

International Consortium for Educational Development Network Profile

Network Name URL	YÖMEGA – [YüksekÖğretim MEsleki Gelişim Ağı] https://yomega.org
Mission / Aim / Focus	YÖMEGA is a Higher Education Faculty Development Network established in Türkiye to support the professional development of faculty members in teaching and learning by embracing digital technologies, sharing their knowledge base, experiences, and narratives, and discussing their views. The intention is to form a focused interest group that is not connected but in collaboration with public and foundational universities, associations, agencies, or policymakers.
Brief History	<p>The network was founded in December 2020 by Alev Elçi. Later an executive committee was formed. A Google group YÖMEGA was formed and faculty developers, faculty members, and administrative staff members from Turkish higher education institutions, who are interested in faculty development are invited.</p> <p>Live <i>YÖMEGA Talks</i> started to be organized from 21st February 2021 onwards. Half of the 50 speakers who were invited hailed from Türkiye, while the remaining half from foreign countries. Of the 50 invited speakers, half were from Türkiye, 50% were from abroad, and all 6 panelists were from Türkiye. According to gender, 58% were women and 42% were men.</p>
Membership types	<p>YÖMEGA is a national organization in focus. Faculty members in Türkiye regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, and religion can become members and attend activities.</p> <p>There are 228 individual members; no membership fees are requested.</p> <p>As a non-affiliated network and interest group in Türkiye, YÖMEGA aims to support faculty members in higher education institutions by promoting holistic professional development in teaching and learning with digital technologies. The benefit of membership in this group is to have a collaborative network of members who are expected to share their knowledge base, experiences, and narratives.</p>
Legal Structure	Since the continuity of a non-profit organization is based on volunteers, to carry out the heavy workload will not be possible without full-time, professional staff and funding sources. Then, YÖMEGA will be registered as a non-profit organization with the appropriate government agency in its jurisdiction and it will abide by the stated constitution that outlines its purpose, structure, and procedures for decision-making.

<p>Governance / Operating Structure</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alev Elçi (YÖMEGA, Çanakkale; retired - Aksaray University, Aksaray)</p> <p><i>Co-Chairs:</i> Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Abubakar (Antalya Bilim University, Antalya) Dr. Begüm Çubukçuoğlu Devran, Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta)</p> <p><i>Admin. Support:</i> Hande Eryılmaz (METU - GÜNAM, Ankara)</p> <p><i>Technical Support:</i> Efe Cem Elçi (Dynasty Studios, İstanbul)</p> <p><i>Advisory Board:</i> Prof. Dr. Atilla Elçi (Hasan Kalyoncu University, Gaziantep) Prof. Dr. Ali Ekrem Özkul (Mudanya University, Bursa) Prof. Dr. Aytaç Göğüş (Okan University, İstanbul)</p> <p><i>Board of Directors and their roles and responsibilities:</i> YÖMEGA's Editorial and Advisory Board of Directors is elected by the membership for a term of five years. The board is responsible for making major decisions about the group's focus, themes of discussions, goals, and management.</p> <p><i>Officers and their roles:</i> YÖMEGA's officers who are elected by the Editorial and Advisory Board of Directors for a term of five years are responsible for managing day-to-day operations including administrative tasks, technical solutions, etc.</p> <p><i>Meetings and quorum requirements:</i> YÖMEGA holds regular meetings of its members and board of directors. The meetings are conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in the constitution (that will be enacted after the registration). A quorum for meetings shall consist of a majority of the board members.</p>
<p>Funding Sources</p>	<p>NA. To submit to a project fund available in TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye), if an opportunity arises, and to look for funding buddies may also trigger to create a legal structure. Therefore, research has been conducted to transform it into an NGO, and preparations are underway to launch the initiative soon.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>To demonstrate a commitment to the development of higher education through professional experience, research, and publications, YÖMEGA has engaged in the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Professional Experience:</i> YÖMEGA has demonstrated its commitment to the development of higher education through professional experience. Topics of presentations are specific and varied focusing on YÖMEGA activities. Activities aim to inform participants in various dimensions of faculty development. Member needs are considered or trending topics are selected while inviting guest speakers. YÖMEGA Talks. 21st February, 2021-cont. The previous activities for Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023 are completed.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>ICEM'22 Symposium Online. Designing Faculty Professional Development for the New Normal</i> Symposium is organized on 14th October 2022 participated by YÖMEGA members Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alev Elçi, Prof. Dr. Aytaç Göğüş, Prof. Dr. Filiz Kalelioğlu, and Prof. Dr. Oya Güneri and Dr. Linda Beith. 3. <i>CoDe_FMI Bilateral Project. The Collaborative Development of a Framework for Faculty Metacognitive Skills in Post-COVID-19</i> Project proposal was submitted to NARD-TÜBİTAK for Bilateral Cooperation between public and private universities in Moldova and Türkiye. November 2021. Unfortunately, it was not approved by TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) because of a missing document. 4. <i>ICESSC'2023 sponsored by YÖMEGA as Organizing Committee. 1st International Cyprus Education and Social Sciences Conference</i>, which will be organized for the first time in Cyprus Health and Social Sciences University - Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) between 17-18-19 April 2023. The main theme of ICESSC 2023 is "Digitalization in Education and Social Sciences" and the sub-theme is "Current Issues and Approaches in the 21st Century". 5. An invited virtual talk titled "Towards an Agile Association for Educational Development" was given by Alev Elçi on September 28, 2023, at the ICRE-ICRAL 2023 Conference in Kahramanmaraş, , Türkiye.
<p>Publications</p>	<p>YÖMEGA has demonstrated its commitment to the development of higher education through research and publications. YÖMEGA has partaken in organizing seminars, webinars, conferences, and e-books for academic sustainability.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>e-Book from the 60% of the YÖMEGA Talks held in 2020-2022: Professional Development of Faculty Members During- and Post-Crisis State</i> e-Book edited by Alev Elçi has been published in June 2023 with 2 distinguished Forewords and 27 bilingual chapters (Turkish & English). The chapters were first translated into Turkish/ English and both versions were peer-reviewed. <i>Elçi, A. (2023). (Ed.), Öğretim Elemanlarının Kriz Sırası ve Sonrasında Mesleki Gelişimi. Professional Development of Faculty Members During- and Post-Crisis State. Erzurum: Atatürk Üniversitesi Yayınevi. https://ekitap.atauni.edu.tr/index.php/product/oqretim-elemanlarinin-kriz-sirasi-ve-sonrasinda-mesleki-gelisimi/</i> 2. A chapter is in publish (2024, Eds. Vicki Baker, Aimee Terosky, Laura Gail, Routledge) <i>YÖMEGA: Empowering Faculty Members in Türkiye Through a Collaborative and Sustainable Professional Development Voluntary Initiative (Alev Elçi, Begüm Çubukçuoğlu Devran, and A. Mohammed Abubakar)</i>

