



## TESOL Turkey

*(İngiliz Dili Öğretimi ve Mesleki Gelişim Derneği)*

### Newsletter 2020

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## 1. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In its mission statement, TESOL Turkey lists collaboration, open exchange of practice, research, standards, and advocacy as means of contributing to the sustainable quality of teacher education and in-service professional learning in Turkey.

Thus, among its fundamental goals is the establishment of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help members further develop their professional areas of interest. This year, the Board of Directors focused their attention on the realization of this goal.

On 19 December 2019, TESOL Turkey sent out the guidelines for the establishment of Special Interest Groups as set in the SIG Bylaw and called for proposals. In April, led by Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu and Ian Collins, the founding members of the Leadership and Management SIG (LAMSIG) informed the Board of Directors of their intention to set up TESOL Turkey's very first Special Interest Group. In July 2020, upon the approval of the Board of Directors, LAMSIG was officially established.

**TESOL**  
TURKEY

**LAMSIG**  
Leadership and Management  
Special Interest Group

**LAMSIG** brings together TESOL Turkey members involved or interested in leadership and management in language teaching organisations.

TESOL Turkey, LAMSIG aims to facilitate connecting and developing managers and leaders in the field of English Language Teaching, both in Turkey and abroad, through sharing resources, ideas, good practices, and various activities.

If you have an interest in how foreign language teaching programs can most effectively manage and lead their resources to give students the best possible opportunities to be successful, we invite you to join us in the TESOL Turkey LAMSIG. Together we can do great things!

**Executive Committee**

	<b>Evrim Ustunluoglu, Ph.D.</b> Joint coordinator
	<b>Ian Collins</b> Joint coordinator
	<b>Donald Staub, Ph.D.</b> Publishing
	<b>Irem Comoglu, Ph.D.</b> Publishing
	<b>Ozge Coskun Aysal</b> Events
	<b>Ali Ceylan</b> Treasurer
	<b>Ozgehan Ustuk, Ph.D.</b> Communications

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In November, LAMSIG organized its kickoff event, where Andy Hockley discussed leadership in times of Covid-19.

**Leadership and Management SIG Seminars**  
Supporting effective leadership and management in ELT

**Leadership**  
in times of  
**Covid19**

November 12th, 2020, 12:00 (GMT+3,  
Istanbul time zone)

**SEMINAR REGISTRATION**  
Use this link or the QR code, and register:  
<https://macmillanenglish.clickmeeting.com/925216357/register>

**ANDY HOCKLEY**  
Educational management consultant,  
IATEFL LAMSIG coordinator

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LAMSIG

TESOL Turkey LAMSIG's first seminar

In August, the Board of Directors were notified that work on the formation of TESOL Turkey's second SIG, the Measurement, Evaluation, Testing and Assessment Special Interest Group (METASIG) had begun. Again thanks to the diligence of nine founding members led by Dr. Esin Çağlayan, Berna Arslan and Mehtap İnce, METASIG was approved and officially founded in November 2020.

The TESOL TURKEY METASIG (Measurement, Evaluation, Testing & Assessment Special Interest Group) aims to create a platform where members who share interest in the field of language assessment and testing work together, disseminate information, and exchange opinions as well as expertise. We invite all interested, especially the former FOAI participants, to join us!

**Join Us!**

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## 2. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS

### 2.1. Affiliate Network Professional Council

This year, the Affiliate Network Council continued to search for and communicate with international associations that share the same aims as TESOL Turkey.

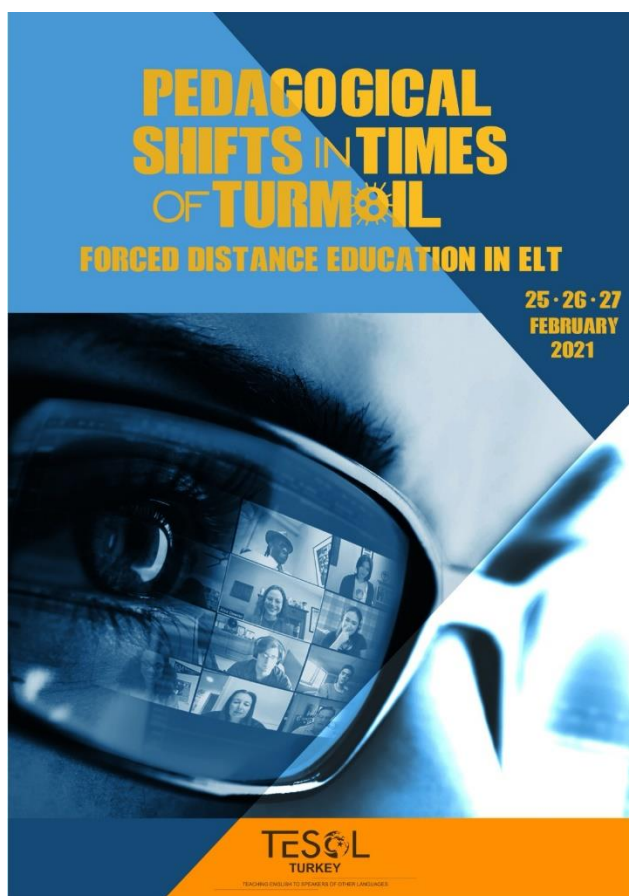
### 2.2. Events Planning Professional Council

This unprecedented year of difficulty and uncertainty had its greatest toll on the Events Planning Professional Council.

#### 2.2.1. Roadshows and Local Events

Just before the outbreak of the pandemic, Harran University School of Foreign Languages in Şanlıurfa and Maltepe University School of Foreign Languages in Istanbul had been determined as destinations for the 2020 Roadshows, which were supposed to take place in April and November 2020. Sadly, neither of these could be realized due to Covid-19. Similarly, plans for all Local Events were canceled. However, with the purchase of Zoom, both Roadshows and Local Events are being planned for 2021.

