OR4 Climate Pioneers

Proposers:

Agenda item: 8. Candidate Organisations

Name in Local Language:
İklim Öncüleri
Country :
Turkey
E-mail Address:
iklimonculeri@gmail.com

Introduction

Climate Pioneers (İklim Öncüleri) is a national, youth-led movement and initiative based in Turkey, founded on September 1, 2021, by children and young activists. Our organization serves as a dynamic platform that unites high school and university students from all over the country to take collective action against the climate crisis.

Rooted in the principles of non-violence, inclusivity, and non-hierarchical organization, Climate Pioneers provides a safe space for youth to develop innovative projects, startups, and advocacy campaigns. We act as a vital bridge between young generations and key stakeholders, including local municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies. We have reached 20.000+ young participants, collected 150.000+ signatures for our petitions, led countless projects and campaigns with 1500+ young volunteers from 50+ cities and partnered up with 50+ local and international organizations such as UNFCCC, UNEP, and EU.

Our mission is to lead the struggle for climate justice by fostering an environment that prioritizes scientific accuracy, artistic expression, and the mental well-being of activists. With a growing network of volunteers across 50 cities, we are dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future where the voices of children and youth are not only heard but are leading the change.

UPDATE (27.03): THE OGRANISATION CHANGED THEIR APPLICATION STATUTE FOR OBSERVERS ORGANISATION.

Application for Membership in the Network

Name of the organisation: (Local Language)	İklim Öncüleri
Name of the organisation: (English)	Climate Pioneers
Country where the organisation is located:	Turkey
Postal address:	-
Phone number of the organisation:	+905313075140
E-mail address of the organisation:	iklimonculeri@gmail.com
Website of the organisation:	Iklimonculeri.org

Date of establishment:	01.09.2021
How is organisation registered (indicate legal act if there is one):	Not registered – independent civil initiative
Is the organisation part of the Green Party in your country or an independent Non-governmental youth organisation (if other please explain):	Independent Non-Governmental Youth Organization
Number of members:	150
Age limit:	29
Statutory bodies of the organisation:	Directing Team Support Team Solidarity Team Committees (Events&Organization, Research, Social Media and Design) Project Operation Teams Local Communities
Names and e-mails of members of current managing body (board, executive committee, etc.) and date of their election:	24.12.2025 Baran Örnek, baranornek123@gmail.com Melisa Akkuş, melisaakkuus@gmail.com Ayşenaz Fındık, aysenazfindik@gmail.com

	Ela Bağlama, elabaglamaa@gmail.com Linda İncir, incir.linda13@gmail.com Alen Zinzal, alenzinzal1@gmail.com Vildan Tüysüz, vildantuysuz1@gmail.com Rana Dede, ranadede@gmail.com
Name and contact info (e-mail) from person responsible in the name of the organisation and represents organisation towards the General Assembly:	Baran Örnek Baranornek123@gmail.com

Please briefly present the history of the organisation:

The history of İklim Öncüleri (Climate Pioneers) is characterized by its rapid growth from a grassroots youth initiative into a significant national movement in Turkey. The organization was officially founded on September 1, 2021, by a group of children and young activists. It was established as a national movement to unite high school and university students across Turkey to take collective action against the climate crisis in a safe and non-hierarchical environment. From its inception, the initiative prioritized scientific accuracy, artistic expression, and the mental well-being of its volunteers. It adopted a unique "Period System" (quarterly cycles) to manage its activities and volunteer rotations effectively. Rooted in the principles of non-violence, inclusivity, and non-hierarchical organization, Climate Pioneers provides a safe space for youth to develop innovative projects, startups, and advocacy campaigns. We act as a vital bridge between young generations and key stakeholders, including local municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies. We have reached 20.000+ young participants, collected 150.000+ signatures for our petitions, led countless projects and campaigns with 1500+ young volunteers from 50+ cities and partnered up with 50+ local and international organizations such as UNFCCC, UNEP, and EU.

National Milestones:
LCOY Turkey: The organization successfully hosted the first and most comprehensive Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Turkey in 2022 and 2023, officially recognized by the UNFCCC's youth constituency, YOUNGO.
TEDx Countdown: They organized the TEDx Beşiktaş Countdown event under the theme "Lead the Change," focusing on accelerating the transition to a net-zero greenhouse gas emission world.

