



## NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISSE TURQUIE

No 42

APRIL 2024

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month, Swiss students will complete their university applications. Their places will be confirmed in July upon the submission of a successful “maturité” or high school graduation degree. For university admission, there are no other requirements for Swiss students. It is not like in Türkiye where a university entry exam is mandatory or like in other countries where grades and tests must be presented and/or taken for admission to select universities.

In addition, Swiss institutions are highly regarded and prestigious. According to QS university rankings, Switzerland has 6 universities which are placed among the top 150 globally. In comparison, Germany has only 5 institutions in the top 150, France 4, Italy 2 and Austria 1.

However, studying at a Swiss university is no small feat. Only 44% of the adult population in Switzerland has a university or vocational tertiary education. Not only is obtaining the “maturité” difficult, but entering university is also no guarantee of a degree. A striking statistic comes from EPFL where a rigorous selection process occurs in the first year, known as the propaedeutic cycle, during which students must pass a block examination of all their courses. 60% of all first-year students fail, with ratios sometimes exceeding 70% in departments such as Electrical Engineering and Physics.

As a result, in this edition we wanted to tell you a little bit more about École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne or EPFL, one of the two federal universities in the country alongside École Polytechnique de Zurich (ETH). These two universities are funded by the federal government and not by their cantonal governments, and rank in the top 20 universities of the world. At EPFL, the department of Electrical and Micro Engineering, and the department of Materials are ranked in the top 10 among such departments worldwide.

Founded on 7 November 1853 (before ETH), EPFL initially operated under the name École Spéciale de Lausanne, focusing on material sciences, architecture and civil engineering to train talented engineers in Switzerland. It gained university status in 1890. Its first female graduate in 1907 was Genevève Cécile Buttica, with a degree in electrical engineering. She is also the first woman graduate in Europe in this field.

The school attained its federal status in 1969 and was officially named EPFL. Its campus in Écublens-Dorigny was inaugurated in 1978. Since then, EPFL has been committed not only to providing the best education to its students but also to keeping Swiss companies and technology at the forefront globally. Science Park Foundation on the school campus fosters relationships between the business and academia.

Notable professors and alumni include Maryna Viazovska, only the second female Fields Medal recipient in the world; Nobel Prize winner Jacques Dubochet; George de Mestral, inventor of Velcro; Eric Favre, inventor of Nespresso; and André Borschberg, our member and founder of Solar Impulse, the only solar-powered aircraft to circumnavigate the earth. In addition, EPFL serves as the official scientific advisor of Alinghi, twice winners of the America’s Cup.

We wish all the “maturants” of this year good luck in their final months of the school year, a very Happy April 23 Children’s Day to all the children and a Happy Ramadan Bayram.

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at [editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com)

## APRIL AND MAY EVENTS

### Association Events

For future Association events : [www.assocotr.ch](http://www.assocotr.ch)

### Member Events

Conference on Blockchain, AI and Human Migration to the Virtual World: 16 April at 18:15

Zurich

Dr. Ali Mizani OSKUI is the referent of this conference organised by Swiss Turkish Business Council – For registration [info@stbc.ch](mailto:info@stbc.ch) and [www.stbc.ch/](http://www.stbc.ch/)

CRR Senfoni and 5 pianists: 20 April at 8pm

İstanbul

Our member Sandra Albukrek , Painter, filmmaker & scenographer - Art & Music production is the director of this concert for which more information can be found

<https://crrkonsersalonu.ibb.Istanbul/Home/EventDetails/16865?CRRLang=tr-TR>

And the tickets on <https://www.biletix.com/etkinlik/3CR55/TURKIYE/tr>

EXCELerate 2024: Conference on Shaping the Future of Business: 24-26 April

Vancouver

Our member Hülya Kurt is one the speakers at this conference which aims to bring together inspiring innovators and global policy influencers. More information on: [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/shaping-future-business-groyourbiz-7wiuf/?trk=public\\_post\\_main-feed-card\\_feed-article-content](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/shaping-future-business-groyourbiz-7wiuf/?trk=public_post_main-feed-card_feed-article-content)

İzım Çetındađ at Hampstead Affordable Art Fair: 08-12 May

London

Our member İzım Çetındađ is an abstract painting artist. She has been exhibiting since 2011

(<https://izimcetindag.com/biography/>). Affordable Art Fair Hampstead takes place in spring on beautiful Hampstead Heath, showcasing the best in contemporary art from over 100 galleries from the UK and around the world. Discover the joy of collecting art, with 1,000s of stunning artworks, alongside emerging artist showcases, one of a kind installations, delightful bars and cafés to unwind in and much more.

