

Chairman's Award - Team 6429

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2022 - Team 6429

Team Number

6429

Team Nickname

4th Dimension

Team Location

Bornova, Izmir - Turkey

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last 3 years. This can include but is not limited to percentages of those graduating high school, attending college, in STEM careers, and in *FIRST* programs as mentors/sponsors.

FIRST has made an incredible impact on 4D's members, alumnus and mentors. Our team members are more prepared than ever to be the world's next STEAM leaders in every possible aspect with 100% of our team members planning to follow a career path in STEAM and 93.3% of our alumni choosing STEAM-based majors. As for our mentors, to directly quote them: "Education starts with educators.". Through FIRST, our mentors have been raising STEAM leaders of our community for over 12 years.

Describe your community along with how your team addresses its unique opportunities and circumstances.

A devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 hit our hometown, Izmir. Immediately contacting AFAD&AKUT to help victims by volunteering; we hosted 4D Quake Seminars in partnership with AFAD helping 260 people become aware of how to act in situations like these. Covid-19, while devastating, was an opportunity to show that #6429 is not limited by any bounds, even a worldwide pandemic, we initiated #FIRSTCallForCorona movement which was recognized by FIRST and reached 56 teams from 14 countries.

Describe the team's methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the *FIRST* message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative. How does your team measure results?

Being pioneers in FIRST, we organized&hosted Pre-Season, which is the first ever online FRC event globally, with 31 teams from 6 countries. We collaborated with FIRST&FYF on feedback forms which called attention from FIRST HQ. We also started #FIRSTCallForCorona which was recognized by FIRST and reached 55 teams from 14 countries&5 continents. This year we organized the first in person FRC event in Izmir, which is also the first event that was organized by a team, with Izmir Off Season.

Please provide specific examples of how your team members act as role models within the *FIRST* community with emphasis on the past 3 years.

During May of 2021, 4D made headlines in Turkey by appearing on NTV. On NTV, we went into details about how we use the same algorithms as NASA and how our team operates overall. Alongside NTV, our previous team captain got into Stanford and established a FIRST club there to spread the FIRST message to students, many heard the name of FIRST from her interviews. Moreover, 6429 appeared at Radio&Papers to send a message for all the game-changers to wake their inner force for change.

Describe your team's initiatives to Assist, Mentor, and/or Start other *FIRST* teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.

Our team is diligent about supporting FIRST teams through every aspect. With INSPIRE THE FUTURE we started 14 FLL&4 FLL Jr teams. With Welcome First we infuse next generations with core values of FIRST programs, reaching 4477 children. Having a deep understanding of the FIRST spirit, we started Rookie Talks where we shared our experiences with both rookie and veteran FRC teams. We've also constructed our Team Founding Plan forming 21+ teams&assisting/mentoring 270 FIRST teams.

Beyond starting teams, what initiatives have you done to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What results have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?

We have plenty of projects that encourage young people to be involved with STEAM. We published&donated over 30K copies of STEAMAGICIANS which is available in 10 languages and 9 countries. With STEAMDays we held 8 STEAM conferences with 37 speakers&376 attendees. Via Inspire the Future we provide STEAM education by giving children designing, building&programming lectures with LEGO WeDo and Mindstorm sets using our own curriculum, 4DCODING which we have presented to 3 Directorates of Education.

Describe the partnerships you've created with other organizations (teams, sponsors, educational institutions, philanthropic entities, etc.) and what you have accomplished together with emphasis on the past 3 years

We organized the first FRC event in Izmir, Izmir Off-Season, in partnership with Izmir Municipality and IZELMAN. Right after, we established a team with students from IZELMAN. In order to achieve more, we always try to find various sponsors and project partners. So far we have initiated many projects with partner teams such as Ministry Of Violence&WelomeFIRST. We have also partnered with Canva hosting seminars and partnered with ÇEVKO to give out "Turning Green" certificates to qualified teams.

Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within your team, *FIRST*, and your communities.

Raising the new generation's game changers regardless of gender through science-technology and design-oriented workshops, we started our STEMforSisters project partnering with the Netherlands Embassy. We have partnered with the University of Arizona and the Dutch Embassy to provide STEAM education to 60 children living in a disadvantaged area via CoderZ project. We gathered 14 FRC teams throughout Turkey in FRC Ministry of Violence for weekly meetings to take action&shared our ideas with UNDP.

Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will continue to run effectively for the foreseeable future

We have been processing data since our rookie year which is now documented in our drive. They clarify past projects, achievements and accomplishments. We keep our archives organized both online and as paper copies. We also created a platform for future 4D members with all the necessary information via our 'Project Reports'. Our alumni also educate our rookie members by Alumni Days as well as regularly meet with them to train them. Thanks to these we maintain the efficiency our team thrives on.

Describe your team's innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and engage your sponsors within the past 3 years

To have a consistent relationship with our sponsors, we established a sponsorship policy. Through this, we specified their beneficence with criteria which enabled us to categorize them as Platinum, Gold & Silver. Working in partnership with our sponsors, we inform them about our yearly budget and needs. Also, SWOT analysis allowed us and sponsors to be conscious of our team. To demonstrate our gratefulness, we promote them on t-shirts and social media&send them plates to signify our appreciation.

Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.

To achieve something, you must have enough funds. Living in a country with an unstable economy, we genuinely have hard times balancing and estimating our budget. Since most of the expenses aren't made in TRY, we estimate&plan the budget based on normal fluctuations. Nonetheless, our policy didn't work well this year, due to the unstable economy. So, we hastened the sponsorship chase, strengthened our relationship with sponsors and applied to more grants with the help of our budget subteam.

Describe your team's goals to fulfill the mission of *FIRST* and the progress you have made towards those goals.

We spent many of our years in FRC as a team that always wanted to go global, and we are delighted to say we have attained that. To achieve this goal, we proudly represented Turkey in Mexico in the FIRST Global Challenge and interacted with other countries. Besides, 4D informed Silicon Valley about FIRST programs and became pioneers by introducing a FIRST Scholarship to one of the world's top universities, Stanford. Plus we introduced FIRST to countries by meeting embassies under ConfigureFIRST.

Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* Judges, including items that may not fit into the above topics. The judges are interested in learning about aspects of your team that may be unique or particularly noteworthy.

Being a team that brings the 4th dimension to the FIRST community, we reached 17M+ people via projects related to FIRST, Steam Education, Equality and Social Responsibility. With our new projects such as A Greener Dimension, in which we recycle and reuse papers, Turning Green, in which we certify eco friendly teams with ÇEVKO and Eco-Seminars, in which we bring together eco-masters and society, we not only increase outreach number but we also team up with the world.

Essay

Water. Earth. Fire. Air. There's a bit of all in everybody. Water's flexibility, earth's protection, fire's passion, air's wisdom. Some are like water; they adapt to the world's flow and helping people around them do the same. Some are like earth: they're like pure love, with patient and consistent work they surround the rest and protect them. Some like fire: their passion is the reason they rise from the flame when their world is ash; for in that passion is love, determination and grit. There are those like air, they not only improve themselves but also others with their nurturing and care; making sure their friends prosper just as they do. But what happens when you bend all four? Those who can enter another dimension. Our's: 4th Dimension. Follow us now, enter our dimension for a moment. We'll show you around.

FIREBENDING, FIRST & STEAM EDUCATION

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled." When we first became avatars, we didn't know what it truly meant, but our former avatars mentored us by sharing their experiences in ALUMNI DAYS. With the same idea in mind, we organized a project educating people of all ages about robotics via Lego Sets during TRAINING OF TRAINERS that aims to infuse them with the spirit of STEAM. Through the idea of "Education starts with Educators", we reached more than 160 educators and organized MENTOR EDUCATION guiding 6 mentors that will be pioneers for future STEAM&FIRST enthusiasts. Just like everyone, we had started bending from zero and know how tough it was. Making this process easier we guided new benders with ROOKIE TALKS and taught the fundamentals of bending to 90+ participants from 11 teams.

Infusing fundamental values of FIRST programs&STEAM into the next generation of benders, we started WELCOME FIRST which works with 14 embassies from all around the world, being centered in Izmir. 4233 benders became aware of the virtues of FIRST. Holding the first official Kick-Off event in the Aegean Region in 2019 and have continued doing so with the most recent one we hosted for the 2022 season with 55 team members&5 FRC teams, we invite other benders to join us on their journey with FIRST.

We inspire our community as FIRST ignites our global sensitivity. We networked with 338 FLL&FLL Jr.&318 FRC teams. By making connections not only in our region but also on a global scale, 4D goes over and beyond expectations. As the first team in the Aegean, we established the first active FTC team in our country, 15142 Smyrna. To kindle the flares of FIRST in university students we informed them about FIRST, suggested a FIRST scholarship and established a FIRST COMMUNITY there.

Continuing blazing the fire of FIRST&STEAM, we provided STEAM education for children aged between 5-13 via 4D OF LEARNING. We have influenced 457 young benders by lectures about designing, programming&building via LEGO Mindstorm&WeDo sets. To ignite STEAM education, we organized SCIENCE CAMPS for children ages from 5 to 14, reaching out to 287 young benders.

Science booklets inspire and educate many of our little avatars. With the same goal in mind, we designed STEAMAGICIANS booklets that include QR codes that lead to "How To" videos. HANDS-ON STEAM KITS, which had STEAMagicians science booklets, materials to do the experiments and a working model made in our CNC lab. With these kits, students were able to enjoy the STEAM activities that were designed in accordance with the National Education Ministry's curriculum. During the pandemic, we sent kits to the Izmir Ministry of Education. We translated booklets into 10 languages with the collaboration of 12 teams. Within the scope of SENSE OF SCIENCE, we collaborated with TURGOK to make Braille alphabet versions of our booklets for visually impaired people and added sign language versions to our YouTube channel for aurally impaired people.

