







**PRIME MINISTRY OF THE TURKISH  
REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS**

**NORTHERN CYPRUS PRIME  
MINISTER'S ANTI-DRUG  
COMMISSION 2024-2025  
ACTIVITY REPORT AND 2026  
PLANNING**

**January, 2026**



# President's Message



The studies carried out to combat addiction undertake responsibilities that fall on every part of society. These responsibilities are not limited to simply offering services. They also extend to monitoring the impact of those services, identifying areas for improvement, and outlining a strong vision for the new term.

This document presents a framework that reflects the institutional approach and work discipline of the Commission. Information gathered throughout the year, expert opinions, field experiences, and collaborations with various institutions form the foundation for planning the future.

The road map prepared is an end product of an understanding that approaches addiction in a multidimensional way, without limiting it to a single area. The goal is to enhance public resilience, provide young people with a safe environment for development, and strengthen the mechanisms that reach individuals in need.

The Commission will work decisively to ensure the sustainability of this approach and will aim to build a stronger structure in cooperation with all stakeholders.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every member of my team:

- **Feyza Nebahat Süralp – Recovery Consultant**

For adding value to the process by establishing supportive rapport with the clients through her calmness and guidance ability,

- **Cemal Direkci – Social Activity Officer**

For contributing positively to the advancement of the process by planning activities that provide young people and their families with a space to breathe,

- **Okan Erođlu – Social Activity Officer / Outdoor Support**

For facilitating field mobility and assuming logistical responsibilities with great care,

- **Tutku Özdil – Psychologist**  
For creating a truly safe environment for clients through her professionalism, empathy, and the meticulous attention she showed particularly with demanding cases,
- **Muhammed Dokuz – Social Service Expert & Psychologist**  
For lightening the team’s load by his attentive work with family structures, guidance and management of crisis moments,
- **Meryem Meltem Tremeşeli Ongan – Public Relations Officer**  
For showing care to ensure consistent engagement with the community, maintain the Commission’s visibility and a strong communication network,
- **Eral Özbeşer – Volunteer Graphic Designer (Former Commission Personelle)**  
For supporting the process voluntarily by ensuring that all visual outputs advance in an orderly and well-structured way,
- **Sever Pehlivan – Security**  
For providing a peaceful work environment for the team by maintaining order and safety of the Commission’s building in all situations,
- **Yaşar Karakaya – Security**  
For carefully managing the entire flow of visitors and ensuring operations continue without disruption,
- **Gülten Dede – Cleaning and Hospitality**  
For meticulously keeping the order of the building, creating a warm atmosphere for staff and visitors through her tea and coffee service, and supporting the clients who come to the Commission with lunch or dinner when needed, thus helping them feel safe and valued.
- **Dr. Zafer Bekiroğulları, AFBPsS, CPsychol, FCBPis BA Hons, BA, MEd, gCert, PhD**  
I would like to thank him for his guiding support and contributions to maintaining a scientific approach, ensuring service quality, promoting the professional development of the expert team, and sustaining a system that prioritizes client safety.

This team exhibits a strong sense of unity, remaining focused on the same goal even under difficult conditions. This unity is the true strength of the Commission.

**Teyfide Tecel Hatipoğlu**

President, Northern Cyprus

Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission

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# List of Abbreviations

Bibapsoft	Individual Addiction Treatment Program
BRT	Bayrak Radio and Television Corporation
CBPis	International Association for Cognitive and Behavioral Psychotherapies
CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
ICODAAS	International Conference on Drug Use and Addiction Studies
LSD	Lysergic Acid Diethylamide
MI	Motivational Interviewing
TRNC	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
USA	United States of America

# **Executive Summary**

In the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, substance use and drug addiction combat are not only health-related issues, but also critical matters concerning public order, youth development, and national potential. Throughout the year, our Commission has carried out both preventive and interventional work, and has taken comprehensive steps to strengthen state policies.

The Commission has conducted intensive and scientifically grounded national and international studies during 2025 in order to make our country's capacity of combating drug use stronger. The information presented below indicates the Commission's concrete outputs, projects, and institutional performance within a comprehensive framework.

This report includes summaries of the work, plans, scientific collaborations, and institutional developments carried out in 2025, as well as the goals set for 2026.



Turkish Republic of  
Northern Cyprus Prime Ministry

# I. GENERAL INFORMATION



Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's  
Anti-Drug Commission

# **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **A) Mission and Vision**

### **Mission**

Contributing to the development of a community of healthy, productive, and strong individuals

### **Vision**

Developing a model that is scientific, has wide-reaching impact and meets international standards.