## 2.2.2. Annual Conference



Prepared by Mehmet Derviş Saltık from the Promotion Professional Council<sup>1</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> TESOL TURKEY International ELT Conference will take place on 26 and 27 February 2021 and will be delivered virtually over Zoom.

The conference theme has been set as “*Pedagogical Shifts in Times of Turmoil: Forced Distance Education in ELT*” in reference to the Covid-19 pandemic that has created the largest educational disruption known so far affecting more than a billion and a half students all around the world (United Nation Organization report, 2020).

Plenary speakers scheduled to date are Adrian Underhill and Elena Schmidt. Submission of proposals and registration for the conference are on-going.

This year’s conference will once again be preceded by a one-day Pre-Conference Event. However, for the first time this year, each SIG will be organizing a Pre-Conference Event. Thus, instead of one event, there will be two events to choose between.

## 2.3. Promotion Professional Council

The growing need for expertise in web and graphic design became more apparent this year with the new website and the increase in TESOL Turkey’s followers on social media. Thus, the Board of Directors decided to expand the Promotion Professional Council by one and sent out a call to recruit a new member. Mehmet Derviş Saltık, with his extensive experience in web design and strong graphic design skills, was appointed from among the applicants to serve on the council as of October.

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<sup>1</sup> Image Source:

[https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.verywellhealth.com%2Fthumb%2FcRkgSqR1\\_fO87xL3VWakbZpPDsA%3D%2F3870x2177%2Fsmart%2Ffilters%3Ano\\_upscale\(\)%2FGettyImages-144560401-56ad61345f9b58b7d00b16cc.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.verywellhealth.com%2Fare-anti-reflective-coatings-worth-the-extra-cost-3421899&tbnid=zndvDvC9DFBclM&vet=1&docid=0\\_6QbY5E7UYhkM&w=3870&h=2177&source=sh%2F%2Fim](https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.verywellhealth.com%2Fthumb%2FcRkgSqR1_fO87xL3VWakbZpPDsA%3D%2F3870x2177%2Fsmart%2Ffilters%3Ano_upscale()%2FGettyImages-144560401-56ad61345f9b58b7d00b16cc.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.verywellhealth.com%2Fare-anti-reflective-coatings-worth-the-extra-cost-3421899&tbnid=zndvDvC9DFBclM&vet=1&docid=0_6QbY5E7UYhkM&w=3870&h=2177&source=sh%2F%2Fim)

### **2.3.1. Website**

The professional council least affected by the pandemic this year was probably the PCC. Work on perfecting TESOL Turkey's website continued throughout the year, and is still in progress so as to upgrade the site in every possible way.

### **2.3.2. Professional ELT Magazine Online**

Two more issues of *Professional ELT Magazine Online (PEMO)* were published in 2020 – the fifth issue in June and the sixth in December. The fifth issue includes 12 articles from 14 authors and the sixth 13 articles from 17 authors. These last two issues as well as the first four are available on TESOL Turkey's website.

### **2.3.3. Social Networking**

TESOL Turkey was relatively active on social media given the circumstances. The number of TESOL Turkey followers on Instagram reached 1,039 this year, and the number of followers on Twitter reached 106. To date, 167 posts have been designed, prepared and simultaneously posted on all three social networking sites.

### **2.3.4. Annual Newsletter**

The preparation of this Annual Newsletter Online was the last endeavor of the Promotion Professional Council for 2020.

## **3. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

### **3.1. The Projects Committee**

The project work that TESOL Turkey undertook in 2019 revealed the need for the establishment of a new body. Thus, in late August, the Board of Directors called for four volunteers willing to become a part of the Projects Committee, which will work closely with the Board of Directors and, led by Dr. Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz, be responsible for the successful initiation, planning, design, execution, monitoring, controlling and closure of a project. In view of their experience in project work, Aylin Dewan from TED University in Ankara, Neslihan Koroğlu Çallı from Katip Çelebi University in Izmir and Onur Ergünay from Osmangazi University in Eskişehir were selected as the members of this new group from among interested applicants.

#### **3.1.1. Projects**

This year, in collaboration with TESOL Turkey, TESOL International and the Regional English Language Office (RELO) at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara offered a special professional development opportunity to TESOL Turkey members in the form of full scholarships for four different online professional development courses. 100 members received scholarships for the TESOL Core Certificate Program that began on 28 October 2020 and will end in February 2021, with the practicum to be completed by 10 September 2021. 100 members were offered scholarships for the self-paced TESOL Advanced Practitioner Certificate, which started on 19 October 2020 and must be completed within a year. While 50 TESOL Turkey members obtained scholarships for the Training for Trainers Certificate Program held between 21 October and 1 December 2020, 25 TESOL Turkey members obtained scholarships for the

Leadership and Management Certificate Program to be held in the upcoming year (19 April-23 May 2021).

### **3.2. Memberships Task Force**

TESOL Turkey continues to grow larger and stronger by the day. The number of TESOL Turkey members, which was 113 in December 2019, is over 280 today. To accommodate this expansion, the Membership Task Force has also grown to include Begüm Göknil Akyol and Pelin Çetinün, who will be working closely with Duygu Erdoğan.

#### **3.2.1. Membership Issues**

The biggest change that has occurred in membership issues over this past year is the possibility of online membership. First time members as well as members who wish to renew their membership can now do so by registering to TESOL Turkey's website and completing the membership application and payment procedures provided. Online registration and payment for SIG memberships as well as TESOL Turkey events will also be possible in 2021. The website will also notify members of soon-to-expire memberships.