



TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

NEWSLETTER 2022

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1. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the Board of Directors, 2022 was a year of documentation, during which the members focused on setting down or revising procedures and processes as well as updating records to ensure increased structure, consistency, transparency, accountability and quality. The formulation of TESOL Türkiye's Personal Data Protection Policy (KVKK), in particular, was



a rather laborious task with the Board of Directors working with members of the Professional Councils to determine the type of personal data collected and processed by each council, the nature of each type of personal data collected, the purpose for collecting each piece of data and where the data was stored so that these could serve as a basis on which TESOL Türkiye's privacy policy could be composed with help from a legal team. Other documents prepared in early 2022 were TESOL Türkiye's Membership Agreement and Cookie Policy. In

December 2022, based on insights gained during the last five years, the bylaws of the Professional Councils were revised.

Another important task that the Board of Directors was busy with in 2022 was the planning of a new Roadshow – Curriculum Development – and the refinement of the Teacher Development Roadshow to further enhance its scope. All of these preparations meant many meetings lasting several hours.

However, not all of these meetings were meant for business; some were just to enjoy each other's company and wish each other a very Happy New Year.

In May, TESOL Türkiye was represented at the 14th Türkiye SFL Directors' Platform hosted by Bolu İzzet Baysal University by Sibel Tüzel Kandiller, who delivered a presentation on the association's mission, goals and activities.



LAMSIG and METASIG were also represented by Donald Staub and Esin Çağlayan. In June, Yeşim Eraslan delivered an opening speech at the FLE Joint Conference hosted by the Turkish Aeronautical Association University. At this conference, TESOL Türkiye donated three free memberships to the conference raffle.

In the summer of 2022, Yeşim Eraslan began work on a sponsorship document outlining the different categories of sponsorship for publishers and/or solution partners. The document was finalized and approved by the Board in November. Meetings with potential sponsors are on-going.



14th Türkiye SFL Directors' Platform



In August, TESOL Türkiye's Board of Directors supported LAM SIG's Micro-Credential pilot project funded by the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) of the US Embassy-Ankara. For this project, five micro-credential courses on topics relevant to leadership and management were prepared and delivered free of charge to active TESOL Türkiye members. The TESOL Türkiye Board of Directors is currently completing work on policies, procedures and guidelines that will steer future TESOL Türkiye Micro-Credential courses. These are expected to be ready by February 2023.

In October 2022 came the wind of change. The Board of Directors, comprising Bahar Gün, Beril Ayman Yücel, Sibel Tüzel Kandiller, Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz and Yeşim Eraslan between December 2017 and October 2022 were firm believers in the importance of continuity and stability for institutionalization, and yet, they were also keenly aware of the importance of fresh perspectives for the identification of new goals that would lead to the growth of the association. With these in mind, while composing TESOL Turkey's Internal Bylaw, they had restricted the term served on the Board of Directors to two consecutive terms (6 years) with possibility for re-nomination after two subsequent terms out of Office and the term of a President –with the exception of the founding President—to one year. Following the completion of their first term, they were re-elected to serve for another term in September 2021. However, in order to ease the handover process and ensure a smooth transition. Bahar Gün, Beril Ayman Yücel and Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz resigned from the Board of Directors on 24 October 2022 leaving their seats to Evrim Üstünlüoğlu, Sinem Atamsoy Koşar and Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu, the first three alternate members of the Board of Directors elected at the General Assembly held in September 2021. Sibel Tüzel Kandiller and Yeşim Eraslan remained on the Board to facilitate a smooth transition.

