

## A BRIEF HISTORY

*(DEDAK – Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Language Education Programs)*

DATE	EXPLANATION
<b>OCT. 21-22, 2010</b>	<p>The 4th meeting of the Directors of School of Foreign Languages (SFL) was held in Eastern Mediterranean University. In the meeting, the benefit of establishing an independent institution for national accreditation was addressed and the advantage such a structure would provide for the preparatory education throughout Turkey was expressed. It was decided to emulate the MÜDEK model (Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Engineering Programs) for founding such an institution. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to seek consultancy support from institutions such as INGED and faculties of educational sciences of universities (foreign language teaching departments, assessment and evaluation programs, etc.). An accreditation working group was proposed as a sub-commission.</p>
<b>APRIL 2012</b>	<p>The first core accreditation meeting was held at Yaşar University with the participation of Engin Ayvaz and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evrim Üstünlüoğlu. The meeting lasted for 2 days and during the meeting, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Durman, who was the chairperson of then the Higher Education Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Commission (YÖDEK), which later became the Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK), and who also acted as a member of the National Qualifications Framework Commission and as the chairperson of the KalDer Quality Awards Executive Board, was consulted over a number of issues.</p> <p>By the virtue of this meeting, the chairperson of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) was informed about the formation of DEDAK during the NAFSA (National Association of Foreign Student Advisers) conference in St. Louis.</p>

<p><b>OCT. 18-19, 2012</b></p>	<p>The 6th meeting of the Directors of School of Foreign Languages (SFL) was held at Sabancı University during which a total of 5 representatives was elected from public and foundation universities in Izmir and Istanbul to establish a national accreditation institute to engage a wide range of issues such as the growth rate in Turkish higher education, campus internationalization, mobility of international students and academic personnel, the national quality standards in language education, a draft law for higher education and a framework for Turkish higher education qualifications and an emphasis on quality. A report on the project schedule was requested from the commission within 2 months, and the formation of a founding body and its instigating pertinent activities were demanded and the expectation of a report covering the work accomplished and developments anticipated in the next meeting was expressed.</p>
<p><b>2012</b></p>	<p>While the Izmir group was engaged with the organizational structure and legal framework, the Istanbul group dealt with the standards and various meetings were held both in Istanbul and Izmir.</p>

	Date	Subject Matter	Place
	15.11.2012	Meeting of the İzmir Group	İzmir University of Economics
	30.11.2012	Meeting of the İstanbul Group	Bahçeşehir University
	04.12.2012	Meeting of the İzmir Group	İzmir University of Economics
	10.12.2012	Meeting of the İstanbul Group	Bahçeşehir University
	11.01.2013	1. Meeting of the Founding Body	Bahçeşehir University
	08.03.2013	Meeting of the İstanbul Group	Bahçeşehir University
	12.03.2013	Meeting of the İzmir Group	Yaşar University
	02.05.2013	The 2. Meeting of the Founding Body	Yaşar University
	03-04.05.2013	Conference on Accreditation of Language Education	Yaşar university
<b>JAN.10, 2013</b>	During an all-day workshop at Istanbul Bahçeşehir University, DEDAK representatives reviewed the prepared documents		
<b>MAY 2 -4, 2013</b>	DEDAK representatives met with CEA General Director Teresa O'Donnell at Yaşar University and exchanged views on quality and standards in language teaching.		
<b>OCT. 24-25, 2013</b>	The DEDAK website was prepared, the work carried out so far was presented at the 7th SFL Directors' Meeting held at Fatih University and this attracted the attention of representatives of the Institute of Higher Education, Schools of Foreign Languages (SFL) and the media.		

<b>NOV. 28, 2013</b>	Hacer Sivil, one of the representatives of DEDAK, participated in a commission designated to communicate the decisions taken during the 7th SFL Directors' meeting to the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), and a decision for submitting a formal application was taken upon the prompting of the representatives of Institute of Higher Education.
	<p>Due to the termination of YÖDEK (Higher Education Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Commission), DEDAK's applications were deemed invalid and a waiting period started.</p> <p>During the waiting period, DEDAK representatives concentrated on standards, bylaws and regulations and held meetings.</p>
<b>OCT. 17-18, 2014</b>	<p>During the 8th meeting of the Directors of SFL at Erciyes University, the representatives of DEDAK were briefed.</p> <p>Following the briefing, DEDAK representatives contacted YÖK (Institute of Higher Education) and were notified about the formation of YÖKAK (Higher Education Quality Board).</p>
<b>JUNE 2015</b>	The representatives of DEDAK held a 2-day meeting in İstanbul during which they devised an action plan by revising the bylaws, regulations and standards.
<b>AUGUST 12, 2015</b>	DEDAK representatives met with Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal, the vice-president of YÖK (Institute of Higher Education), informing him about DEDAK and noted his comments on formal recognition. At the meeting, information on the establishment of an independent body such as YÖKAK (Higher Education Quality Board) by the decree of 23 July 2015 was exchanged. In addition, another meeting was held with Prof. Dr. Tuncay Döğeroğlu, vice-chairperson of YÖKAK.