Bringing our impact to a global level to spread the keys of bending, we distributed 30.427 booklets to 9 countries with the help of the Netherlands Embassy. To ignite the wick, one of our avatars traveled 1500km to provide STEAM education to 60 children living in a disadvantaged area with the help of University of Arizona and Netherlands Embassy via STEMforSisters and SistersScienceBridge. It has been an memorable experience, seeing the joy of enlightenment in their eyes.

We went to a school with insufficient facilities where students from various cultures and nationalities come together. We have trained students in line with FIRST principles by empowering them with the opportunities provided by science and technology. With FIRST STEPS we turned the primary school we went into a school that uses FRC as a curriculum.

EARTHBENDING, THE ENVIRONMENT

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"Our planet's alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action!" Ensuring the consistency of our unique world as the element of earth is a must for 4D-team 6429. Even though we work incredibly hard, we have to team up with the world. Firstly, education. With Eco-Seminars, we gathered 3 precious specialists&100 participants to enrich everyone's knowledge. To encourage FRC teams to be more eco-friendly, we initiated Turning Green, in which we classify&certify teams as "Green Teams" partnering with ÇEVKO by an application process. As 4D, we are aware of how crucial arboreal resources are. As a community, we naturally have a high paper consumption, so we take strides to be more eco-friendly. Through A Greener Dimension, we recycle&reuse papers in cooperation with MONDI.

AIRBENDERS, FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air." Unfortunately, the importance of Social Responsibility has been ignored in our community in recent times. Air sustains social responsibility but the lack of awareness in Turkey has limited the work of air, and they have come to the point of extinction.

Seeing this, 4D stepped in rapidly. Commanding the winds with our avatars, we recognized one of the significant problems in our country, the lack of care for indigent needs, so we initiated United Dimensions. We partnered with public schools in disadvantaged areas to undertake hygienic clothing needs.

Violence is an issue we face on a global scale, both physically&emotionally towards all living beings. As pioneers, 4D couldn't remain silence. By gathering 14 FRC teams from all around Turkey, we founded the Ministry of Violence where we organize weekly meetings about all kinds of violence reaching 4503 people by appraising 9 webinars with experts. Furthermore, we have shared our ideas with the UNDP.

Recognizing global problems, we focused on 4 global problems in 4 COLORS OF 4D: Climate Change, Gender Equality, Disabled People&Animal Rights. By producing t-shirt signifying these issues and selling them on our website, we have donated %100 our earnings -4196?- to SosyalBen Foundation, TURGOK, TEMA and ÇYDD.

Sometimes you just believe that you can achieve your dream. To show you that it's possible, we publish monthly magazines called IMPACT. They increase the visibility of underappreciated projects and inspire others. So far, IMPACT magazines reached out to +1060 people digitally via QR codes attached in STEAMAGICIANS booklets.

Thanks to MASTERS' DIMENSION, we have enabled young people to direct their careers&futures correctly by providing quick access to the right information by directly asking experts about their professions reaching 4478.

After 6 years of hard work, 4D reawakened Social Responsibility.

WATERBENDERS, FOR ADAPTABILITY

"Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it" When flowing water encounters a rock, it finds a way around it, creating itself a new way. Water, the element of flexibility&adaptability, inspires us in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic. To begin, we started #FirstCallForCorona to inform everyone to take precautions&be safe. FIRST recognized&supported us. Next, as we were staying at home all day, STEAM activities staggered, which was something we couldn't bear to see. Through One Day One Experiment, we posted 65 videos on social media and brought together STEAM enthusiasts.

Covid-19 showed us how difficult it was to be a healthcare worker. We wanted to help them and show our thankfulness, so we initiated 4D Health, producing 1,504 touch-free sanitizers&face shields in our CNC lab and donated them to 36 hospitals.

COVID not only harmed us, but also brought restrictions. Reacting accordingly, we started new projects and transferred most projects online. Taking action on behalf of the FIRST Community, we organized the world's first ever online FRC event: FRC PRE-SEASON. With 31 teams from 6 countries.

Unfortunately, just a week before PRE-SEASON, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 hit our hometown, Izmir. Realizing the inadequate awareness about earthquakes, we organized 4D Quake Seminars, over 250 people got detailed instructions from experts in AFAD. In spite of this disaster, we still managed to flow with the river and hosted the PRE-SEASON without any considerable defect.

After the 2020 ?zmir FRC Pre Season even we headed towards an even bigger dream: hosting the first FRC event in Izmir. We organized IZMIR OFF-SEASON on 17-18-19 December 2021 which has been one of our most desired plans since the day we were founded. IZMIR OFF-SEASON, which has 26 teams from 5 different cities of Turkey, with more than 300 participants and more than a thousand visitors. Returning to FRC with a face-to-face event after the online period was a great source of motivation for us.

As the game changers of our community, we proved that a high schooler can inspire millions. With the FIRST fire flowing through us, we spread that flicker of a flame and reached out to 17,8M+ people. During bleak times, we grieved together; during joyous times, we laughed together. This is but the beginning of our destiny, for we have much more to do, and will do so with FIRST.