TESOL Türkiye Board of Directors

December 2017 – October 2022	October 2022 – present
Bahar Gün (Founding President, December 2017-October 2021; ANPC Chair)	Sinem Atamsoy Koşar (President; EPPC Chair)
Sibel Tüzel Kandiller (President, October 2021-October 2022; PPC Chair)	Evrım Üstünlüoğlu (President-Elect; ANPC Chair)
Yeşim Eraslan (Treasurer)	Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu (Treasurer; PPC Co-Chair; GSPC Chair)
Beril Ayman Yücel (EPPC Chair)	Yeşim Eraslan
Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz (Projects Committee Chair)	Sibel Tüzel Kandiller (PPC Co-Chair; MPC Chair)

On 24 October 2022, Sibel Tüzel Kandiller's term as President ended and she stepped down leaving the Presidency of TESOL Turkey to Sinem Atamsoy Koşar, elected unanimously at the first meeting of the new Board. Similarly, at the same meeting, Yeşim Eraslan handed over her responsibilities as Treasurer to Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu, and Evrim Üstünlüoğlu was elected President-Elect. She will take over from Sinem Atamsoy Koşar in October 2023.

The last decision taken by the Board of Directors in 2022 concerned the change in the association's name from TESOL Turkey to TESOL Türkiye following the country's official name change at the UN in June. Thus, the logo of the association was revised to reflect the association's new name.

Logo prior to becoming an affiliate of TESOL International



Logo after becoming an affiliate of TESOL International in February 2019



Logo effective December 2022



2. PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1. Associate Network Professional Council (ANPC)

In 2022, the Associate Network Professional Council, led by Bahar Gün, continued to fulfill its responsibility of maintaining relations with TESOL International and IATEFL, working in close contact with the SIGs, and pursuing new partnerships and collaborative relationships with associations and organizations that share a mission similar to TESOL Türkiye's. The council comprising Funda Akgül, İlkay Özdemir and Özge Coşkun Aysal was expanded to include Özlem Baykan and Selen Şirin Dülger, both from Özyeğin University, who responded to the call for volunteers sent out in April. Furthermore, Sinem Atamsoy Koşar also joined the ANPC after volunteering for the role of SIG Representative.

In September, TESOL Türkiye was approached by NILE TESOL regarding possibilities of a partnership. Following some correspondence, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two associations in early November establishing the terms and conditions under which both associations will collaborate to help and support and develop ELT professionals in Türkiye and Egypt as well as globally.

Following the change in the Board of Directors, Evrim Üstünlüoğlu assumed responsibility as Chair of ANPC. In November, following Sinem Atamsoy Koşar's appointment as President of the TESOL Türkiye, Bahar Gün applied for the role of SIG Rep and was appointed.

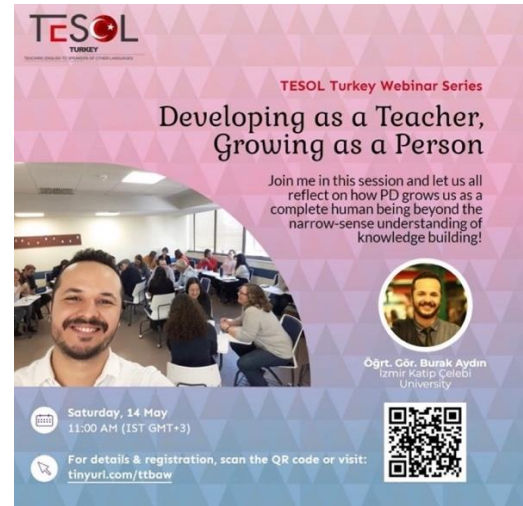
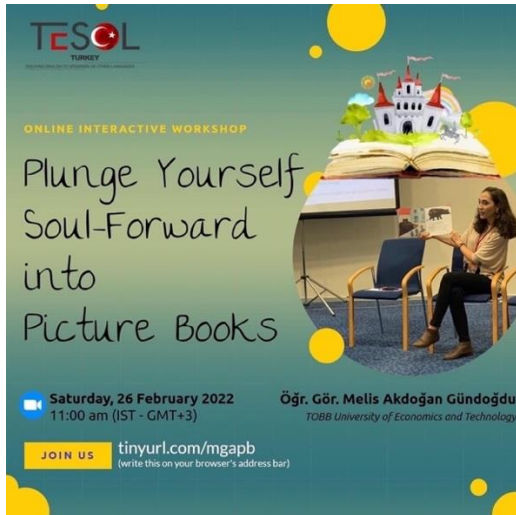
2.2. Events Planning Professional Council (EPPC)

The EPPC chaired by Beril Ayman Yücel until October 2022 was made up of Aslı Yılmaz Ercan, Christina Manea Gültekin, Mehmet Durmaz, Metin Esen, Nesibe Bilgiç Atasay, Songül Tömek Batçioğlu, Sinem Atamsoy Koşar and Şebnem Öztürk. However, with Metin Esen's departure for Germany and Sinem Atamsoy Koşar's assumption of new responsibilities, the EPPC became short-handed and is currently waiting for applications to its call for four volunteers to join the council. The deadline for applications is 20 January 2023.

