

FIRAT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER



FIRAT UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Founded in 1975, Firat University, which has become one of the most respected higher education institutions of Türkiye today, has made a name for itself with its half-century of knowledge, academic achievements and contributions to the world of science. With the understanding of **"Half a Century of Success, Strong Future"**, we are taking firm steps towards the future with the strength we draw from our past.

The 50-year history of Firat University is not only an academic success story, but also a journey growing and developing together with the cultural environment of Elazığ. Throughout this journey, Firat university has been a driving force in the development of the region and has made significant contributions not only to the world of academia but also to social and economic life with the qualified human resources. With its structure that puts knowledge production at the center and continuously encourages research and development activities, Firat University is determined to continue serving not only regional but also national development goals.

In the 21st century, Firat University is moving forward with the aim of having a voice on a global scale with its strong academic staff, modern infrastructure, attachment to interdisciplinary research and international cooperation. With its student-centered approach, innovative vision and forward-looking improvement structure, Firat university is highly decisive for excellence in both education and research. Our education programs are constantly updated to provide the knowledge and skills required by the age, and our research and application opportunities provide our students with a strong ground to build a better equipped and competitive future.

Beyond being just an educational institution, Firat University continues to raise the leaders and scientists of the future by being at the center of scientific thinking, social responsibility and cultural accumulation. Our university continues on its way with the determination to be a higher education institution that produces solutions to the critical issues of the age such as sustainable development, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, green transformation and global competition by preserving its academic accumulation and ethical values.

This **50-year honorable legacy** inspires us and guides us on our journey to build a stronger, more innovative and more effective future. As a university that adopts scientific production, social sensitivity and universal values as principles, Firat University will continue to play an active role in building the knowledge society that Turkey and the world need.

FIRAT UNIVERSITY IS EXPANDING THE BORDERS OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Firat university hosted a delegation of international visitors, consisting of deans, college directors and institute directors from TUIT (Tashkent University of Information Technologies) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan for 3 days in Elazığ in order to strengthen bilateral collaborations in line with its internationalization vision.

Within the scope of this invaluable visit, which took place under the leadership of Rector Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Göktaş and under the coordination of the International Relations Office, various meetings and presentations were organized to develop academic cooperation, produce joint projects and increase student and staff mobility. During the visit, the delegation of Uzbekistan was provided with comprehensive information about the advanced physical infrastructure of our University, digitalization studies, education and training models, R&D and innovation activities, national and international projects.

In addition, the guest delegation had the opportunity to visit the faculties and research centers at Firat University and received on-site information about the scientific studies carried out. By exchanging views on issues such as quality in education, accreditation processes, bilateral diploma programs and exchange programs, the first steps were taken towards building joint degree education programs between the two universities.



FIRAT UNIVERSITY IS EXPANDING THE BORDERS OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SPRING REBIRTH: NOWRUZ

Nowruz was celebrated at Fırat University with various activities organized with the participation of university students and academic staff. Nowruz, which is considered as the arrival of spring, the awakening of nature and the symbol of cultural continuity, was handled in a multidimensional way with the programs held on the university campus.

The events started with an outdoor program organized in the open area of Fırat University Health Campus. The participants actively participated in both rituals representing cultural symbols and artistic performances. The main aim of the program was to remind the historical origins of Nowruz and to encourage young generations to embrace this deep-rooted tradition.



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SPRING REBIRTH: NOWRUZ

In order to emphasize the symbolic meaning of Nowruz in the historical and cultural context, iron forging and fire jumping rituals were performed with the participation of students. These rituals stood out as performative spaces where feelings of social solidarity, rebirth and belonging to the common past were reinforced. The tradition of jumping from the fire was interpreted by the participants within the framework of the metaphor of collective purification and renewal.

Within the scope of the program, folk dance performances and music concerts were organized by the student communities affiliated to Firat University. While the dances performed with local costumes made the cultural heritage of Elazığ visible, the musical performances allowed traditional melodies to come to life again in the campus atmosphere. During the events, various folk music instruments were introduced and interactive performances were also organized.

