Uncharted Realms Webinar Series by TESOL Türkiye Trainers: The fundamental aim of the webinar series is to explore the uncharted territories in ELT.

Jan. 17 'Bridging the gap: EAP Teachers as Catalysts in English Medium Academia'- by Erkan Arkin, PhD. The engaging session aimed to highlight the critical role of EAP Teachers.

March 20 'Translanguaging in the EFL classroom'- by Cristina Manea Gültekin. The session reported and explored how translanguaging strategies help learners with metatalk (talk about the talk), metacognition (talk about the task), and writing in a higher education context.

May 22 'Classroom Practice: what's trauma got to do with it?'- by Elizabeth Sarah Coleman. By examining and investigating the six components of trauma-informed practice and how they can be incorporated into teaching, the session broadened the minds of the participants.

PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Events Planning Professional Council (cont.)

Oct. 16 **'Adapting in Education: Embracing an Agile Mindset'** by Beril Yücel. The insightful session aimed to provide practical tools and strategies to help educators, trainers, and leaders adopt an agile approach to teaching and learning.



- Teachers' Voices Webinar Series- Feb. 28 **"Collaborative Healing for Post-pandemic Stress Challenges"** in collaboration with TEFL Kuwait. The webinar aimed to highlight the significance of collaboration beyond borders.
- 4th Online Conference International TESOL Associations April 6, - **'Building Bridges Building Cooperation: Unveiling Challenges & Best Practices in ELT'**: 10 TESOL Türkiye Affiliates contributed; BETA (Bulgaria), CETE (Georgia), ELTA (Serbia), HUPE (Croatia), NELTA (Nepal), NileTESOL (Egypt), TESOL Greece, TEFL Kuwait, TESOL Ukraine, TESOL Spain – The foremost aim of the conference was to address challenges in English Language Teaching (ELT) classrooms while strengthening the ties with TESOL Türkiye Affiliates worldwide. The conference theme attracted huge interest as there were attendees from 48 countries.
- TESOL Türkiye Affiliate Summit May 2&3- İzmir- **'New Perspectives in the Face of Trauma-Induced Shifts and Technological Advancements'**- by the participation of 2 Affiliate representatives; BETA (Bulgaria), CETE (Serbia), ELTA (Serbia), HUPE (Croatia), NELTA (Nepal), NileTESOL (Egypt), TEFL Kuwait, TESOL Ukraine, TESOL Spain. The aim of the summit was to provide a common ground for international collaboration for English language teachers, to share best practices, and to contribute to the professional growth of language teachers and the quality of English language education in different geographies during challenging and difficult times.
- A two-day Training for Preservice Teachers Dec. 19&20- ELT Department Harran University- **'Empowering Pre-service Teachers: Trauma-Informed Approaches for Classroom Well-being'** by TESOL Türkiye Trainers; Prof. Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu and Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu. The training focused on three main themes namely "Trauma-Informed Teaching and Social Emotional Learning," "Teacher Well-Being," and "the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." The fruitful event involved lots of hands-on activities and ended with the presentations of the participants.



PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Grants and Sponsorship Professional Council



The Grants and Scholarships Professional Council (GSPC) plays a key role in supporting TESOL Türkiye by identifying and obtaining funding through grants and scholarships from foundations, government agencies, and other sources. Its aim is to ensure sufficient financial resources to help TESOL Türkiye fulfill its mission of enhancing the quality of English language teaching. This is achieved by promoting sustainable improvements in teacher education and ongoing professional development in Türkiye. The primary goal of GSPC is to oversee and coordinate all grant and scholarship activities for the association.

PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Membership Professional Council



In 2024, the Membership Professional Council (MPC) focused on enhancing the membership experience and ensuring the efficient operation of our association.

A notable achievement during this time was the comprehensive update of the National Associations Database (DERBİS) to reflect the revised member list. Additionally, the Google Mail Group list was meticulously updated, and standardized welcome emails are now sent efficiently from this account (tesolturkiyempc@gmail.com).

Membership and registration procedures were conducted entirely online, allowing members to upload their national ID cards or passports and photos directly to the system. However, the MPC faced challenges with inaccurate information submitted by members. To address this, the national database's verification protocols flagged and prevented errors, while TESOL Türkiye fulfilled its legal obligation to ensure accurate registrations. The MPC periodically requested members to review and update their personal details to maintain data accuracy and integrity.

The MPC remains dedicated to fostering a process that prioritizes precision, transparency, and efficiency for all members.

PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Promotion Professional Council

Throughout 2024, the Promotion Professional Council (PPC) actively supported TESOL Türkiye by disseminating information aligned with the association's mission and strategic objectives across various communication channels. Chaired by Nilgün İner, the council operated with a dedicated team comprising Nilgün İner, Şebnem Öztürk, Cemile Doğan, and Sultan Zeydan.



The council carried out its operations across three key areas: social media, PEMO, and the website.

Social Media

Throughout the year, the council successfully carried out various activities, including publishing infographics on the process of becoming a TESOL Türkiye member, providing updates on affiliates, announcing key details about the TESOL Türkiye conference (e.g., dates, keynote speakers, sponsors, etc.), and promoting SIG events and webinars.

In addition to highlighting TESOL Türkiye events, the council broadened its outreach by sharing posts on significant occasions and global developments, such as International Women's Day, Teachers' Day, and the February Earthquake in Türkiye. These efforts demonstrated TESOL Türkiye's solidarity and unwavering support for its community.

Website

The TESOL Türkiye website, accessible at tesolturkey.net, is designed to offer a user-friendly experience while providing a wealth of updates and resources.

A notable feature of the website is its dedicated section for the Professional ELT Magazine Online (PEMO). Guided by the PPC, this section was updated with insightful articles in January and July, showcasing the 12th and 13th issues of PEMO, which have significantly contributed to the professional development of ELT practitioners.

The Announcements section served as a vital communication channel alongside social media platforms. Through this segment, the PPC regularly shared updates on association events, calls for volunteers for professional councils, new affiliate agreements, scholarship opportunities, and other key information such as calls for papers, deadlines, and changes. This ensured that members could stay engaged and actively participate in the association's activities while taking advantage of various opportunities for contribution and collaboration.

PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

Promotion Professional Council (cont.)

Furthermore, the website acted as a dynamic platform for promoting and announcing TESOL Türkiye's key events, including conferences, special interest group (SIG) events, and webinars.

Professional ELT Magazine Online (PEMO)

In January and July of 2024, two editions of the Professional ELT Magazine Online (PEMO) were published, each packed with insightful articles. Members can conveniently download PDF versions of the magazine, ensuring access to valuable content on a biannual basis.



PROFESSIONAL ELT MAGAZINE ONLINE #13



Published by TESOL TÜRKİYE Promotion Council
July, 2024



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PROFESSIONAL ELT MAGAZINE ONLINE #14



Published by TESOL TÜRKİYE Promotion Council
January, 2025



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Special Interest Groups

Leadership and Management Special Interest Group



Main Aim

TESOL Türkiye LAMSIG's aim is to facilitate connecting and developing managers and leaders in the field of English Language Teaching, both in Türkiye and abroad, through sharing resources, ideas, and good practices. We bring together academic managers, directors of studies, school owners, senior teachers, coordinators, supervisors, principals, deputy heads, and anyone else involved in or interested in leadership and management in language teaching organizations.

Objectives/Main Activities

Our main activities include:

- organizing workshops, seminars, training, discussion forums, and working groups for research and conferences
- facilitating networking among managers, leaders, coordinators, senior teachers and deputy heads through digital and face to face platforms
- taking part in national and international leadership events
- providing guidance, consultancy, mentoring and coaching through professional development activities and training
- organizing or facilitating social activities among members
- operating internationally, affiliating and conducting joint studies or cooperating with foreign associations/agencies

2024 Executive Board

Donald Staub (Joint Coordinator)

Özge Coşkun Aysal (Joint Coordinator)

Ali Ceylan (Treasurer)

Gökçe Erkan (Archivist)

Ceren Aktay (Social Media Specialist)

Özlem Baykan (Co-Event Organizer)

Zeynep Oğul (Co-Event Organizer)

Special Interest Groups

Leadership and Management Special Interest Group



2024 Overview and Activities

Activity 1

LAMSIG Online Workshop

“Advancing Your Leadership & Management Capacities Through Systems Thinking”
- February 23, 2024.

The workshop was organized as a follow-up to the TESOL Türkiye LAMSIG Biennial Conference held in September 2023. It featured three sessions, each presented by esteemed professionals:

- “Systems Thinking in Professional Practice” by Asst. Prof. Gaye Defne CEYHAN and Meltem CEYLAN ALİBEYOĞLU
- “Maximizing Performance: The Performance Management Process for ELT Leaders and Managers” by Asst. Prof. Esra BAL
- “Qualitative Research Explore Interconnectedness & Interdependence in School Development” by Dr. Deniz KURTOĞLU EKEN.