2.2.1. Local Events and Roadshows

The EPPC organized three webinars in 2022. The first of these, *Congratulations! What is next?* conducted by Mehmet Durmaz, took place on 28 January. The second, *Plunge Yourself Soul-Forward into Picture Books* by Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu, was delivered on 26 February. The final webinar, *Developing as a Teacher, Growing as a Person*, was prepared by Burak Aydın and delivered on 14 May.





With the pandemic now under control, TESOL Türkiye is planning to resume face-to-face local events as well as to accelerate Roadshows.

2.2.2. Annual Conference



The 4th TESOL Turkey International ELT Conference, *Highway to Heaven: Wellbeing in Education*, took place on 18 and 19 March 2022 and was, for the second time, delivered virtually over Zoom. The Pre-Conference Events (PCE) hosted by LAMSIG and METASIG were held on 17 March. Keynote speakers of the conference were Betül Arım, Maxine Swisa, Andy Hockley,

Cristina Gkonou and Yasemin Yelbay Yılmaz, each delivering inspiring and highly thought-provoking talks. Following the twenty-three sessions delivered at the conference, the delegates left the event content having gained insight into (1) the importance of wellbeing on learners, teachers, managers, teacher trainers, (2) various ways in which the emotional health and wellbeing of these groups can be supported, (3) skills, strategies, resources, and environments necessary to experience wellbeing, (4) how mindfulness, self-awareness, self-care and reflection impact wellbeing, and (5) various hands-on mindfulness, self-awareness, self-care and reflection activities to enhance emotional wellness.

Preparations for the 5th TESOL Türkiye International ELT Conference *Embracing Differences: The Key to Inclusive Education* are underway. The conference, which will be hosted by Bartın University, Department for Foreign Language Education, ELT Program – selected from among the respondents to TESOL Türkiye’s call for Host Institutions – will be held on 28 and 29 April 2023 and will once again be preceded by LAMSIG’s and METASIG’s Pre-Conference Events on 27 April. Very special keynote speakers, whose names will be announced soon, will be joining. Detailed information regarding the conference and the call for papers will also follow soon. This year’s conference will be the first to be held face-to-face since the pandemic!

2.3. Promotion Professional Council (PPC)

The PPC, currently co-chaired by Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu and Sibel Tüzel Kandiller and composed of Derviş Saltık, Hande Kefeli Çalık, Nilgün İner, Sibel Taşkın Şimşek and Yaprak Güleç-Öğütçü, is waiting for applications to its call for two volunteers to join the council. The deadline for applications is 20 January 2023.

2.3.1. Website

TESOL Türkiye's website has been functioning without fault since its launch in December 2021. The secure online transactions feature in particular has facilitated membership and registration procedures to a great extent for members. New features are to be added to the site to cater for the changing needs of the association in the near future.

A major change in roles took place in PPC in December. Melis Akdoğan Gündoğdu, who has served as webmaster for TESOL Türkiye's various websites since the establishment of the association, handed over her responsibilities to new webmaster Nilgün İner following the call for new webmaster in November.

2.3.2. Professional ELT Magazine Online

This year, thanks to the dedication of our Editor Sibel Taşkın Şimşek, the PPC published the 9th and 10th issues of *Professional ELT Magazine Online (PEMO)*. All ten issues of *PEMO* are available on the TESOL Türkiye website for members.



2.3.3. Social Networking

The number of TESOL Türkiye followers on Instagram/Facebook reached 1,509 and the number of followers on Twitter reached 207 this year with approximately 60 posts designed, prepared and posted on all three social networking sites. With the support of our new PPC members, these numbers will continue to grow in 2023.