XVth International Conference on Oriental Rugs: 6-9 June

İstanbul

Our member Ali Tuna is one of the organizers of this conference which also includes some very attractive pre and post conference tours to major weaving centres of Anatolia.

İstanbul has been an important centre for oriental rugs for hundreds of years. The city is now proud to welcome ICOC XV by offering a unique experience to participants with the wealth of its collections, museums and its thousands of years of cultural heritage. In the image of the city spanning between two continents, ICOC XV will bridge the past and the future of oriental carpets by presenting high quality lectures, exhibitions and hidden treasures. With its pre-and post-conference tours to visit important weaving centres and museums throughout Anatolia, ICOC XV is also providing the opportunity to get a full immersion into Anatolia’s weaving culture under the guidance of experts. For more details <https://icocistanbul.com/>

### Other Events

La Cetra Barokorchester Basel in Concert – 6 April

Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall, İstanbul

La Cetra Barockorchester Basel is the brainchild of Sergey Malov, a teacher of the violin in Zurich who plays a number of baroque stringed instruments. The ensemble, named after Vivaldi's *La Cetra* series of concertos for two solo violins, string orchestra and *basso continuo*, specialises in Italian music of the baroque period. Tickets from [www.Biletix.com](http://www.Biletix.com)

Morges Tulip Festival – Until 12 May  
Parc de l'Indépendance, Morges

This year's theme is "Countries of the World". The main location will be adorned with 140'000 flowers and 350 varieties of tulips. The festival is also enriched with concerts, theatre, tastings and exhibitions. For more details: <https://www.morges-tourisme.ch/en/Z14689/tulip-festival>

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear All,

Mrs. İnci DE BOCCARD-ÖZALP served on the committee for 13 years. She was vice president for 2 years then President of our association for 9 years, she now retired from the position during the general meeting in March.

During her presidency she has contributed immensely to the association making it grow into a lively community.

We would like to thank her for her tireless work and dedication throughout the years.

The new committee of the association is as follows:

Mrs. Leyla ELÇİ, who was previously a member of the committee for 13 years, takes on the presidency.

Vice-president: Mr. Marc LEU

Treasurer: Mr. Orhan ALTAŞ

Members: Mrs. Yasemen BİLİCİ, Mr. Doruk ENGİN, Mrs. Zeynep ERSAN, Mrs. Leila ÜNGÜN,

Mrs. Neshe WIRTH

Controllers: Mr. Hakan EKİNCİ, Mr. Alp SİĞİN

"Lausanne Bizim Lozan"

**100<sup>th</sup> year edition.** The much-praised book published by our Association is available for purchase at:

- [Letubooks Librairie d'Art](#) in Geneva
- Online [on our website www.assoctr.ch](http://www.assoctr.ch)
- [Bookstore Boyut Yayınevi and at D&R in Türkiye](#)

We believe it will be a much-appreciated gift by your friends and family!

Cornucopia Magazine

Our annual sponsor and the source of many events that take place in Turkey and around the world, is now also digital and includes all the past editions.

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## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Istanbul Airport has been awarded Airport of the Year for a 4<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

The award is given by Air Transport Awards and is based on strict criteria including travel experience, sustainability, efficiency, passenger satisfaction...

## Kız Kulesi Has Reopened

After an extensive renovation, one of İstanbul's iconic landmarks, Kız Kulesi (Maiden's Tower), reopened on March 1st. The renovation has been thorough, drawing upon techniques and materials documented in the archival records. Following the renovation, subtle military architectural details emerged, distancing it somewhat from the earlier mystique and nostalgic white look associated with the princess who was hiding there from her fate, a fate that ultimately found her anyway, concealed in a basket of figs.

The boats for accessing the tower currently operate only from the Karaköy Pier, as the Salacak Pier in Üsküdar is under renovation.



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## **ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine**

### **Exhibitions and Events**

#### In the Realm of Three Inland Seas

Handan Börüteçene

SALT Beyoğlu, İstanbul

Until April 14

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/in-the-realm-of-three-inland-seas/>

#### Occupied City: Politics and Daily Life in İstanbul, 1918-1923

İstanbul Research Institute

Until April 27

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/occupied-city/>

#### İstanbul as Far as the Eye Can See

Meşher, İstanbul

Until May 2024

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/istanbul-as-far-as-the-eye-can-see/>

#### On the spot: Panoramic Gaze on İstanbul

The Pera Museum, İstanbul

Until August 18

<https://www.cornucopia.net/events/on-the-spot-panoramic-gaze-on-istanbul/>

### **Rich Pickings from the Cornucopia Bookshop**

The Palace Lady's Summerhouse by Patricia Daunt

<https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books/the-palace-ladys-summerhouse/>

For the complete selection: <https://www.cornucopia.net/store/books>

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