REPORT

In this report, the events that were organized by the Tree of Evolution project/movement, a primary subgroup of Biology and Genetics Society in Middle East Technical University, will be presented. All of these events were funded by ESEB, from the 16th of April 2012 to the same date in 2013, which covers a 1 year period. As it was promised, the organization used the funds to organize introductory events open to public in all around Turkey and even more than expected number of people could be reached within that 1 year period. The funds were mostly used for transportation, accommodation and organizational purposes. The details of these expenses are given below. The names of the events were left as is (in Turkish), but their translations to English are also given in parenthesis. For each event, the approximate number of people in the audience, the expenses for that specific event and total expenditure are given, along with some pictures from the event. Moreover, just like it is promised, some of the funds were used to develop the first wide-range database that ordinary public can access and use to learn about evolutionary biology, which has been a huge success and made a great impact on society. With the help of ESEB and the effort of our team, we had about 50.000 followers back in the time when we got the funds; however now we can reach about 200.000 Turkish people (and even foreign citizens, mostly the neighboring countries of Turkey). Therefore it can easily be seen that the funds were used for a great purpose and it had a highly valuable impact on Turkish society.

1) Evrim Ağacı: Türkiye Evrimle Tanışıyor – İzmir Seminerleri ve Eğitimleri (Turkey Greets Evolution – Izmir Seminars and Trainings) 22-26 February 2012

This event was held in 5 different high schools in Izmir, Turkey. Izmir is the 3rd largest city in Turkey and it is the heart of enlightenment, freedom and progress in Turkey. Therefore, education of this city about evolutionary biology is very important for the rest of country too. This is why Tree of Evolution project gives more attention to this specific city. The topics explained to the students and public audiences were mainly about human evolution, basics/mechanisms of evolution, common misunderstandings about evolution, etc. (Audience: 1100 people (5 high schools)).



Müge Sak (Team Member) presenting Human Evolution



Our team members with the event poster...

2) Türkiye Evrimle Tanışıyor: İstanbul (Turkey Greets Evolution: Istanbul) 20-21 October 2012

The main goal of using the events were to create a series of events in the main cities of Turkey, so that we can reach a huge number of people, with limited sources. This event was the first step of it, though it attracted a lot of attention. It was held in the biggest city of Turkey and we collaborated with one of the best universities in Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University. They provided us the hall, but the rest of the expenses were on our side (since it was our event). (Audience: 250 people)



Çağrı Mert Bakırcı (founder, executive officer) presenting about the mechanisms of evolution and speciation.



Prof. Dr. Alaeddin Şenel, one of the most important philosophers and scientists in Turkey, made an opening speech for our event and expressed his support to Tree of Evolution project.



Event poster

3) Türkiye Evrimle Tanışıyor: İzmir (Turkey Greets Evolution: Izmir) 28 February - 1 March 2013

The second step of our "Turkey Greets Evolution" series was held in Izmir. It was explained why this city has significant importance for the enlightenment struggle in Turkey. It was open to public as usual and a nice amount of people attended. (Audience: 280 people)



Some of our team members with the audience...



Event Poster

4) Türkiye Evrimle Tanışıyor: Ankara (Turkey Greets Evolution: Ankara) 9, 10 March 2013

The third step of the "Turkey Greets Evolution" was held in the capital and second largest city of Turkey, namely Ankara. Of course, being the heart of all bureaucracy of the country, education of the people in this city is of great importance. We collaborated with the best medical school in Turkey, Hacettepe University and held a very nice and fruitful event. (Audience: 350 people)



Event poster



Event Hall



Oğuzhan Beğik (team member) is presenting the "Theories about the origin of life".

5) Evrim Kursu: Eskişehir (Evolution Lectures: Eskişehir) 27-28 April 2013

After we held very large events in the big cities, we recognized that we should go even deeper in public, not only in big cities. However, since this is a bit risky in Turkey (most people are very biased against evolution), it is difficult to pick a small town that is willing to learn more about evolution and modern science. It is believed that Eskisehir is a great and wise choice for this purpose, since it is the 12th largest city in Turkey and also it has the densest population of students. This is why it is called the "student city". Although it is difficult to attract attention in such a small town, we managed to have a very nice event. (Audience: 50 people)

6) Türkiye Evrimle Tanışıyor: Bursa (Turkey Greets Evolution: Bursa) 28 December 2013