<b>OCT. 16-17, 2015</b>	At the 9th SFL Directors' meeting at Çankaya University, DEDAK representatives convened for updating. Participants suggested DEDAK's accelerating the process like a public institution, provision of voluntary membership, and collaborating with Directors' initiatives such as professional development (T-Plus), Curriculum Topics Forum (FOCI) and Assessment Issues Forum (FOA) organized for EFL teachers.
<b>2016</b>	DEDAK approved the membership of public and foundation universities in Ankara and Eskişehir, raising the total number of members to 9.
<b>OCT. 7, 2016</b>	DEDAK applied for a formal recognition as an association and was registered as such on January 27, 2017. Meanwhile, DEDAK leased a virtual office.
<b>OCT. 20-21, 2016</b>	During the 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the SFL Directors held at Yaşar University, DEDAK began to accept individual applications and received 38.
<b>DEC. 8, 2016</b>	DEDAK representatives met with the vice-chairperson of the Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK) and noted his comments on
	how to proceed for recognition from the perspective of the new legislation and accordingly, a decision was taken for establishing an economic association.
<b>FEBRUARY 2017</b>	After being divided into 4 sub-groups, the representatives of DEDAK started to examine the standards and discussed them via online meetings.
<b>MAY 5-6, 2017</b>	The representatives of DEDAK prepared the final version of the 29 standards in a 2-day workshop held at İstanbul Bilgi University and formulated how each standard ought to be conformed with.

<p><b>JUNE 2, 2017</b></p>	<p>The draft standards were shared with DEDAK members before the first general assembly which was held with the participation of 28/34 members. At the assembly, DEDAK representatives provided insight on the legal framework, action plans, administration and other issues, and members of the audit and board of directors were elected by secret ballot. In addition, some amendments to the regulations were made and the membership fee was increased to cover the expenses.</p>
<p><b>OCT. 26- 27, 2017</b></p>	<p>At the 11th SFL Directors meeting held in Ankara Social Sciences University, information about DEDAK was promulgated to more than 100 university representatives and new members were recruited. In addition, by holding an extraordinary general assembly, amendments were made in some of the articles of the regulations for facilitating DEDAK's operations, and the draft standards were presented to DEDAK members again and feedbacks were gathered.</p>
<p><b>2017</b></p>	<p>The representatives of DEDAK, consisting of the members of the executive board and auditing board, engaged with directives and procedures.</p>
<p><b>2017</b></p>	<p>New members were appointed replacing the 2 who resigned from the membership of the executive board and auditing board in February 2018</p>
<p><b>MARCH 2018</b></p>	<p>A 2-day meeting was held at İstanbul Bilgi University by the representatives of DEDAK with the purpose of reviewing the documents for applying to the Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK). Those documents are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DEDAK charter</li> <li>○ DEDAK operational directive</li> <li>○ DEDAK directive for policy and procedures for evaluation and accreditation</li> <li>○ DEDAK directive for candidate nomination commission</li> <li>○ DEDAK directive on the procedures for determining evaluation criteria</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DEDAK policy on quality</li> <li>○ DEDAK code of ethics guide</li> </ul>
<b>2018</b>	Following the meeting on March 2018, one of the members of DEDAK began to devise a logo for DEDAK and the alternatives were presented to other members for polling via e-mail.
<b>2018</b>	In March, all documents were forwarded to all members and preparatory programs attached to an interpretive e-mail, and they were asked to submit their comments and nominate candidates for the advisory board.
<b>2018</b>	3 DEDAK representatives met with one of the former members of the Higher Education Supervision, Planning, Accreditation and Coordination Board (YÖDAK), and comments on the prepared documents were noted. An appointment was secured from the Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK) for April 2018 with the two intentions of eliminating any obstacle preventing the formal application to YÖKAK and of facilitating recognition.
<b>NİSAN 2018</b>	A new website was prepared for the April 2018 meeting and all the documents and the logo were uploaded to this site. A file was prepared for the Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK) meeting. 5 DEDAK representatives and 2 YÖKAK members, including the vice-chairperson, attended the meeting. YÖKAK representatives pointed out the importance of accreditation of language programs in universities and the need for the support of all stakeholders for the inclusiveness of DEDAK, and underlined the significance of being not only process-oriented but also result-oriented, so they suggested DEDAK to be more transparent and to detail all policies and processes including objections. Apart from these, it was recommended that the prescribed auditor training should be provided by an expert in this field.