## **B) Authority, Duty, and Responsibilities**

Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission carries out the following duties under the TRNC Council of Ministers decision dated 03/09/2014 and numbered 1670-2014:

1. To work towards reducing the supply and demand of narcotic substances, with the goal of eliminating them in the end.
2. To carry out work to ensure that measures are taken to prevent individuals at risk of or inclined toward substance use.
3. To carry out informational activities.
4. To carry out activities intending to strengthen existing institutional structures (in terms of infrastructure, quality, expert personnel, research, training, and services) for the treatment and reintegration of individuals with acute and chronic addiction, and to address existing deficiencies in treatment and rehabilitation services for addicted individuals as quickly as possible.
5. To carry out studies by establishing committees in order to make legal regulations related to the issue (such as separating the user and dealer phenomenon from each other, ensuring that individuals with addiction benefit from treatment and rehabilitation

services instead of being sent to prison, and taking measures for their reintegration into society following the completion of any legally prescribed sentence, based on expert reports) and to offer recommendations to the relevant Ministries.

6. Related to the topics mentioned above, the Commission may set up study groups and committees. Also, when necessary, it can invite the representatives of the ministry, public institutions and other civil society organizations to gather information and participate in its studies.

## **C) Information on the Administration**

### **Physical Structure**

Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission operates in the building located at Server Somuncuoğlu Street, No: 10, Apartment: 1, Köşklüçiftlik Neighborhood, Nicosia. The headquarters includes a 20-person capacity meeting room, an event hall, two therapy rooms of different sizes, a social adaptation center, and a presentation room.

### **Organizational Structure**

The Anti-Drug Commission, operating under the Prime Ministry, was established under the Prime Ministry on 3 September 2014 by the Council of Ministers' decision numbered 1670-2014.



Turkish Republic of  
Northern Cyprus Prime Ministry

# II. AIMS AND GOALS



Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's  
Anti-Drug Commission

## II. AIMS AND GOALS

### A) Basic Principles and Priorities

All activities of the Commission are based on the principles listed below and aligned with contemporary approaches to combating addiction, as well as national strategies:

- **Human-Centered Approach:** All services place the needs of the individuals at the center, with personalized evaluation and intervention methods as fundamentals. Throughout the intervention processes, individuals' dignity, rights and quality of life are prioritized.
- **Ethical Rules and Privacy:** In data collection, evaluation and intervention processes, the Commission strictly follows the ethical standards and protects the personal information of all applicants based on the confidentiality principles. Any kind of application that would lead to privacy violation is not allowed.
- **Knowledge-Driven Practices:** All policy, program and intervention are developed by taking current scientific data, research findings, and internationally recognized best-practice models into account. Objective data analysis and evidence-based methods form the foundation of all decision-making processes.
- **Interinstitutional Coordination:** Because combating drug use is a multidimensional field, strong, sustainable, and well-coordinated collaboration is maintained with relevant public institutions, civil society organizations, and academic units. Such coordination forms the foundation of effective service delivery.
- **Social Responsibility:** The commission regards carrying out preventive and protective activities that embody all segments of society as its responsibility. Increasing social awareness, protecting young people, and reducing risk factors are among the basic priorities.

### B) Strategic Goals

- Strengthening preventive efforts
- Expanding educational capacity
- Enhancing the availability of rehabilitation services
- Increasing international collaborations
- Improving the data-driven monitoring and evaluation infrastructure
- Strengthening the 1191 hotline and digital communication capacity



Turkish Republic of  
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# III. INFORMATION AND EVALUATIONS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES



Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's  
Anti-Drug Commission

# III. INFORMATION AND EVALUATIONS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES

## A) Financial Information

A budget of 35,000,000 TL was allocated to the Commission in 2025. The 2025 budget of the Commission was planned according to strategic priorities in order to enhance the effectiveness of the addiction combat, strengthen service delivery, and develop institutional capacity in a sustainable way. The percentage distribution of expenditure types by category is presented in Table 1.

**Table-1:** Current Budget Distribution Chart

Activity Category	Share (%)
<b>1. Psycho-Educational Processes, Client Support Programs, and Scientific Practices</b>	%73,5
<b>2. Area Utilization, Infrastructure, and Physical Service Expenses</b>	%13,7
<b>3. Communication and Awareness Activities</b>	%3,1
<b>4. Institutional Representation and Organizational Expenses</b>	%2,9
<b>5. Routine Operations and Consumable Expenses</b>	%6,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>%100</b>

### **Psycho-Educational Processes, Client Support Programs, and Scientific Practices (%73,5)**

This category constitutes the basic service production area of the Commission. It covers the activities that are carried out, scientifically standardized psycho-educational interventions, client support processes, field operations and confidential data management.

