

CREATING A COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THE DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE NETWORK OF TÜRKİYE

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The Digital Cultural Heritage Network (Dijital Kültürel Miras -DKM)(established in April 2021) is a community involving participants from various countries, including students, academics, and experts. Our mission is to raise awareness about digital cultural heritage and expand Turkish content in this field. We engage a broad audience through our social media platforms and website. Our activities focus on promoting open access, open data, and applying the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). We also emphasize copyright practices for GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) institutions and foster an environment that supports open culture (1). Collaborations with CARARE, Wikimedia Community User Group Türkiye, Creative Commons Türkiye, and other stakeholders help us broaden our audience and build a stronger community.



PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE AFTER THE 2023 KAHRAMANMARAŞ-SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE POST-EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN SOUTHEAST TÜRKİYE (PROJECT ID: 22267858)

The 03 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş-Syria Earthquakes impacted 11 cities across Türkiye, covering an area of 350,000 km² (2). Tragically, the loss of life was significant, and extensive damage occurred to buildings, roads, infrastructure, and cultural heritage sites. Beyond the physical destruction, many people lost not only their homes but also elements of both their tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In response, members of the Digital Cultural Heritage Network initiated efforts to collect and document information on cultural heritage in the affected region. This knowledge repository focuses on:

- News related to cultural heritage in the impacted areas
- Policies and regulations concerning cultural heritage during disaster recovery
- Inventory lists of both damaged and undamaged cultural heritage assets

The information and data on cultural heritage were initially unstructured and difficult to access in a single location. To address this issue, a project proposal was submitted to the Wikimedia Foundation. Thanks to the support of the Wikimedia Foundation, the project (3) was approved, and activities were carried out between December 2023 and July 2024. These activities included two in-person events and three online events, featuring edit-a-thons and training sessions with students.

A Wikimedia Dashboard was created to monitor the progress of the edit-a-thon activities (4).

The outcomes were:

- 66 editors participated
- 58 new articles created
- 510 articles edited, with a total of 2,987 edits
- 94 images uploaded to Wikimedia Commons

28 students from Ankara University were trained

Creating and enhancing cultural heritage content in the digital environment requires significant human resources and time for verification. Citizen science activities play a crucial role in sharing knowledge across generations and fostering awareness among younger generations. Wikimedia projects (Wikidata, Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, etc.) enable GLAM institutions (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) to engage with the public and collaborate on cultural heritage preservation. Through this project, Digital Cultural Heritage Network organized meetings, workshops, and training sessions to create and enrich content for the intangible cultural heritage inventory of the earthquake-affected region. Open data becomes especially critical during disaster recovery efforts, ensuring that vital cultural information remains accessible. For more information about the project, please visit the Wikimedia CEE 2024 Programme Page (5).



"THINKCIVIL" MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT CITIES: İZMİR-ANKARA-İSTANBUL

THINK CIVIL COMMUNITY INCUBATION PROJECT: IT IS POSSIBLE TO PROTECT DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE - WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER
(DİJİTAL KÜLTÜREL MİRASI KORUMAK MÜMKÜN. BİRLİKTE DAHA GÜÇLÜYÜZ) (ID: SD4/KLC/7021)

The Digital Cultural Heritage community works voluntarily to raise awareness and build a network for digital cultural heritage in Türkiye. To strengthen this community, we participated in trainings organized by the European Union and Think Civil (Sivil Düşün) (6). Following these trainings, our community applied for a grant to connect with other stakeholders and partners, as well as to engage with new volunteers and members. With the support of the grant:

- DKM became a member of the CARARE network (7).
- A brochure was prepared and published online (8).
- Additional trainings and meetings were organized with a communication expert.
- A Creative Commons document was translated into Turkish (9).

To further enhance communication and expand membership, in-person meetings were held in Ankara, İstanbul, and İzmir.

A total of 184 people applied to attend the three in-person events.

Ankara Meeting (04 May 2024) (10)

The meeting was held in a gallery/atelier space, with 32 participants attending out of 51 applicants.

İzmir Meeting (18 May 2024) (11)

Organized on ICOM Museum Day 2024, the event hosted 25 participants from 58 applicants. After the workshop, participants visited the İzmir Art and Sculpture Museum (Resim ve Heykel Müzesi).

İstanbul Meeting (01 June 2024) (12)

The event took place at Bulgur Palace with 28 participants creating videos out of 75 applicants.

Applicant Demographics:

- 25 applicants: Aged 18-23
- 78 applicants: Aged 24-35
- 47 applicants: Aged 36+

Most applicants had a university degree

Their motivations included:

- Learning new things
- Versatility and responsibility
- Education, curiosity, and discovery
- Expanding knowledge about cultural heritage
- Collaboration and participation in civil society



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