

TUSEV e-Newsletter, EFC 2008 Conference, Special Edition, June 2008

TUSEV hosted the 19th European Foundation Centre (EFC) Annual General Assembly and Conference, between 29-31 May 2008 in Istanbul, under the theme "Fostering Creativity".

The Conference, held on TUSEV's 15th year, marked an important milestone for the promotion of the Turkish philanthropic sector on the international level and for fostering cooperation and dialogue between Turkish foundations and their international counterparts.

Host Committee

Turkey's leading foundations came together under the Conference Host Committee and made the conference possible through their cooperation and generous support. Chaired by TUSEV, a list of the Host Committee organizations is available [here](#).

Highlights

- Best attended EFC Conference to date with over 600 delegates.
- Delegates from 56 countries, representing foundations, civil society organizations, European Commission and UNDP participated at the conference.
- 52 delegates representing 31 organizations from Turkey were present at the conference.
- The Host Committee offered 8 scholarships to promising civil society and philanthropy practitioners from Turkey.

Opening and Closing Speakers

- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister, Republic of Turkey
- Mary Robinson, Ethical Globalisation Initiative, former President of Ireland
- Wilhelm Krüll, Volkswagen Stiftung and EFC Chair (2006-2008)
- Rui Villar, President of Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian and EFC Chair (2008-2010)
- Üstün Ergüder, TÜSEV Chair
- Avila Kilmurray, Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

Social Events

- The below activities targeted to promote Turkish philanthropic heritage and modern foundations:
 - Sakıp Sabancı Museum Cocktail,
 - Rahmi M. Koç Museum Dinner,
 - Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV) Education Park Visit,
 - Mihr-i Şah Valide Sultan Foundation Visit,
 - Sultanahmet Area City tour
 - TÜSEV Member Profiles launched: <http://www.tusev.org.tr/member>

Press Coverage

The Conference enjoyed wide press coverage from national and international media. Over 40 news articles were published in major newspapers and a number of TV interviews took place before and during the conference. A selection of English news items is available [here](#).

For more information:

<http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/default.aspx?c=80>

<http://www.efc.be/aga/aga2008>