The movement expanded its reach by representing youth in Turkey at major international platforms, such as the UNEP Youth Environment Assembly in Nairobi. Today, Climate Pioneers has grown into a widespread network with

500 volunteers active in 50 cities across Turkey. It continues to act as a bridge between youth activists and key stakeholders, including municipalities, NGOs, and international organizations.

Please present briefly mission and vision of the organisation, what are your core values:

Mission

Our mission is to lead the fight for climate justice against the climate crisis by providing a peaceful, equitable, inclusive, free, and safe environment for youth. We aim to nurture this movement by continuously welcoming and integrating new "climate pioneers" into our community to create sustainable social impact.

Vision

Our vision is to empower children and young people to lead change and create a future where they are protected from the devastating impacts of the climate crisis.

Core Values

İklim Öncüleri is guided by a set of fundamental values that shape our actions and organizational culture:
Scientificness: We are a community that grounds its advocacy and projects in scientific data.
Art: We utilize artistic expression to produce creative content and raise awareness about the climate crisis.
Togetherness: We prioritize collective action and emphasize the power of acting as a unified movement.
Transparency: We maintain complete transparency in all our internal and external operations.
Volunteerism: Our movement is built and sustained by the dedication of volunteer pioneers.
Change: We work with passion, driven by a deep belief in the necessity and possibility of systemic change.
Creativity: We strive to develop original and innovative solutions to environmental challenges.
Inclusivity & Non-Hierarchy: We embrace everyone regardless of their background and operate through a horizontal organizational structure.
Mental Health & Non-Violence: We prioritize the mental well-being of our activists and strictly follow the principles of non-violence and constructive communication.

What is your organisation's motivation to join our Network? How can we contribute to your organisation and how your organisation can contribute to CDN?

Our primary motivation for joining CDN is to bridge the gap between national climate activism and the international green movement. As a youth-led initiative that has successfully mobilized thousands of young people across Turkey, we seek to:

Scale Our Impact: Transition from a national movement to a regionally integrated one, aligning our local struggles for climate justice with broader European environmental goals.

Empower Youth Voices: Provide our 500+ volunteers with a platform where their voices can resonate beyond national borders, influencing decision-making processes at a regional level.

Foster Solidarity: Build collective strength with peer organizations in Eastern Europe to share knowledge, address shared environmental challenges, and promote non-hierarchical, inclusive activism.

Joining CDN would be a transformative step for İklim Öncüleri by providing:
International Visibility: CDN offers a vital platform for Turkish youth to be represented in European green politics and international climate forums.
Capacity Building: Access to CDN's trainings, seminars, and networking events will enhance our volunteers' skills in advocacy, project management, and international cooperation.
Knowledge Exchange: Learning from the best practices of other member organizations will help us refine our non-hierarchical structure and improve the effectiveness of our campaigns.

İklim Öncüleri brings significant experience and a robust network to the CDN community:
Proven Project Models: We have successfully organized Turkey's first and most comprehensive Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in 2022 and 2023, officially recognized by UNFCCC/YOUNGO.
Extensive Youth Network: We offer a direct link to a dynamic network of 500 volunteers active in 50 different cities across Turkey, providing CDN with a strong presence in the region.
Advocacy & Campaigning Expertise: Our organization has a proven track record of mobilizing public opinion, including reaching over 100,000 signatures on climate-related campaigns.
High-Level Representation: We bring experience in representing youth at major international platforms, such as the UNEP Youth Environment Assembly in Nairobi, and within national bodies like the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM).
Innovative Approach: We contribute a unique methodology that blends climate advocacy with art, science, and mental health awareness, fostering a creative and resilient activist culture.

