

SUMP Türkiye Volunteers Hold 2nd Meeting with Academia

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Projects We Facilitate and Support Are Taking Shape! 19 19
The communication component of SUMP Türkiye, "SUMP Türkiye Volunteers," held its second online meeting on Wednesday, March 12th, with the participation of university communities, students, and academics. Here are some key highlights from this exciting meeting:

- © Ertuğrul Şafak, Director of Project and Finance at the Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (UMT), opened the meeting by emphasizing their goal of facilitating project collaborations in sustainable urban mobility.
- © Dr. Çiğdem Çörek Öztaş, Senior Manager of Kavşak Platform, presented two project proposals: the "Hackathon" project and a competition-based initiative. An open call was made to academics from engineering and technology departments.

- The meeting continued with a presentation by Feridun Ekmekci, President of the Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Association (ENVERÇEVKO), who introduced their "Bike to University" project, aimed at increasing bicycle use among university students.
 - © Dr. Sevgi Karahan from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Uşak University introduced the Green Bicycle project, which was discussed as a potential collaboration with the "Bike to University" project.
- Murat Suyabatmaz, President of the Cyclists Association, emphasized that traffic safety is the most crucial aspect of bicycle use and invited all university students to participate in their upcoming online training project.
 - **©** At the end of the meeting, Dr. Ahmet Atalay from Atatürk University in Erzurum expressed their willingness to participate in any project and shared insights from their technology-focused work.
 - For the second "Competition"-based project by Kavşak Platform, Hale Öncel from Konya Technical University and Prof. Dr. Ela Babalık from METU took the floor.
- © Prof. Dr. Ela Babalık emphasized that, within the framework of the "Tactical Urbanism" approach, the "SUMP Türkiye Volunteers" initiative could play a pivotal role in encouraging greater use of sustainable urban transportation. She thanked all those involved for their support.
- The student Unions regarding the "Bike to University" project, expressing a strong interest in becoming a key stakeholder in the initiative.