The number of participants was about 30.

Activity 2

LAMSIG Webinar

“Student Retention in the SFL: Addressing the Challenge” - October 21, 2024.

Moderated by Asst. Prof. Dr. Donald Staub, this webinar explored best practices in student retention within School of Foreign Languages (SFL). Speakers included:

- Dr. Mehmet ATASAGUN and Pervin MERDAN from Bahçeşehir University
- Joel Compton from MEF University
- Dr. Canan Şaban from Özyeğin University

Each speaker shared insights and strategies implemented at their institutions to address the challenge of student retention.

The number of participants was about 40.

Special Interest Groups

Leadership and Management Special Interest Group



Activity 3

LAMSIG Annual General Meeting

It was held on October 21, 2024. Activities of the last year were discussed, ideas for the new year activities / events were shared. Three new Executive Board members were elected.

2025 Executive Board

Gökçe Erkan (Joint Coordinator)

Zeynep Oğul (Joint Coordinator)

Koray Tunç (Treasurer)

Ceren Aktay (Social Media Specialist)

Şebnem Öztürk (Event Organizer)

Future Plans

- Organizing a webinar in March on "Managing Resistance and Resilience". This session aims to provide practical strategies to navigate resistance effectively while fostering resilience in teams and institutions.
 - Pre-conference event on April 17, 2025: A pre-conference event will be held before TESOL Türkiye Conference titled "Future-proof Learning: Rethinking Education to Inspire and Sustain Tomorrow". The PCE will include an interactive session.
 - Academy / Trainings / Podcasts: Arranging key sessions for managers' needs such as digital leadership, automation and AI in school management, supporting the professional development of middle management.
-

Special Interest Groups

The Measurement, Evaluation, Testing and Assessment Special Interest Group



Main Aim

TESOL Türkiye METASIG serves as a hub for educational institutions and professional communities, fostering collaboration and engagement to:

- Address issues related to the design, development, and administration of both low- and high-stakes exams.
- Share practices, experiences, challenges, and ideas in testing, evaluation, and assessment across diverse educational contexts.
- Enhance awareness of assessment and evaluation approaches used in other programs.
- Build strong connections and networks between assessment teams across institutions.
- Exchange ideas on collaboration opportunities to improve testing and assessment practices.
- Establish a platform for sharing research findings and implications, whether from members' own studies or external researchers in the field.
- Ensure equal and fair access to training and professional discussion platforms for all members.

Objectives/Main Activities

TESOL Türkiye METASIG's core activities include:

- Hosting workshops, seminars, and discussion forums.
- Organizing training events and working groups focused on research and development.
- Facilitating networking opportunities for assessment teams, managers, and coordinators through digital and in-person platforms.
- Participating in national and international language assessment events.
- Providing guidance, consultancy, mentoring, and coaching through professional development initiatives.
- Coordinating or facilitating social activities among members.
- Engaging in international collaborations, partnering with foreign associations and agencies, and conducting joint studies.

TESOL Türkiye METASIG is dedicated to advancing the field of measurement, evaluation, testing, and assessment while fostering a sense of community and collaboration among its members.

Special Interest Groups

The Measurement, Evaluation, Testing and Assessment Special Interest Group



2024 Executive Board

Ayşegül Sallı (Coordinator)

Arif Yıldızlı

2025 Executive Board

Ayşegül Sallı (Joint Coordinator)

Taner Yapar (Joint Coordinator)

Berkan Özkan (Treasurer)

Arif Yıldızlı (Joint Event Coordinator)

Hande Dağistan (Joint Event Coordinator)

Pınar Kılıç Ateş (Social Media Coordinator)

Şeyma Dođru (Membership Coordinator)

2024 Overview and Activities

In 2024, TESOL Turkiye METASIG remained inactive due to the absence of applications for executive committee membership. Consequently, the group could not carry out its activities during this period.

Future Plans

- METASIG initiated its 2025 activities with a webinar on the use of artificial intelligence in assessment, held on 21 January 2025. The webinar featured Aslı Lidice Göktürk Sağlam, who delivered a presentation entitled Reimagining Language Assessment Education with ChatGPT.
 - Looking ahead, the SIG has scheduled another webinar in the first week of March 2025, followed by a pre-conference event in April at the annual TESOL TURKIYE conference.
 - Additionally, the SIG plans to host another webinar and a one-day event towards the end of the 2025 academic year.
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Special Interest Groups

Quality in English Language Teaching Special Interest Group



Main Aim

The mission of TESOL TÜRKİYE QUASIG is to promote and facilitate the establishment of a culture of quality in English Language Teaching through sharing resources, ideas, and good practices. Its scope is the field of English language teaching in Turkey, including university preparatory programs, undergraduate and graduate English support programs, secondary education establishments, and private language schools.