## **Scientific Programs and Psycho-Educational Processes**

- Implementation of evidence-based methods and models in the field of addiction
- Execution of school-based prevention programs
- Ensuring early contact with risk groups and developing protective–preventive practices
- Standardization of psycho-education modules delivered by specialists
- Regular supervision of field teams in accordance with scientific criteria
- Monitoring ethical guidelines and ensuring compliance throughout all processes

## **Supporting Social Reintegration Processes**

Our work on social reintegration aims to strengthen the clients' ties with the society during the rehabilitation process. These activities include the following:

- Regular administration of psychological assessment scales and urine toxicology tests to evaluate clients' progress
- Securely storing the test results and other personal information in databases in accordance with ethical principles
- Covering the annual costs of secure client-tracking software such as Bibapsoft
- Protecting data security, access protocols, and digital ethical standards
- Providing support for clients' basic needs (food, water, transportation, and small social-support items needed during workshop days, etc.) throughout the process

## **Monitoring Clients, Testing Practices and Ethical Record System**

All the evaluation and monitoring processes of the Commission for the clients are conducted with utmost care in accordance with scientific principles, ethical standards and confidential data management principles. In this respect:

- In order to objectively monitor the clients' progress, psychological assessment scales and urine toxicology tests are administered on a regular basis.
- All test results and personal content data are stored in secure databases to which access is restricted and ethical rules apply.

- To ensure that all monitoring processes are carried out in a holistic and systematic way, the annual licensing costs of secure client-tracking software such as Bibapsoft are covered, and the technological infrastructure is regularly updated.
- In order to protect data security, access protocols, digital ethical standards, and authorization mechanisms are implemented with diligence.
- In order to support the psychosocial well-being of the clients, a holistic support mechanism is provided by meeting their basic needs such as food, water, transportation, and small social support items required during workshop activities throughout the process.
- 1191 is the professional counseling and referral hotline of the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission, ensuring uninterrupted communication with the public and operating actively seven days a week throughout the year. Its primary aim is to establish rapid contact with individuals at risk of addiction, their families, and educational institutions, and to provide accurate guidance.

The processes covered by the 1191 hotline:

- Immediate Psychosocial Support

Those who call during moments of crisis are regulated emotionally and provided with accurate information. These ensure the establishment of confidential communication. All consultations are conducted on the basis of confidentiality within ethical principles.

- Giving Information on Addiction

Scientific-based guidance is provided on the topics of early warning signs, risky behaviors, behavioral addictions and substance use.

- Referral to Specialists and Centers

When necessary, callers are directed to Commission members and relevant institutions in a controlled and systematic manner.

- Support for Families

Families are presented with appropriate approaches for responding to the risky behaviors they observe, along with professional action plans.

- Data Analysis and Societal Early-Warning System

The calls received by 1191 are analyzed using completely anonymized data.

These analyses provide early warning about the following topics:

- Identifying high-risk areas
- Change trends across age groups
- School-based risk concentrations
- Increases in family applications

This data plays a crucial role in planning the Commission’s scientific programs.

- Ethical and Confidential Record System

The calls received by 1191 are recorded on confidential infrastructure that excludes all personal data. This record system enables the Commission to:

- Plan scientific programs
- Do field work
- Visit schools
- Analyze risky areas
- Social Accessibility.
- Toplumsal erişilebilirlik

Line 1191 is completely free of charge and represents a confidential application and support channel to which citizens of all age groups can access. It is the fastest contact point of society in combatting addiction.

## **Infrastructure and Physical Service Expenses (%13,7)**

This category embodies the physical and technical expenditures put in order to protect the safe working environment and sustain service delivery:

- Rental costs of the service areas
- Physical arrangements for new units
- Camera and security systems
- Computers, office equipment, printers, and technical equipment
- Maintenance and repair activities aimed at increasing the functionality of the areas
- Physical arrangements ensuring the safety of both staff and visitors

## **Communication and Awareness Activities (%3,1)**

Include the activities carried out in order to raise public awareness and reach out to risk groups:

- Preparing content for social media
- Activities and meetings to inform the public
- Production of printed and digital awareness materials
- Public service announcements and media communication processes

## **Institutional Representation and Organizational Expenses (%2,9)**

National meetings and workshops,

- Travel and activity expenses of the teams representing the Commission
- Protocol organizations and institutional cooperation processes
- Program arrangements and inter-institutional coordination activities.