Please list (the main) activities of your organisation in the past 2 years:

LCOY Turkey (Local Conference of Youth): Organized the second and largest national youth climate conference in Turkey, officially recognized by UNFCCC/YOUNGO. The event hosted 250 participants from 30 different cities, featuring 5 speakers and 10 key stakeholders.
TEDx Beşiktaş Countdown: Hosted the "Lead the Change" themed TEDx event at Feriye, Istanbul, as part of the global TEDx Countdown initiative. The event featured prominent experts like Doğanay Tolunay and Uygar Özesmi and was attended by 120 participants.
İklimathon: Climate related ideathon lasted 4 weeks and enabled 13 projects and social ventures to be born. High-Level National Representation (TBMM): Achieved a historic milestone by providing the first-ever representation for the climate field at the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), ensuring youth voices reach national policy-makers.
International Advocacy (COP28): Selected by UNFCCC and YOUNGO to collect and convey the demands of Turkish youth to the COP28 international climate summit.
Mass Advocacy Campaigns: Successfully reached a total of over 150,000 signatures across various climate-related campaigns on Change.org. Key campaigns included:
* Climate Emergency Declaration: Supported by high-profile artists like Mabel Matiz.
* Climate Promises: Focused on holding leaders accountable.
* Gender Equality in Curriculum: Advocating for inclusive education.

Organization of different climate strikes all over Turkey
Regional Networking: Expanded the movement to include a volunteer network of 500 young people across 50 cities in Turkey, establishing a strong local presence.

Please, list involvement in CDN and/or FYEG activities in the past 2 years:

As the co-founder and representative of İklim Öncüleri (Climate Pioneers), Baran Örnek has attended CDN-FYEG Study Session between 29 September – 5 October 2025, Strasbourg, France.

And Congress of Young Europeans which FYEG was a partner of, between 9-12 October 2025, Tirana, Albania.

The organisation is applying for: (underline and bold the answer)	1. **<u>Member Organisation of CDN</u>** 2. Partner Organisation of CDN 3. Observer Organisation of CDN

Cooperation & Development Network Eastern Europe

Application for Membership Candidacy
General Assembly 2025
28-29.03.2026 in Riga, Latvia
Hosted by Protests

I herewith certify, on behalf of _Climate Pioneers__ (name of the organisation) that we accept CDN Statutes, Political Platform and Internal Rules of Procedure and commit ourselves to respect the decisions of CDN statutory bodies.

Name of the formal representative: Baran Örnek **Date: 27.02.2026**

DEADLINE for submitting your membership candidacy is 27th of February at 23:59 CET. However, the earlier you apply the more chance delegates will have to see your candidacy on ga.cdnee.org. According to the Internal Rules of Procedure, candidacies can be received until 30 days prior to the General Assembly.

Within 1 day you will receive a confirmation e mail that your candidacy has been received (if you do not get such e mail, you can contact us at igor.skorzybot@cdnee.org.

Don't forget you that in order for us to cover your physical participation, get in touch with igor.skorzybot@cdnee.org before-hand. You still need to register your participation on the GA by filling in the registration form.

ONCE FILLING THIS APPLICATION, YOU SHOULD UPLOAD THIS WITH OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

HERE

Statutory Bodies of the İklim Öncüleri (Climate Pioneers)

Climate Pioneers (İklim Öncüleri) operates under a horizontal hierarchy and a decentralized organizational structure that prioritizes youth leadership and collective decision-making. The statutory bodies and core units of the initiative are as follows:

Director/Facilitator Team (Yönlendirme Ekibi): The primary body responsible for the security, sustainability, and strategic oversight of the movement. It monitors committees, coordinates with the Solidarity Team, and manages the application and orientation processes for new members.

Solidarity Team (Dayanışma Ekibi): This body ensures effective coordination and solidarity between various committees and pioneer groups. It is composed of active members, committee representatives, and individuals recognized for their significant contributions to the movement's direction.

Executive Committees (Komiteler): The operational heart of the organization, where projects are developed and executed. There are three main standing committees:

- **Research Committee:** Conducts scientific research and produces evidence-based content.
- **Social Media and Design Committee:** Manages digital advocacy and visual communication.
- **Events and Organization Committee:** Coordinates summits, conferences (such as LCOY), and awareness-raising activities.

Committee Facilitator Teams (Komite Kolaylaştırıcıları): Each committee is led by a team consisting of an elected Committee Representative, a Deputy Representative, and selected facilitators who manage weekly meetings and task distribution.

Project Operation Teams (Proje Operasyon Ekipleri): Ad-hoc bodies established for specific large-scale projects or events (e.g., LCOY Turkey), responsible for the cross-committee execution of tasks.

Local Communities (Yereller): Regional teams that implement projects and advocacy at the city level across Turkey.