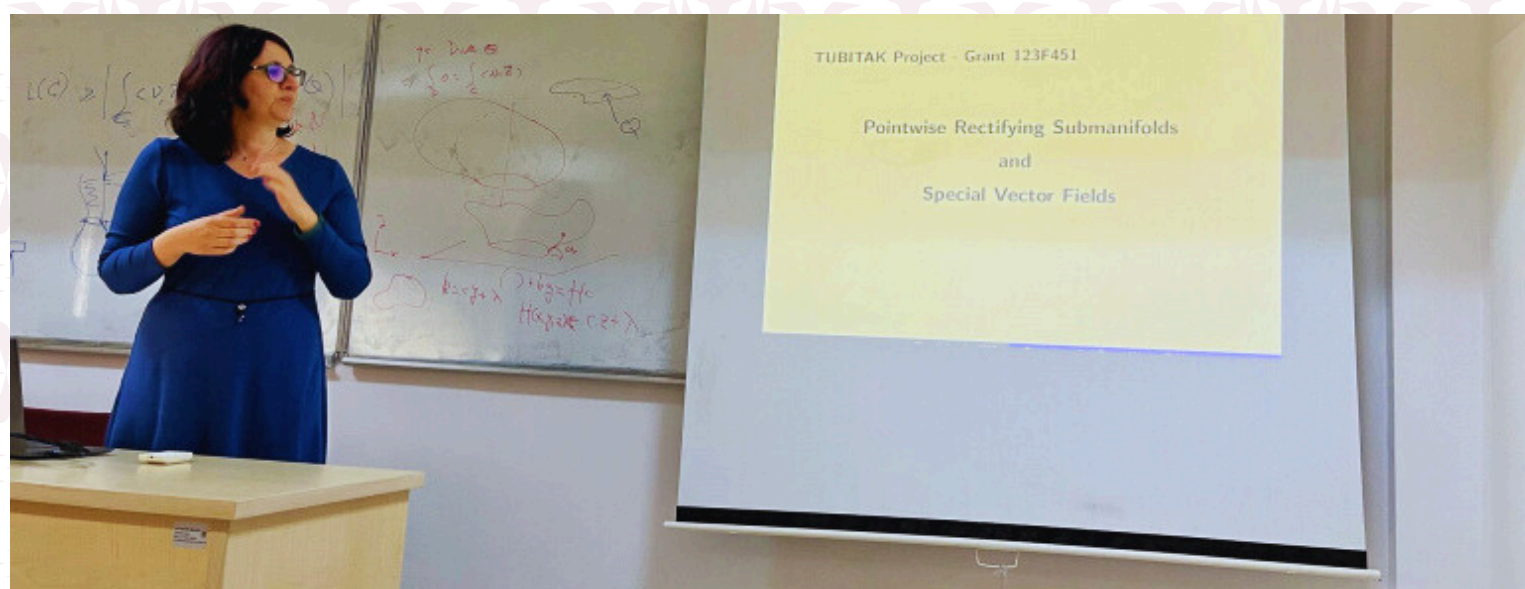
The high level of student participation throughout the event indicates that Nowruz is embraced by younger generations and seen as a part of cultural identity.



Distinguished and award-winning geometry professor Prof. Dr. Rafael LÓPEZ, from the University of Granada and Prof. Dr. Adela MIHAI from Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest/Transilvania University of Braşov visited the Department of Mathematics as guest researchers, in adjunction with TUBITAK projects, conducted by department Chair Prof. Dr. Muhittin Evren AYDIN . Within the scope of the projects, the Department of Mathematics organized an international geometry workshop, during which the international researchers delivered effective lectures on their areas of expertise.

30 participants from a variety of universities participated in the the workshop, in which current research topics in differential geometry, theoretical developments and interactions with applied mathematics were discussed. Moreover, graduate students and faculty members were given the opportunity to learn from leading academics in the field and have academic interaction.