Objectives/Main Activities

QUASIG's main activities include the following activities:

- organizing workshops, seminars, training, discussion forums, and working groups for research and conferences;
- facilitating networking among stakeholders with an interest in quality in English Language Teaching, including but not limited to managers, leaders, coordinators, senior teachers and deputy heads through digital and face to face platforms;
- taking part in national and international events focusing on quality in English Language Teaching;
- providing guidance, consultancy, mentoring and coaching through professional development activities and training;
- organizing or facilitating social activities among members;
- operating internationally, affiliating and conducting joint studies or cooperating with foreign associations/agencies.

2024 Executive Board

Ian Collins (Joint Coordinator)
Mehtap Çiçen (Joint Coordinator)
Didem Mutçalıoğlu
Donald Staub
Esmâ Şenel Bingül
İlkay Bülbül (Treasurer)
Özge Coşkun Baysal

Special Interest Groups

Quality in English Language Teaching Special Interest Group



2024 Overview and Activities

Activity 1

QUASIG Webinar

“Quality: I know it when I see it. A crash course in quality in language programs.”

(3 December, 2024) The presenters were the Joint Coordinators of QUASIG, Mehtap Çiçen and Ian Collins. This webinar discussed the key concepts of quality assurance in language education by going through the steps in the quality assurance cycle, such as needs analysis, curriculum design, implementation, feedback collection, and data-driven adjustments, and highlighted their role in ensuring continuous improvement. It also discussed the key stakeholders involved in the quality assurance process and the roles they play in maintaining and enhancing program quality. The second half of the session connected quality assurance to accreditation by giving an overview of how the accreditation process validates quality efforts within language programs. It outlined the stages of the accreditation process and the standards used to assess language programs., presenters, number of attendees, and other relevant details.

Around 50 participants took part, contributing ideas and working through tasks in breakout rooms. At the end, participants were invited to complete a feedback form which included ideas for future events. QUASIG analyzed this and has planned further events for 2025 in the light of this feedback.

Future Plans

- A webinar on eligibility issues for programs applying for accreditation will be held on 17 February, 2025, with Didem Mutçalıoğlu and İlkay Bülbül presenting. Further details will be announced in due course.
 - Didem Mutçalıoğlu will also be presenting her PhD research in a webinar about building a culture of quality sometime in mid-March 2025.
 - During the PCE event at the TESOL Türkiye Annual Conference, QUASIG will present a workshop on designing modular/level systems. At this PCE, Ian Collins and Mehtap Çiçen will also take part in a SIG panel.
-

Special Interest Groups

Quality in English Language Teaching Special Interest Group



- Most of the team members will participate in the QUAAS (Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Standardization) Conference in May 2025, contributing through plenary sessions, training, and workshops.
- Starting from February, we will begin sending materials to our members on quality and accreditation. These materials will include articles, case studies, handbook content pages, and key notes from meetings

Special Interest Groups

Teacher Education Special Interest Group TEDSIG



Main Aim

TESOL Türkiye “Teacher Education Special Interest Group” (TEDSIG) continued to empower educators through collaborative professional development, fostering innovative practices in teacher training, and addressing the dynamic challenges of in-service education in the year 2024.

2024 Executive Board

Bahar Gün (Joint Coordinator)

Beril Yücel(Joint Coordinator)

Hakan Tarhan (Treasurer)

Erkan Arkin (Joint Events and Membership Coordinator)

Sinem Atamsoy Koşar (Joint Events and Membership Coordinator)

Fatoş Uğur Eskiçirak (Social Media Coordinator)

2024 Overview and Activities

Activity 1

TEDSIG Webinar

“Bridging the GAP: EAP Teachers as Catalysts in English Medium Academia. (First Session of TESOL Türkiye’s “Revisiting Uncharted Realms”), 17 January 2024.

