

**KA 229 SCHOOL EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIP
COOPERATION AND INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD
PRACTISES**

**SLOWING DOWN- A New Face of European Education
Visiting Alternative Teaching and Learning Center “BİLSEM”
26.02.2020**



The most common institution in Turkey for education of gifted students are Science and Art Centers, the first of which was opened in 1995 in Ankara. It was planned to serve gifted students outside of school time, with a planned education program. In the selection of students to BİLSEMs, intelligence tests are applied and students whose intelligence quotient are 130 and over are accepted.

There are 63 BİLSEMs in Turkey in 57 cities.

Science and Art Centers (BİLSEM) are education centers founded by General Director of Special Education, Guidance and Counselling Services, Ministry of National Education. (M.E.B., 2001). Science and Art Centers comprise six main departments. These departments are administrated by Science and Art Center teachers who are designated by the head of the center. Basically, Science and Art Centers institution (BİLSEM) was founded in order to treat gifted and talented children growing in Turkey in accordance with their talents. Çanakkale Science and Art Center (BİLSEM) that play an active role in training and educating gifted youths, who are bound to be the future scientists and leaders. Education model at Science and Art Centers differs from formal education. While elementary school students attempt to get a passing grade or prepare for exams, the organizational structure of Science and Art Centers do not include such objectives as getting good grades, passing a class etc. Instead, education is carried out with a project-based model and students are expected to complete projects with required qualities.



Çanakkale Science and Art Center is a public institution that supports the special educational needs of students those are gifted and talented students in pre-school, primary, secondary and

high schools. Education at Science and Art Centers consists of five stages: orientation, supporting education, recognition of individual talents, development of special talents and project generation.



In this center, it offers activities to the gifted and talented students in order to support and enrich their scientific or artistic skills, creativity, thinking skills, self-regulation skills in learning, scientific process and research skills, and knowledge of history and philosophy of science or art.

The main aims of Science and Art Centers are:

- To support and realize gifted and talented children's abilities and creativity.
- To help student discover their interests, abilities and skills.
- To offer good opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills.
- To set an education environment to support students' special needs.

Çanakkale Science and Art Center started providing education in the beginning of 2015. From the second grade to twelfth grade, it is providing education to more than 300 students in different programmes.

Students are mainly categorized as gifted students who have at least 130 score in IQ test and the talented ones in art and music. Both gifted and talented students have two tests to be recognized. Students attend the programmes in this center after school on weekdays or on Saturdays.

At Çanakkale Science and Art Center, the institution strives to ensure academic talent which is recognized and nurtured. Gifted and talented students are connected to stimulating academic programmes. Students attend orientation programme for about two weeks in their first year at Science and Art Center. Then they continue a programme called supportive education for two years. Recognizing individual talents is the third programme following supportive education. Students are involved in the third programme for three years. Students' special talents are fostered in the programme of improving special talents. They manage a project in the project level. The center aims to support and enrich their scientific or artistic skills, creativity, thinking skills, self-regulation skills in learning, scientific research skills,



knowledge of history, philosophy, social sciences, literature, geography and foreign language skills.

A teacher at the center, said: “If someone else controls your time and your actions, then you are not developing as an authentic person, as an authentic learner. And if you watch children over a period of time here, they do make choices that are really good for them at the time.”

A student at the center, said: “Well at regular school it is a lot different. You get every lesson after one another. The people at school are a lot different, they care about themselves a lot more, but here it’s like we care about one another because we are like a big family.”

As we are Slowing down a new face of European education Turkish Team, we inspired a lot. At this center, children learn to express themselves in a stimulating and friendly environment. They socialise easily, work together and respect the rules, even if they are very autonomous.

The visitors from Opet Tarihe Saygı Ortaokulu

Teachers

Students

Parents

Saliha Deniz

Zeynep Ela Hacıalıođlu

Fatma Hacıalıođlu

Deniz Aydeniz

Cenk Osman Niđiz

Bahar Nizđiz

Gülşah Aydeniz

Ebru Selver

Nükhet Tamer