2.3.4. Annual Newsletter

The preparation of this Annual Newsletter Online on the fifth year of the establishment of TESOL Türkiye was the last endeavor of the Promotion Professional Council for 2022.

2.4. Grants and Scholarships Professional Council (GSPC)

What was known as the Projects Committee was dissolved in November 2022. In lieu of this committee, the GSPC was established. The GSPC will support TESOL Türkiye by seeking and securing grants and scholarships from foundations, government agencies and other sources for the purpose of creating adequate funding to enable the association to achieve its mission of advancing the quality of English language teaching by contributing to the sustainable quality of teacher education and in-service professional learning in Türkiye. In brief, the main objective of GSPC is to manage overall grant and scholarship efforts of the association. Members have been invited to volunteer for the three positions available on the council. Applications are on-going.

2.4.1. Grants

In 2019, TESOL Türkiye received an award worth USD 19,995 from the United States Department of State, US Mission Turkey to support a project for capacity building and cascading knowledge. This grant, which closed in November 2022, provided TESOL Türkiye with the means to fund products and services ranging from the construction of the TESOL Türkiye official website and the purchase of Zoom Platforms to honoraria offered to invited speakers and members who partook in TESOL Türkiye projects. It made the organization of two conferences, several online events and the completion of activities planned for 2019-2022 possible. It enabled TESOL Türkiye to finance the travel and accommodation expenses of members in remote areas of the country with limited access to ELT events such as the annual conference. It also created opportunity for TESOL Türkiye to participate in a project, which involved the piloting of the Fostering Student Motivation and Engagement (FSME) course. This course is currently being offered worldwide by the US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through the Online Professional English Network (OPEN).

2.4.2. Scholarships

In February 2022, through collaboration with US RELO, TESOL Türkiye received 65 scholarships for the virtual TESOL International Convention held between 22-25 March 2022. These scholarships also included a one-year free membership to the TESOL International Association and were offered to TESOL Türkiye members in good standing.

2.5. Membership Professional Council (MPC)

In November, the name of the Membership Task Force, which had been functioning for over a year, was changed to Membership Professional Council and an internal bylaw was devised to specify the roles and responsibilities of the members within the council and the terms of selection. The members of the Task Force – Pelin Çetinün and Begüm Akyol – continue to serve on this council chaired by Sibel Tüzel Kandiller. Derviş Saltık is the PPC-MPC liaison supplying MPC with information from the TESOL Türkiye website where all application and membership procedures are completed. This information is required for the registration of members with the national associations database (DERBİS).

3.2.1. Membership Issues

All membership and registration procedures were conducted online this year. The only difficulty faced by the MPC was the entry of erroneous information by members concerning their personal information. Since the national database recognizes false information, it does not allow the completion of member registration, which TESOL Türkiye is obligated to do by law. Therefore, MPC kindly asks members to check the information they enter or have entered on their personal details forms and make the necessary amendments if necessary.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

4.1. Leadership and Management SIG (LAMSIG)

The LAMSIG 2022 activity report is as follows.



TESOL Türkiye LAMSIG
Executive Board
2022 Activity Report

LAMSIG Executive Board

Donald Staub (Joint Coordinator) Özge Coşkun Aysal (Joint Coordinator)

Ali Ceylan (Treasurer)

Gökçe Erkan (Archivist)

Nilgün İner (Social Media Specialist)

Özlem Baykan (Co-Event Organizer)

Zeynep Oğul (Co-Event Organizer)

Contents

- Online Events
- Pre-Conference Event
- Promotions (Social Media)
- Annual General Meeting
- Micro-Credentials Project
- Looking forward 2023

Overview

Throughout 2022, LAMSIG remained primarily online – partly due to the residual effects of covid, partly due to the efficiencies afforded by our familiarity with online activities. The year included one online panel, a pre- conference event (pre- TESOL Türkiye conference), the Annual General Meeting, as well as, broadly speaking, promotions (i.e. social media activity). This report will also briefly mention plans for 2023.