TEDSIG’ first event of 2024 was a collaborative one with TESOL Türkiye. TEDSIG executive board member Erkan Arkin, PhD hosted the first of session of TESOL Türkiye’s “Revisiting Uncharted Realms” Monthly Webinar Series on Wednesday, 17 January. Mr. Arkin, gave a talk entitled “Bridging the GAP: EAP Teachers as Catalysts in English Medium Academia.

Activity 2

TEDSIG Members Meeting

On 12 March, TEDSIG held an online Members’ Meeting. 20 TEDSIG members attended the meeting. In this meeting, we discussed in what ways our members could contribute to TEDSIG; short term and long term projects, possible research projects and themes of future events.

Special Interest Groups

Teacher Education Special Interest Group TEDSIG



Activity 3

TEDSIG Webinar

“Induction: Best Practices” (1st session of “TEDSIG Pedagogy Swap Series”)

TEDSIG started a new webinar series named “TEDSIG Pedagogy Swap Series” exclusive for its members in June. The first session of the series took place on 4 June 2024. The theme was “Induction: Best Practices”. 15 TEDSIG members attended the event and actively contributed to the discussions in the breakout rooms in line with a set of guiding questions and prompts.

Activity 4

TEDSIG Webinar

“Class Visits” (2nd session of “TEDSIG Pedagogy Swap Series”)

TEDSIG held 2024’s second session of “TEDSIG Pedagogy Swap Series” on 9 October and 15 members participated in it. The topic was “Class Visits”. In the meeting, we discussed the purposes and goals of our class visits in our immediate contexts, the techniques used in our class visit processes, ways of ensuring observer objectivity, and providing constructive feedback.

Activity 5

TEDSIG Local Event

“Navigating Challenges in In-service Teacher Education”

TEDSIG hosted a local event in Ankara on 19 October 2024. This whole-day face-to-face event took place at TOBB ETU. The theme was “Navigating Challenges in In-service Teacher Education”. The event specifically focused on addressing challenges in in-service teacher education. Educators and trainers from various cities in Turkey gathered to discuss issues like teacher resistance, lack of management support, and burnout, sharing strategies for overcoming these hurdles.

Special Interest Groups

Teacher Education Special Interest Group TEDSIG



The program began with a welcome and introduction, followed by discussions on real-world challenges and collaborative brainstorming sessions. Activities like group discussions and an Empathy Map Exercise helped participants explore diverse perspectives and practical solutions. The event concluded with reflections and closing remarks, leaving attendees with actionable insights and a renewed sense of purpose. This engaging and solution-focused gathering highlighted the power of collaboration in tackling professional development challenges and strengthening the teaching community.

Activity 6

TEDSIG Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On 30 November 2024, TEDSIG held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) online, with 25 members in attendance, successfully meeting the quorum requirements. During the meeting, members reflected on the year's accomplishments, discussed plans for 2025, and voted on new executive board appointments. We congratulated Sinem Atamsoy Koşar, who received the highest votes and joined the TEDSIG Executive Committee. Her fresh perspectives and enthusiasm are sure to enrich the group's initiatives. The AGM highlighted the collective commitment to fostering professional development and building a stronger teacher education community.

Activity 7

TEDSIG Webinar

"Needs Analysis in INSET" (TEDSIG Pedagogy Swap Series)

On 13 November 2024, our 3rd webinar as part of our "Pedagogy Swap Series" focused on refining approaches to identifying teachers' professional development (PD) needs. Key discussions included strategies for "data collection" and methods to "prioritize needs" for effective PD planning. Our members explored the vital role of "teacher involvement" in shaping the needs analysis process and shared insights on "adapting approaches" based on feedback from previous cycles. The session also addressed common "challenges" in identifying PD needs and innovative solutions for overcoming them. By fostering collaboration and practical dialogue, the webinar provided valuable tools for enhancing teacher education initiatives.

Special Interest Groups

Teacher Education Special Interest Group TEDSIG



Future Plans

- TESOL Türkiye 6th International ELT Conference – TEDSIG Pre-Conference Event: TEDSIG will host a pre-conference event to bring members together for interactive discussions and presentations on teacher education in the next TESOL Türkiye Conference entitled "Future-Proof Learning: Rethinking Education to Inspire and Sustain Tomorrow.
- Trainer Development Course: TEDSIG plans to launch a comprehensive Trainer Development Course, designed to equip teacher trainers and teacher trainer candidates with advanced skills and strategies for becoming effective teacher trainers. The course will focus on key aspects of training design, facilitation techniques, and mentoring practices, empowering participants to lead impactful professional development initiatives.

AFFILIATES



Thank you for reading!



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