Finally, before spending the rest of our funds, we managed to hold another nice event in the 4th largest city in Turkey, Bursa. Bursa is a very conservative and difficult city to talk about evolution. Being the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, the traditions are strongly favored and new ideas are not welcomed. However, aiming to be one of the most important enlightenment movements of Turkey, we had to reach those people too. So we were courageous enough to hold the last step of "Turkey Greets Evolution" series in Bursa. Surprisingly, the audience was extremely interested and excited about the topic. (Audience: 90 people)

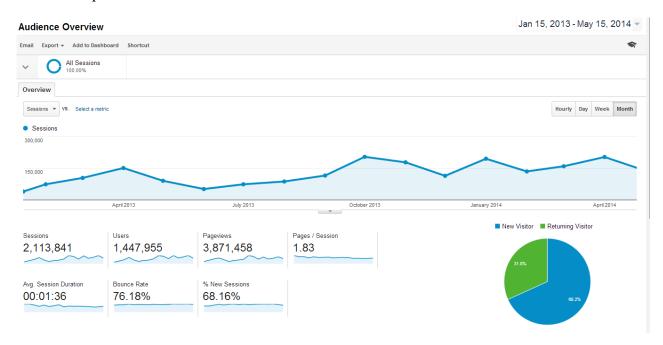


Event poster with one of the oldest trees in Turkey, which is located in Bursa



Our team members with the host teacher

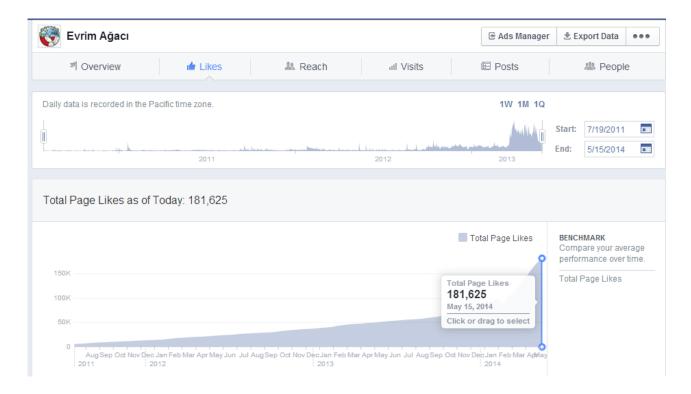
As promised, some of the funds were used to develop and code a very detailed website for Turkish audience. Right now, it is the largest and mostly visited evolutionary biology archive in Turkey. This is why it has many enemies and that is the reason why we need to code professionally and protect it from religious hacker groups. The details of the website are given below with pictures.



Google Analytics Statistics for Jan 15 2014 - May 15 2014

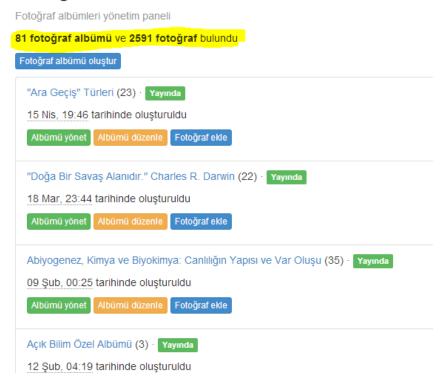


Tree of Evolution's Facebook Page Main Page



Tree of Evolution Facebook Page Progress since Foundation

Fotoğraf albümleri



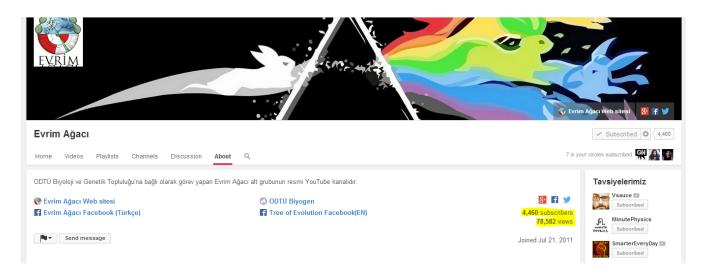
There are 81 photo albums about evolutionary biology, biochemistry, geology and related

sciences which involve 2591 infographics and informative pictures mostly created and sometimes translated by us.

Makaleler



There are 424 popular science articles exclusively about evolutionary biology, almost all are created and written by the founder, Çağrı Mert Bakırcı.



Tree of Evolution YouTube Channel. Although it has been around for a while, it was inactive since the last several months. It will be used actively to produce Turkish videos about evolution.

Conclusion

All in all, although the team has been working under difficult conditions, our events sponsored by ESEB was clearly a success story, which has never been seen in the history of Turkey, in terms of evolutionary biology. Hopefully this success will grow bigger in the future, with the further help of ESEB. Tree of Evolution project thanks the ESEB, on behalf of Turkish community of science.