## **Routine Operations and Consumable Expenses (%6,8)**

It covers the basic expenses that are regularly met to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of the institutional operations:

- Energy and water expenses
- Cleaning services
- Consumable materials
- Routine in-office consumable products

## **B) TRAINING AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

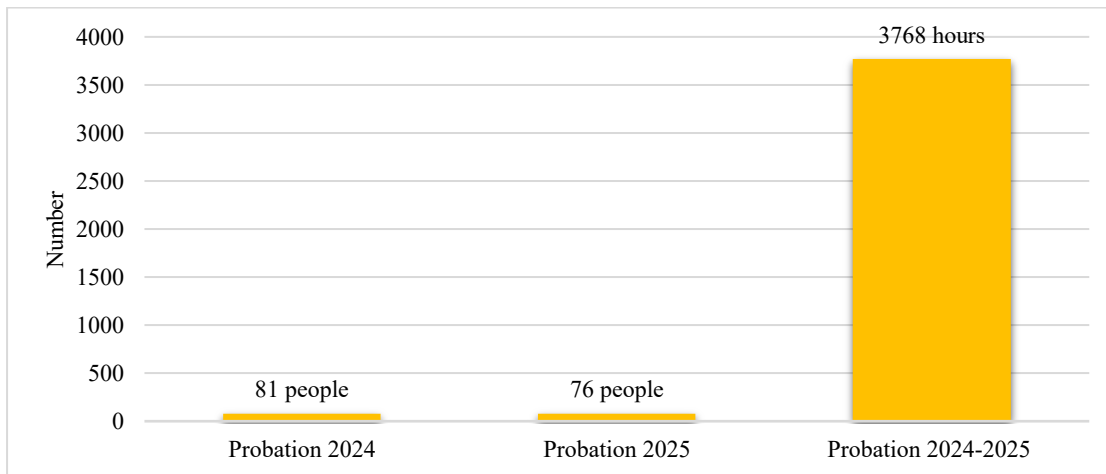
The Commission carried out training and awareness activities targeting various segments of society throughout 2025 in a systematic and multi-dimensional manner. In this context;

- Awareness training for schools, families, public personnel, military units, and risk groups were carried out according to a planned schedule, and the level of protective and preventive awareness in the field of addiction was strengthened.
- Psychosocial training modules covering types of addiction, early warning signs, and healthy coping skills have been developed and delivered by specialists.
- To strengthen academic cooperation in combating addiction, joint working programs have been carried out with universities, supporting the integration of scientific knowledge with field practices.

These efforts ensured that the Commission’s education-focused approach reached all segments of society and enhanced the effectiveness of preventive policies.

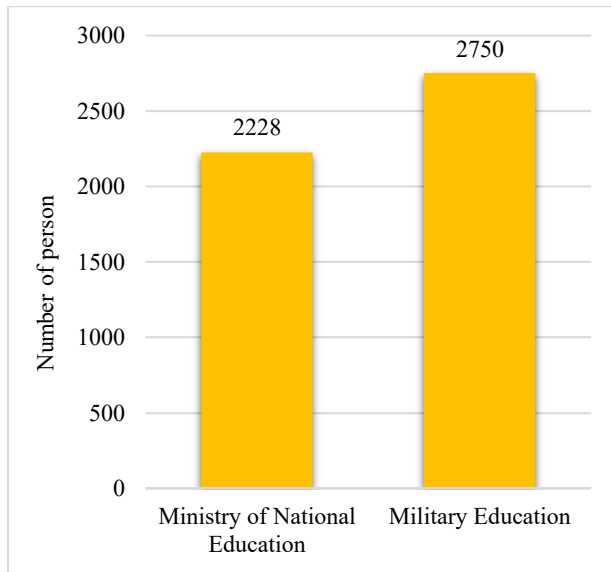
## Probation and Educational Programs

**Graph-1:** Probation and Educational Programs - 2024–2025 Data



Within the scope of probation, 81 individuals in 2024 and 76 individuals in 2025 participated in the program. Thus, the total of these two years reached 157 participants. Each participant received regular monthly support sessions of two hours, corresponding to a total workload of 3,768 hours across the two years. These figures demonstrate that the program has been carried out in a comprehensive and systematic manner throughout the period. The trainings are delivered by Prof. Dr. Kültegin Ögel, an expert in the field, and Specialist Clinical Psychologist Melike Şimşek.

**Graph-2:** Probation and Educational Programs - Trainings delivered in 2025



Through the awareness trainings carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, a total of 2,228 students and parents were reached in 2025. This number shows the potential of these programs in reaching especially the school age young people.

The training provided to 2,750 soldiers in 2025 constitutes an important area of work, covering a large segment of the young adult population.

These two tables show that over the course of two years, the Commission has established a broad protective framework by reaching both individuals involved in judicial processes and student–young adult groups. The diversity of the trainings (schools, universities, military units, family programs) demonstrates that the work carried out for risk groups is extensive and multidimensional.

### **Motivational Interviewing (MI) