

Chairman's Award - Team 4191

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2020 - Team 4191

Team Number

4191

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Fikret Yüksel Foundation/Tekfen Holding/Turkish Education Foundation(TEV)/?brahim Çeçen Foundation/UPS&TEV
Inanc Turkes High School

Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last five years.

FIRST brings us together & creates a common aim. FIRST competitions not only improve our communication & leadership skills; but also form our future. 3 former members of IMC have been Dean's List Finalists. Most of our alumni got acceptances from prestigious universities such as MIT and TU Delft with scholarships & founded robotics club in their universities, such as OzU Rover and Koç Robotics. Our alumni take part in FIRST events as volunteers and supervisors in organizing regionals in Turkey.

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community within the last five years.

With the impact of the FIRST, we became aware of the environmental issues. Through our projects such as IMCleaner, Carbon footprint, Hit The Road IMC, Alican & Ela's Robotics Journey, Earthquake Robot, organizing STEM camps for Syrian refugee children; we reached out to our community to help & made an impact on hundreds of people's lives. Under our environmental projects, we decided to distribute pencils with seeds during the 2020 Midwest Regionals & wanted to spread the FIRST values.

Describe the team's methods for spreading the *FIRST* message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.

With the help of our local media, our books & social media accounts; we introduced FIRST to almost 6M people along with contacting 86 different UNICEF Offices & started to work on projects with Kazakhstan. We ran in the Eurasia Marathon, spreading FIRST spirit. Since sustainability is one of the main topics in the UN, we contacted a Turkish UN ambassador Bahar Özay, introduced her FIRST. As SDSN Turkey highschool ambassador, we aim to unite highschoolers to find solutions for global problems.

Describe examples of how your team members act as role models and inspire other *FIRST* team members to emulate

As the 4th team founded in Turkey, we're experienced enough to be a role model for others who are thinking FIRST is only about robotics. We help them to internalize FIRST values and the desire of inspiring others. We shared our experience via lessons, conferences and workshops; about safety, PR&Robotics. Also, we point out gracious professionalism & team spirit during the events. Plus, because of China's internet restrictions we created a website which they can reach and learn about FIRST.

Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FRC teams

We supported the foundation of 10 FRC teams (5665, 6430, 6697, 6614, 6579, 6534, 6390, 7070, 7600, 7611) by visiting, hosting, guiding them about how they can form a team, build a robot, find sponsors and attend FRC. We organized workshops to encourage students to form their own FRC teams. We co-hosted the 1st Kick-Off and assisted 1st FRC Off-Season in Turkey with FYF by providing more than half of the volunteers and designed an FRC Rookie Guide for students who want to form a new team.

Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FIRST teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, & FTC)

All of our members have been giving presentations in their hometowns and some schools were so inspired by our team that they wanted to be a part of the FIRST family. We've assisted 15, formed 9 FLL teams. Plus, we took kits to the eastern parts of Turkey and encouraged students to form their FLL&FLL Jr. teams. We also created one of the pioneer FTC teams of Turkey with which we're now working for bringing FTC to Turkey for the next season in cooperation with BKD, FIRST Representative of Turkey.

Describe the team's initiatives on assisting other FIRST teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC) with progressing through the FIRST program

We organize presentations & Skype interviews with Turkish and foreign teams. We have assisted formation of 15 FLL, 56 FRC teams so far. We distributed spare parts to the teams in need, helping them with their robots, codes. We were deemed worthy of the Gracious Professionalism award in Off-Season 2015 Turkey. We became a pioneer for FTC in Turkey by forming the third active Turkish team. Since we'll be experienced enough when FTC starts to be more common, we will be able to assist them easily.

Describe how your team works with other FIRST teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced FIRST teams (includes Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC teams)

In 2017, we formed an All-Star team with 3 FRC teams, and attended CRC in China representing our country. Also, last year we organized a STEM camp in collaboration with FLL & FRC teams of Diyarbakir Bahcesehir. Plus, #2642 sent their Robox Sumo kits to us so that we can distribute them to the kids in Turkey. We contacted different teams from various countries so that they could translate our books & distribute them in their country. #5987 from Israel helped us about forming a new FTC team.

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

Our school's foundation TEV, construction and installation company Tekfen support us financially. UPS provides us free shipping for our robot. Also, Fikret Yüksel Foundation sustained us a grant for the registration fee. 3Dörtgen, our filament supplier for 3D printers, Aytaç Rulman, a local shop for robot parts provides us materials.

Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors within the last five years.

Turkcell constructed a Technology Laboratory for us, while HP provided laptops for students who can't afford it. TEV supplied the accommodation fee and introduced us with Syrian refugee girls & TEKFEN supplied our plane tickets for the regional. They do not only help us financially but also visit us in our workshop to give advice. To keep our bonds strong, we meet with our sponsors in their workplace, mention each other in social media and display our robot to them every year.

Describe how your team would explain what FIRST is to someone who has never heard of it

FIRST is what unites different cultures, people from all around the world, creating a common purpose & forms a huge family from its mentors to alumni who is a part of the robotics journey. FIRST helps us to figure out what to become, how to become and how to use the skills we learn. As well as it helps us to form our future path as teenagers, it also shapes the community that we live in. It never ends after the competition, it continues to be part of the people and becomes a lifestyle.

Briefly describe other matters of interest to the FIRST judges, if any

Our school is a boarding school for gifted students. All students come from different regions of Turkey with scholarships. Unfortunately, we've financial difficulties due to the economic crisis that Turkish Lira lost in value over USD. That's why we lost our biggest sponsor and hit rock bottom. However, we survived. As a student-based club, we found our sponsors by ourselves. Since we give importance to gender equality in every member selection, our club's 45% is female.

For FRC teams older than 5 years, briefly describe your team's broader impact from its inception.

We wrote a storybook about robotics for kids and translated into 10 languages and we sent them to 6 different UNICEF Offices. We calculated 76 global teams' Carbon Footprints and created a forest. We coded a website for Chinese teams who have web restrictions. With Hit the Road project, we visit the uneducated parts of Turkey to inspire children. We use social media actively and try to be involved in mass media to spread FIRST. There're 8 TV, 241 internet, 19 printed news about us.

Team Captain/Student Representative that has double-checked this submission.

?pek Deniz Özkan

Essay

IMC's Journey to the Galaxy

I. Asteroid Shower

n. An occasion when a number of meteors move fast across the sky, leaving damage when encountered a surface.

Long time ago in a galaxy far, far away; there was an endangered planet called the Earth. One day wind blew very hard & 3 feathers broke from the devil. These feathers adhered to the asteroids that fell onto the world during asteroid shower as environmental pollution, economical & gender inequalities. In 2007, 5 brave young people whose robotics passions united for creating protection formed "IMC" to fight the asteroid shower. They had neither money nor powers nor commanders but the force was with them. They built a command & work center alone. By applying for FLL tournament, their journey became the ascent of IMC which would change lots of students' lives in the future. This inspiring journey reached its milestone in 2012 with participating in FRC, becoming the 4th team founded in Turkey. Since then, we've adorned the road to our dreams by achieving a lot. Along with improving ourselves each year with elder students teaching to the news, our robot was ranked in the first 8 in the Championship'18 & we chose our allies, becoming the first Turkish team to do so.

IMC is a family with 29 members consisting of 14 girls & 15 boys. During selections, we welcome an equal number from all genders & cherish the FIRST core values by choosing people who can cooperate.

II. Shield Generator

?n. machine for producing power to activate shield

Young defiers of IMC, who want to stop the evil brought by asteroids; have created a shield with their projects on education, health, nature & gender equality. Asteroids hitting the shield got destroyed or got stuck in the shield. But of course, generating this shield was not easy & required lots of effort.

Education

With few orientations towards STEM in Turkey, IMC aims to create new fields. First, we focused on children worldwide & wrote a storybook about a boy -Alican- having a dream of attending competitions with his robotics club despite the poor sources. Then, we rewrote it with a female protagonist Ela to inspire girls. These were translated into 11 languages, vocalized for children with disabilities and Arabic versions were distributed to Syrian refugee kids. We shared our books with children to make them believe in their potential. We presented our books & robot to Syrian children at K?z?lay. This year, we distributed our books in schools for Syrian girls which were constructed by the cooperation of YUVA & Turkish Education Foundations along with giving coding courses. In addition, we contacted UNICEF Offices from 86 different countries & we are working on our books press & distribution in those countries' UNICEF STEM camps.

With "Hit the Road IMC" project; we traveled 1570 km, visited Southeastern Turkey where education rate is the lowest & organized a 2-day long STEM Fair to 1600 children from 7 schools which caused them to change their future dreams. We expanded our project to other regions of Turkey; assisted formation of 4 FLL teams, having 2 different cities met with FIRST first time.

A teacher from Giresun who saw the news about our Chairman's Award on WebTekno, wrote us to organize camp there, telling us that we're their inspiration. We organized a 3-day long event that opened the doors of FIRST to 1530 children & 28 teachers. In 3 days, not only did we give lessons to children, but we also had a conference for teachers on the integration of STEM in lessons. This year, we visited Sinop, reaching 754 students & 19 teachers from 4 different schools & starting one FLL team.

Having members from different cities, IMC's been able to reach lots of people in many places. We give weekly robotics lessons, visit schools for Syrian refugee children & give presentations to Science & Art Centers for them to realize their orientation towards STEM. We gave coding & electronics lessons through our YouTube channel to prove that no matter where we are, we support robotics lovers who want to learn more.

