



Innovative Solutions for Social Cohesion Hackathon

“Innovative Solutions for Social Cohesion Hackathon” was held in Ankara on 17-19 September 2021 within the scope of the “Increasing technical and ICT skills of Syrian and Turkish youth” component of the Project.

A total of 72 young people from Ankara, Bursa, Kocaeli, Şanlıurfa, and İstanbul, designed products for enhancing social cohesion by using their creativity and technology. The participants, 40% of whom were young women, were divided into 16 teams, depending on the field they want to work in. Mixed teams of young Syrian and Turkish men and women developed long-term, sustainable, and inclusive solutions for social cohesion with the subtopics of sports, volunteering, education and employability.

During the event, teams gained extensive knowledge on developing business projects, the business models they should prefer, the target audience to focus on and methods for an impressive presentation through Minimum Viable Product (MVP), Presentation Techniques, Customer Validation and Business Development trainings. Along with the trainings, the teams also attended an informative session “Problem Definition and Generating Solutions” and had the opportunity to develop their projects with the help of expert mentors in different fields.

Throughout the event, young people also socialized within their groups, experienced the spirit of teamwork, observed cultural and interpersonal learning methods by meeting new people and working together with them. The youth also enjoyed VR glasses and video games to relax within the challenging atmosphere.

The groups mostly focused on developing mobile and online applications. At the end of the event, all groups presented their solution ideas to the jury members, and 4 groups received technology gift certificates after the evaluation of the jury.



Third Prize – 1 Together We Are Strong

Solution proposal: An online platform that brings Syrian students together with teachers who teach in Syria and do not work in Turkey, aiming to support social cohesion by increasing access to employment.

Third Prize – 2 We Can

Solution Proposal: A mobile application that will make it easier for Turkish and Syrian youth living in close neighbourhoods to get to know each other, organize sports events and form teams, by using the unifying power of sports activities.



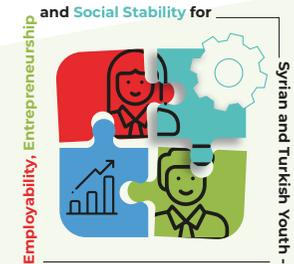
Second Prize Kiren Software

Solution Proposal: A software that displays trainings and cartoons with VR technology to children, aiming to reduce the prejudices of Syrian and Turkish youth towards each other.



First Prize GaPa (Game Pair)

Solution Proposal: An online application where Syrian and Turkish youth can play games together and match with each other in e-sports activities, which has become the younger generation’s socialization and entertainment platform for young people. The project also aims to minimize the language barrier by helping Syrian youth to practice their Turkish skills.



Innovative Solutions for Social Cohesion Hackathon

Young Enterprises Against Climate Crisis and Disasters Start-up Weekend



Young Enterprises Against Climate Crisis and Disasters Start-up Weekend



As a part of the “Increasing Syrian and Turkish youth’s access to employment and entrepreneurship” component of the Project, "Young Enterprises Against Climate Crisis and Disasters Start-up Weekend" was held in İstanbul on 25-26 September 2021.

A total of 84 young people from Ankara, Bursa, Kocaeli, Şanlıurfa and İstanbul worked on solutions to the climate crisis and disasters; one of the most important problems of today, by using their creativity and technology.

During the Start-up Weekend, young entrepreneurs with different levels of knowledge and experience developed business ideas and projects using green technologies to prevent the climate crisis and ongoing environmental disasters, to reduce their effects, to improve the livelihoods of the affected and vulnerable groups, and to predict and prevent the damages that these disasters may cause.

57% of the participants consisted of young females and the mixed groups were formed depending on the area participants want to work on. All teams gained extensive knowledge through Business Canvass, Ideation, Presentation Techniques trainings and developed their projects by working with facilitators and expert mentors in different fields.

Meanwhile, young people enjoyed the VR glasses, indoor games and Karaoke night, had the opportunity to get to know each other's cultures and build new friendships.

19 groups competed and developed many different business ideas from mobile and online applications to recycling. The winners of the technology gift certificate were chosen by the jury at the final evaluation.



The Project “Employability, Entrepreneurship and Social Stability for Syrian and Turkish Youth - in response to the Syria Crisis” is implemented by UNDP Turkey and the Ministry of Youth and Sports with financial support from the Government of Japan.



Third Prize– 1 Hurmaco

Solution Proposal: Production of coffee from palm kernels, which will help reduce the damage to nature, such as cutting trees in tropical forests, decreasing the bird population in the region during coffee production.

Third Prize – 2 Tofi (Seed Saplings)

Solution Proposal: To reduce seed importation by collecting and re-using seeds and selling them back to farmers.



Second Prize Scavengers

Solution Proposal: A business idea on generating income from new products produced by recycling technological waste.



First Prize Come and Take

Solution Proposal: The mobile application that was developed to encourage people to deliver daily redundant food to the people in need and living in the same neighborhood, which will help to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by reducing food waste and to contribute preventing the global climate crisis. The project also aims to strengthen neighbour relations.