More importantly, during the visits of Prof. Dr. LÓPEZ and Prof. Dr. MIHAI, one-to-one academic meetings were held with the faculty members of the Department of Mathematics and international academic cooperation opportunities on possible joint research projects were evaluated.



A MEETING BEYOND LANGUAGES

Organized by the Department of German Language and Literature, Firat University, an international congress titled "German - A Bridge Between Cultures" was held with great success with the participation of many distinguished academics from both Turkey and abroad. Organized in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, the International German Language Association (ISPRUD) and the German Language Society (VDS), this scientific event witnessed sessions with rich content and interdisciplinary approaches.

Throughout the congress, the ways in which German can bridge different cultures by going beyond being just a means of communication were discussed from various perspectives such as historical contexts, literary reflections, language policies and translation studies. In both academic presentations and panel discussions, participants shared their views on the use of German in different geographies, the role of language in identity construction and its importance in the context of multiculturalism. In the congress, comprehensive evaluations were also made on the current problems of German education, the effects of digitalization in language teaching and the mediating role of language in cultural interaction processes.

During the three-day congress, the potential of the German language in enhancing intercultural communication was discussed in all its aspects. Participants shared their experiences and research findings with the audience, providing a platform for scientific interaction and laying the foundations for new collaborations.



KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND CULTURE MEETING

Firat University hosted a meaningful and multifaceted academic cooperation within the framework of the KA171 Erasmus+ Program supported by the European Union. In this context, the Erasmus Institution Coordinator from Addis Ababa University, one of the most established and respected higher education institutions in Ethiopia, and distinguished faculty members from the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering paid a 5-day academic visit to our university.

The visit was realized as part of the international academic exchange activities carried out under the title of "teaching mobility". During the visit, the guest academics gave various lectures at undergraduate and graduate level in the relevant engineering departments and directly shared knowledge with our students. They also met with faculty members to discuss current developments in their research areas, exchange views on potential collaborations and take the first steps towards developing joint projects.

These interactions were not only limited to the transfer of knowledge and experience, but also built an important cultural bridge. Through the social and cultural activities organized during the visit, a strong foundation of friendship and cooperation was established between our academics and the guest delegation.



FIRAT UNIVERSITY RECEIVES QUALITY APPROVAL FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Firat University university has been awarded the “Quality Label” as a leading institution within the scope of ESC (European Solidarity Corps), which is supported by the European Union and implemented by the Turkish National Agency. Having this label certifies that Firat University can take an active role in volunteering-based international youth projects both as a hosting and sending organization and can provide high standards of coordination in projects across Europe.

The Quality Label is awarded as a result of a comprehensive evaluation based on criteria such as the support provided by institutions to young people in volunteering activities, the quality of educational processes, commitment to ethical values and institutional capacity. The fact that Firat University is entitled to receive this label strengthens the vision of internationalization in the field of youth work and offers students the opportunity to take part in projects in European countries where they can work as volunteers.

In this context, Firat University students will not only have the opportunity to participate in volunteering activities in Europe, but will also be able to participate in intercultural learning processes, develop social responsibility awareness and continue their personal development in an international framework. The leadership of Firat University in this field will contribute to the development of youth work at the regional level, as well as pave the way for the establishment of sustainable cooperation at the European level.