Nature & Health

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Technology's now a solution to sustainability & public health issues. Since FRC teams consume so much energy & cause CO2 emission during seasons, IMC aimed to create awareness & take the necessary precautions for the FRC family with Carbon Footprint Project. We calculated 102 global FRC teams' carbon emissions, informed them about their carbon footprints & assisted them with the possible solutions aiming to reduce emissions. Finally, we created an FRC forest on our campus by planting trees for each team.

We also care for disabled people. In collaboration with Robotel, a foundation that helps children with Amniotic Band Syndrome, we printed 3D model hands. With the Give World A Helping Hand project, we showed the power of innovation, making them familiar with FIRST.

Since human waste can be reduced, we tried to prevent waste by collecting remained food in Istanbul Regional & distributed them to animal shelters.

Water pollution is one of the threats to the world's sustainability. It's reached such a level that plastics were found even at the bottom of the deepest place in the world, Mariana Pit. In order to create an innovative solution to provide a future in which mankind can still call the Earth home; we designed a cheap, compact & zero-waste sea cleaning robot called IMCleaner that uses solar energy. We have introduced our robot to TURMEPA & Kocaeli Municipality, taking action for cleaning Izmit Gulf. Thanks to Kocaeli Municipality, our robot was shared with Turkish media & currently being developed for cleaning Bosphorus with the cooperation of Istanbul Municipality.

Along with focusing on global issues, we didn't stop dealing with local problems. As one of the most frightening natural disasters in the Marmara Region, earthquakes started to be more often & stronger each time. That's why we built a robot that warns people during the earthquake. During earthquakes, our low budget robot makes noise, waking the sleepers up at night time. We reached out to earthquake foundations such as AKUT & placed our robot in our school.

After attending the many FIRST events, we realized that lots of non-reusable plastic pens are used in FIRST events. Knowing that FIRST's vision is to motivate youth for a more sustainable world, we're providing recyclable pens with seeds for the whole Midwest Regional to plant them after the event, leaving a mark in Chicago on behalf of FRC Community.

Gender Equality

Dean Kamen said "Half of the people that ought to be in FIRST happen to be young women." in the Championship'15, it was a task for us in which we aim to generate our shield against gender inequality by incorporating girls in STEM-related areas. As IMC, we wrote a book to encourage young girls.

Since career planning is crucial for young people, our second attempt was to inspire girls to find their future. We gave presentations in schools for girls in different regions of Turkey & assisted forming of FRC teams with them. We helped Team 7070 -consisting only girls- to be formed. In addition, we emphasized on women's ability to participate in STEM-related fields by showing our robot at Women in Technology Summit. 2 years ago, women engineers from Sedefteki ?nciler program came to our school.

National

To draw the attention of young people to FIRST, we reached nearly 16 M people via social media, printed & web news, TV & radio.

To engage the FIRST community, we've assisted 56 FRC & 15 FLL teams globally & formed 5 FLL teams in Turkey. We've been hosting volunteer training for 4 years, because of the high amount of volunteers from our school which increases each year.

Global

Since taking robotics to a global level is the key to having more people in this inspiring world, we left the initiation line to boost FIRST in Europe. Our 1st movement was to register Turkish Kick-Off'16 to the European Robotics as the first Turkish event. Also, we gave a presentation to teachers from 5 different European countries, resulting in them inviting us to their countries to form FLL teams.

During CRC'17 in China, we assisted 34 teams. After traveling 7963 km, our next step was to create a channel in Bili Bili for Chinese teams with internet restrictions to reach YouTube. We also created a website that can be displayed in China. It's been viewed by more than 4500 people. In collaboration with Chinese teams & Event Manager Min Zhang, our international bond is getting stronger with videos that we've been uploading.

With the help of our former team member who's now a student at UWC Armenia, we formed Armenia's first FRC team which represented Armenia in FIRST Global'19. Collaborating with UWC India, we distributed our books.

III. Power Cells

n. an array of galvanic particles for storing energy.

While IMC is providing a shield for mankind, our sponsors have a big place in activating our shield as our power cells. Their support is the batteries of our protection. We've introduced FIRST to the CEOs of Turkcell, Samsung, ?brahim Çeçen Foundation, Hilton, Tekfen & STFA. Turkcell organized a press conference at our school to introduce FIRST to people.

IV. Generator Switch

n. controls electricity sent from a generator from going right back into the local power grid.

This season started with obstacles for us due to Turkish economic crisis. Most of our sponsors couldn't afford to finance us; which showed us obstacles may occur at any point in life, but you let them stop you or not. As a large family, our team spirit lets us overcome the obstacles. Our core values derived from FIRST's are our generator switch.

Our dreams & tenacity at the light of the FIRST led us to this moment in which we're no longer hoping to make a difference. We are already making differences.

We began this road as a prisoner of asteroid showers damaging lives & now, we're the shield that eliminates evil forces.

May the force be with us all.