<b>MAY 11-12, 2018</b>	DEDAK was invited to a conference titled “Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Language Teaching” held at Bandırma 17 Eylül University. Thanks to this conference, to which CEA and EQUALS, which are among the most prestigious institutions in the field of accreditation, were also invited, DEDAK found the opportunity to disseminate its vision to a wider audience and increase the number of its members. In addition, CEA Executive Director Mary Reeves pledged support to DEDAK and promised a donation via the American Embassy.
<b>2018</b>	Following the conference at Bandırma 17 Eylül University, DEDAK president Didem Mutçalıoğlu contacted CEA General

	Director Mary Reeves and in December 2018, the DEDAK president’s status of an observer for attending the CEA commission meetings were approved. In addition, it was decided that Nicole Martello, who trains auditors at CEA, would conduct auditor training for DEDAK together with the DEDAK President.
<b>2018</b>	DEDAK applied to the American Embassy for a grant. The grant was approved in September 2018.
<b>JUNE 25-26, 2018</b>	5 DEDAK representatives held a 2-day meeting at Izmir University of Economics to exchange views and clarify the standards. This version of the standards was shared with all university representatives 2 months before the 12th SFL Directors’ Meeting.
<b>OCT. 18-19, 2018</b>	DEDAK became the center of attention at the 12th SFL Directors’ meeting at Siirt University. At this meeting, it was announced that focus group sessions would be held with interested parties and the accreditation process would be implemented via 2 pilot programs, one for the public and the other for a foundation university, and new membership applications were accepted. As a result, the number of members reached 43, including 16 cities and 32 universities.



<b>NOV. 16, 2018</b>	DEDAK Criteria Evaluation Workshop was held in Istanbul Bilgi University with 19 participants.
<b>DEC. 22-23, 2018</b>	In a 2-day workshop at Istanbul Bilgi University, attended by 32 people, an auditor training session was conducted jointly by CEA auditor trainer Nicole Martello and DEDAK President Didem Mutçalıoğlu. The participants were those who attended the Higher Education Quality Board's (YÖKAK) auditor training, who were members of YÖKAK's team of auditors and who were regular DEDAK members.
<b>JAN. 2019</b>	<p>A focus group study was conducted at Istanbul Bilgi University for language consistency and clarity with the participation of 24 members. In January 2019, the current versions of the standards were uploaded to the website. The standards consisting of a total of 26 standards and 8 main titles are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Mission</li> <li>○ Programs for Teaching</li> <li>○ Assessment and Evaluation</li> <li>○ Student support and services</li> <li>○ Administration and Organization</li> <li>○ Teaching staff</li> <li>○ Infrastructure, hardware and facilities</li> </ul>
	○ Continuous improvement
<b>FEB. 2019</b>	The pilot accreditation application process began and 14 programs applied. As the selection criteria, the percentage of English language of instruction and the number of students were taken into account, and in case of equality, the establishment year of the university became the decisive factor. The first pilot program process was to become operational in May 2019, as announced in March 2019.

<b>OCT. 17-18, 2019</b>	At the 13th SFL Directors' meeting held at Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University, DEDAK offered insight to its endeavors.
<b>NOV. 2, 2019</b>	A general assembly was held at Özyeğin University. Prior to the formal registration application, the regulation and directive amendments were discussed, the boards and commissions were approved and the participants were notified about the general standing. 36/44 members attended the meeting. Planned studies were shared at the assembly, the regulation was approved, the bylaw was amended, and the attendees were briefed about both the traveling expenses for participating in the general assembly, and benefiting from the grant.