

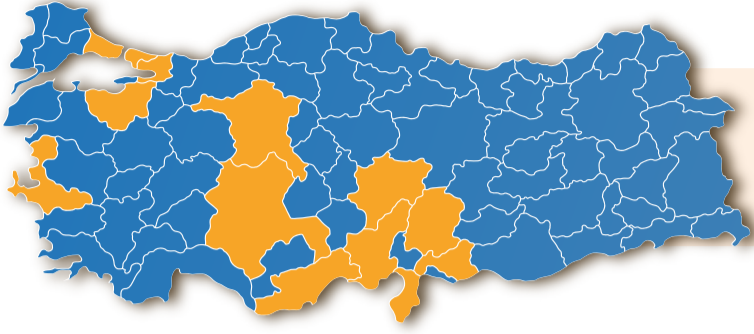


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### 3. APPRENTICE STUDENT FORUM

#### DECLARATION



We are **72 Leader Apprentice Students** from **36 schools** in **12 provinces** of Turkey, who have come together within the scope of the Vocational Training Programme for Employment (VET4JOB).

We have been running an engaging dialogue process to improve the apprenticeship training system, since the 1st Apprentice Student Forum, which we held on October 21-22, 2021.



#### 1. APPRENTICE STUDENT FORUM

21 - 22

OCTOBER

2021

The challenges and opportunities of apprenticeship training were discussed in the first forum. Then, we returned to our own provinces and met with a total of **11,238** fellow students and compiled some solution suggestions for these difficulties.

08-10

JUNE

2022



#### 2. APPRENTICE STUDENT FORUM

We came together on June, 08-10 2022 again for the 2nd Apprentice Student Forum. While we were working on the solution suggestions we compiled from our provinces, we also identified the following **9 values** to guide us.

- ◆ RESPECT
- ◆ BEING SOLUTION ORIENTATED
- ◆ PERFECTIONISM
- ◆ EMPATHY
- ◆ BEING EAGER TO LEARN
- ◆ EQUALITY AND PEACE
- ◆ JUSTICE
- ◆ BELIEF AND DETERMINATION
- ◆ INCLUSIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT



Our school days should be increased to two days a week, but this second day should not prevent our right to rest

More investments should be made in our schools and funding should be increased.

We should have better access to our rights.

We determined 6 basic issues that we would request from decision makers as a result of the work we carried out in the light of these values.

More time and opportunities should be allocated to foreign language, sports and art lessons.

There should be much closer communication and cooperation between schools and enterprises

Workplace control mechanisms regarding access to our rights should be strengthened.

WE RETURNED TO OUR PROVINCES AND STARTED A DIALOGUE ABOUT OUR DEMANDS WITH OTHER STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ENTERPRISES, WHO ARE THE STAKEHOLDERS OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING AFTER THE SECOND FORUM. BECAUSE, WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ONLY SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING WHEN WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, AS WELL AS THE STUDENTS.

WE LISTENED TO THE OPINIONS OF A TOTAL OF 22,056 PEOPLE INCLUDING 20,533 APPRENTICE STUDENTS AND 1,523 STAKEHOLDERS BASED ON OUR VALUES OF INCLUSIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT AND SOLUTION ORIENTATION, AND TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES FACING THESE DEMANDS.



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### 3. APPRENTICE STUDENT FORUM

#### DECLARATION

09 - 11

OCTOBER

2023

Now we are addressing you from the 3rd Apprentice Student Forum held in Antalya on October 09-11, 2023.

We still stand by the demands we declared in the second forum. However, we are also aware of the difficulties that these demands will pose for different stakeholders.

We analysed these challenges and worked to develop comprehensive solution proposals in the third forum. The suggestions you will soon hear are the collective voice of not only us as students but also of our leader teachers, our master trainers and sector representatives.



We acknowledge that our demands below might impose challenges to the workflows of enterprises "The time we spend in school should be increased to two days a week, but this second day should not prevent our right to rest" and "More time and opportunities should be provided for foreign languages, sports and art lessons" We have produced the following suggestions to bring a comprehensive solution to this problem

- It can be ensured that students come to school on a rotation basis by increasing the number of apprentice students in enterprises. In line with the increased number of apprentice students, the support provided to enterprises can also be increased.
- School days can be adjusted taking into account the busy times of the workplaces
- Graduation can be made flexible by introducing a credit system for apprentice students and students can choose the days they go to school.

On the other hand, we are aware that these demands will strain the capacity of our schools. In order to make our solution inclusive, we have come up with the following suggestions:

- We can have access online training opportunities with a rich content that will prepare us for life and profession.
- If the physical capacities of schools are not suitable, spaces of other training institutions and stakeholders can be used.
- The need for additional teachers can be met by collaborating with other training institutions.

We think that our schools should be more involved in workplace inspection processes in order to fulfil our following demands: "There should be much closer communication and cooperation between schools and enterprises", "Our access to our rights should be increased" and "Workplace inspection mechanisms should be strengthened regarding access to our rights" We are aware that this will increase the burden on our teachers. We have generated the following suggestions to bring a comprehensive solution to this problem

- Workplaces can be inspected by coordinating with other institutions that regulate working life in Turkey, and inspection process can be made transparent.
- A mechanism can be created where the apprentice students also evaluate workplaces
- Complaint mechanisms can be developed for apprentice students and legal support can be provided to students who experience right violations in the workplace

These suggestions can of course be multiplied and diversified. As it can be seen, recommendations that we generate have some common approaches.

- Solutions should take local realities into account.
- Solutions should take sectoral differences into account.
- Solutions should focus on inter-stakeholder and inter-institutional collaboration

We believe that we can solve our problems only by using these approaches in a comprehensive way and we can only achieve our rightful demands when we are inclusive.

NOW, WE ARE STARTING A JOURNEY NOT ONLY IN OUR OWN SCHOOL AND PROVINCE, BUT ALSO WITH OTHER PROVINCES. THIS JOURNEY:

ANNOUNCES OUR INCLUSIVE DEMANDS TO THE PUBLIC AND DECISION MAKERS, HELPS ALL STAKEHOLDERS OF THE APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER'S NEEDS IN SOLIDARITY, AIMS A TO ADD VALUE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY BY STRENGTHENING APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING.

WE INVITE EVERYONE WHO READS OR LISTENS TO THIS DECLARATION TO JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY, CONTRIBUTE AND BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER.