Activities

2022 began with the second online panel in a series on language program accreditation. *Accreditation: The Bigger Questions Answered* was moderated by Evrim Üstünlüoğlu, with the panelists: Didem Mutçalıoğlu, Ian Collins, and Nergis Uyan. The first in the series (*Accreditation: Big Questions Answered*) was offered in December, 2021.

On 17 March, the TESOL Türkiye Pre-Conference Event was held online. The theme of the PCE was Well-Being in Education, with two invited speakers. Andy Hockley's talk was *Well-Being for Yourself and Your Staff: Some Practical Tips*. Melis Abacıoğlu's talk was *Well-Being in Education: Case Studies from the Workplace*.

Throughout the year, Executive Board member Nilgün İner was instrumental in developing promotions and creating awareness for both TESOL Türkiye and LAMSIG via social media. The aim was not only to promote LAMSIG activities, but to boost engagement and keep the LAMSIG brand in the minds of our followers. Nilgün continuously and creatively created leadership-relevant content and messages (e.g. quotes from famous leaders) to celebrate special days (back-to-school, teachers' day, national holidays).

LAMSIG was also active on social media, whenever Executive Board members represented (and presented) at relevant conferences and meetings throughout the year, e.g. the YDYO Directors' meeting in Bolu, the Aegean Region ELT Conference hosted by Celal Bayar University, the 2nd International Conference on Quality Assurance and Accreditation hosted by İzmir University of Economics, the ETS Global Meet Up in Istanbul, the METASIG conference in Cappadocia, etc.

Organizationally, the Executive Board and its membership were active with regular meetings for reflecting and planning. The Board met formally at least 12 times during the year. In September, the Board welcomed the TESOL Türkiye SIG Liaison, Sinem Atamsoy Koşar to its regular meetings. In addition, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held online in October, where we bid farewell to founding joint coordinators Evrim Üstünlüoğlu and Ian Collins, whose terms had expired.

A new Executive Board was voted in at the AGM, comprising these members: Ali Ceylan, Donald Staub, Gökçe Erkan, Nilgün İner, Özge Coşkun Aysal, Özlem Baykan, and Zeynep Oğul. At their first meeting as an Executive Board, Özge and Donald were voted in as Joint-Coordinators, Ali and Nilgün continued in their roles as Treasurer and Social Media Specialist, respectively; Gökçe Erkan started as Archivist, with Özlem and Zeynep taking on roles as co-Event Organizers.

Members of the previous and current Executive Board were also actively involved in a Micro-Credential pilot project generously funded by the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) of the US Embassy-Ankara, and supported by TESOL Türkiye. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu, Ian Collins, Bahar Gün, Beril Yücel, and Donald Staub developed and delivered five micro-credentials on topics relevant to leaders and managers in the field of ELT. The micro-credentials were offered free of charge to active TESOL Türkiye members. Successful completers of the courses were granted digital badges to allow them to electronically display their new qualifications.

2023

Looking forward to 2023, the LAMSIG Executive Board is busy planning its face-to-face Biennial Conference, which will be held in late February at a location to be determined. The tentative aim of the conference is to provide practical workshops on high-demand issues (determined via a survey administered by LAMSIG) relevant to ELT leaders and managers.

The Board is also actively preparing for the Pre-Conference Event for the annual TESOL Türkiye conference in April. The theme of the conference is Inclusive Leadership, which lends itself very appropriately to the mission and vision of LAMSIG.

As LAMSIG moves forward, it is developing collaborative opportunities with K12 schools across Türkiye in response to increasing demand expressed at various venues. LAMSIG's Board and members have much to share in a wide range of areas relevant to ELT leadership and management, and they see this as a way to connect with and support English language teaching and learning in K12 education.

Respectfully submitted: 24 December, 2022

4.2. Measurement, Evaluation, Testing and Assessment SIG (METASIG)



The Measurement, Evaluation, Testing and Assessment Special Interest Group – METASIG – was founded in October 2020 to bring together foreign language teaching professionals who have experience and/or a special interest in the field of language assessment and testing. As professionals interested in language testing and assessment, we believe in the power of collaboration with colleagues sharing the same passion and goals.

The year 2022 has been a productive one for METASIG, full of several fruitful events delivered both online and face-to-face. Our first online event of the passing year, “Introduction to Item Analysis” by Akif Çal, was held on February 19 with 62 participants from various universities all around Turkey. The workshop focused on the basics of item analysis, linking theory to practise. With great interest and engagement, participants practised analysing test results using spreadsheets. The event received highly positive feedback and a second workshop to further practice item analysis was a prevalent request.

Following the Item Analysis workshop, on March 1, 2022, METASIG brought its existing and prospective members together to know one another better and talk about the challenges and good practices in assessment – especially in “the new normal” circumstances brought about by the global pandemic. It was a good opportunity for assessment developers to be up-to-date about the practices at other institutions, share ideas, experiences and discuss possible solutions to common issues.

With great excitement we held a PCE event on March 17 at the TESOL-Türkiye’s 4th annual conference, hosting Professor Luke Harding from Lancaster University as the plenary speaker. The enlightening talk by Professor Harding gave us, assessment developers from many national and international universities, new perspectives to reflect on assessing listening and speaking skills. Following the plenary talk, Esra Gün Alayafı from Sabancı University gave a talk on the importance of collaborative learning and shared practical ideas on how to incorporate it into teaching and testing practices. The event was a great success with the participation of 46 professionals in the field.

METASIG’s last online event of the year, held on June 6, was a webinar on “Automatic Text Analysis and Its Use in L2 Reading Assessment” by Dr. Aylin Ünaldı from the University of Huddersfield. In this webinar, Dr. Ünaldı raised awareness of the importance of selecting the ‘right text’ for assessments and provided a review of automatic text analysis research and its use in reading assessment. Dr. Ünaldı also introduced several text analysis tools by demonstrating how they work, where they can be used and to what extent they can be relied on. This webinar provided assessment developers with practical ideas that they can apply to create valid reading assessments. The METASIG members can access recordings of these online events through <https://tesolturkey.net/sig/6/metasisig>

After two full years of being online, METASIG made a successful kick-off to face-to-face events at Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University on 2-3 December 2022 with the theme ‘An Overview of Assessing Language Use’. The event brought together 49 participants from 28 different institutions in Turkey, and feedback from participants was very positive. The one-and-a-half-day event started with Dr. Simon Phipps’ plenary talk on “Curriculum-Based Assessment” and continued with ETS Global B.V. representatives Zeynep Oğul and Akhan Özten’s session on “Enhancing Language Studies via Standardized and Accredited Assessment”. The event continued with METASIG Coordinator Asst. Prof. Esin Çağlayan’s input session on the theme and later with focus group sessions where participants found the chance to work in small groups to share experiences, ideas, and challenges on assessing

language use. The participants worked together to come up with concrete suggestions to share with the whole group. On the following day, the presenter of each group gave a 15-minute presentation, followed by questions and comments on issues raised. We would like to extend our gratitude to the host team at Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University School of Foreign Languages for their collaboration.

Looking forward to a new year and thinking about how we could do even better, we would like to share with you some of our upcoming events. For 2023, METASIG is dedicated to keep organizing events that will contribute to the field of language assessment, and support colleagues in applying reliable, valid and practical approaches to language assessment. For this purpose, in 2023, METASIG will be organizing a workshop on item analysis, a webinar on standard setting, a Pre-Conference Event at TESOL-Türkiye Annual Conference, and a face-to-face event for its members. Watch out for details on our social media.

We are aware that there are few opportunities to gain expertise and experience in language assessment and testing and therefore, we believe that METASIG will continue to play an important role to assist foreign language teaching professionals in their efforts to maximize their language assessment knowledge and skills and improve learning and teaching processes in their institutions.

Come and join this enthusiastic and dynamic team and help achieve the mission of METASIG, or just be an active member who would enjoy the benefits – you will certainly feel welcome. Finally, do get in touch and let us know how you would like to be more involved in the activities as we move forward by sending us an email.

We hope your 2023 has got off to a great start and we look forward to hearing from our members with news and views.

CONTACT US

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