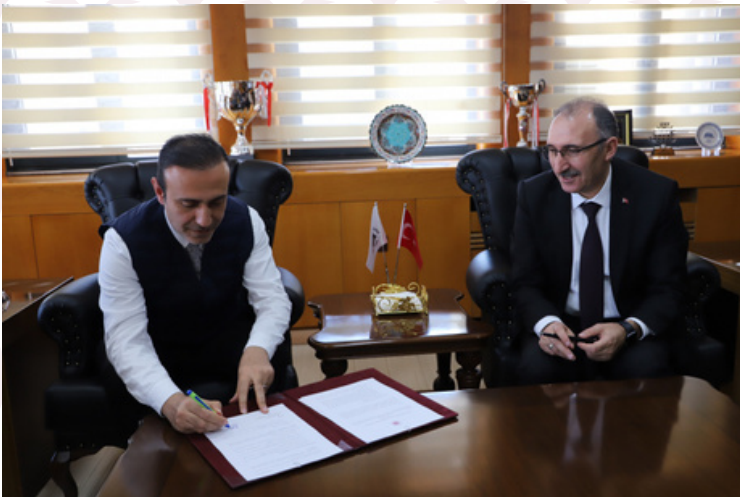


AN IN-DEPTH JOURNEY TO THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM FIRAT UNIVERSITY: THE INITIATION OF JEAN MONNET PROJECTS

Within the scope of the European Union Central Projects, funded by European Commission, an important step was taken in order to initiate Jean Monnet Module projects. In this respect, a contract was signed between the project legal signatory, Fırat University Rector Prof. Dr. Fahrettin GÖKTAŞ and the coordinator academicians who are expected to maintain the projects successfully. Jean Monnet Module projects are prestigious ones at Higher Education Institutions throughout the world that aim to encourage academic institutions to conduct education and research on EU issues.

The signed contract will create the necessary legal and financial infrastructure for the initiation and execution of these projects, while at the same time providing various research and training opportunities for academic staff. Rector Prof. Dr. Fahrettin GÖKTAŞ emphasized that this important step will increase the academic prestige of Fırat University at the international level and provide students with new learning opportunities in the context of the European Union. Moreover, Jean Monnet projects are expected to make significant contributions not only on European Union policies but also on global problems and solutions.

With the realization of these projects, Fırat University will provide academic content on the functioning of the European Union policies, European Education Area and European Environmental priorities, its policies and global relations and with the students in-depth knowledge in this field. The Jean Monnet projects aim to give students the opportunity to better understand the issues related to the European Union, while at the same time providing them with a comprehensive perspective on international relations and EU policies in their academic careers.



FIRAT UNIVERSITY STAR IN YOUNG COMMUNICATORS COMPETITION

Firat University Faculty of Communication has achieved a great success in the 34th Turkish Journalists Association Young Communicators Competition and won the second and third prizes. Considered as one of the leading journalism competitions in Turkey, this contest is organized every year to reward the achievements of young communicators in the fields of print, visual and digital media. The competition has great prestige as it provides an opportunity for participants to show both their creative talents and how well they work in accordance with journalistic standards. These awards once again prove the success of Firat University Faculty of Communication students in their fields



and the strong position of our university in the field of communication education. The Faculty of Communication has an educational approach that directs its students not only to theoretical knowledge but also to practical success. This success not only demonstrates the quality of the education students receive throughout their university life, but also provides them with the opportunity to gain a broader perspective in the field of media and communication.

Furthermore, participation in the competition and the awards obtained are a part of Firat University's vision to discover young talents in the field of media and communication, to contribute to their development processes and to ensure their recognition at the national level. The achievements of our students increase the confidence not only in the young communicators of our university, but also in the young communicators of our city and country.

FIRAT UNIVERSITY GROWS WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Firat University continues to sign important Memorandum of Understandings! Respectively, bilateral agreements have been signed between Firat University and The Catholic University of Colombia, University of Magdalena and Azerbaijan University of Languages.

These agreements will provide academics and students with cultural awareness and international exchange experience, offering new perspectives and building global networks.

By participating in exchange programs and collaborative projects, students can gain a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and enhance their academic and professional prospects. Additionally, these agreements enable faculty members to engage in joint research initiatives, fostering innovation and knowledge exchange between the institutions.

Firat University continues to become stronger internationally and offer unique opportunities to its students and staff, ensuring they are well-prepared for the globalized world. This ongoing commitment to internationalization underscores the university's dedication to providing a comprehensive and enriching research opportunity for all its staff and students.