Special initiatives	In the YÖMEGA Talks until now, there were distinguished invited speakers from the agencies of the higher education governing bodies and policymakers, such as the Higher Education Council (HEC-YÖK), Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC-YÖKAK), and The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK). This makes the YÖMEGA network proud to be involved in educational development on a national base.
Connections with other networks, agencies, etc.	YÖMEGA is the only holistic and sophisticated network embracing all dimensions of faculty professional development in higher education. There are a few other specialized groups like STEM, Language Learning, and non-formal individual initiatives that YÖMEGA is following.
Contact Details (name & email)	<p><i>President: Alev Elçi, dr.alevelci@gmail.com</i></p> <p><i>ICED representative: Alev Elçi, dr.alevelci@gmail.com</i></p> <p><i>Administrative Office: Hande Eryılmaz, hande.eryilmazie@gmail.com</i></p>
Social media	<p>https://groups.google.com/g/yomega</p> <p>FaceBook YÖMEGA group</p> <p>FaceBook YÖMEGA page</p> <p>YÖMEGA@Twitter mobile</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>Twitter</p>
Other relevant information	<p><i>YÖMEGA Needs Analysis results of members' interested topics:</i> Online teaching and learning models, Current trends in HE, Online students' engagement strategies, Enhancement of critical thinking, Promoting student metacognition, Developing problem-solving skills, Organizing activity programs for the faculty members, Efficient faculty mentoring, Best practices in assessment, Learning Analytics, Teaching strategies for new generation students, Developing 21st-century skills, Leadership (31st January 2021).</p> <p><i>Research:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multidimensional Faculty Professional Development in Teaching and Learning: Utilizing Technology for Supporting Students. (Elçi, Yaratan, & Abubakar, 2020). 2. Traditional Versus Digital Assessment Methods: Faculty Development. (Devran & Elçi, 2020). 3. Teaching and Learning Centers for Academic Staff Professional Development in Turkey: Management and Organizational Structure (Elçi & İşeri, 2020). 4. Academics' Professional Development Needs and Gains during COVID-19 Distance Education Emergency Transition in Turkey. (Elçi, 2021)

	5. The configurational effects of task-technology fit, technology-induced engagement and motivation on learning performance during Covid-19 pandemic: An fsQCA approach. (Elçi & Abubakar, 2021).
Date last updated	02.10.2023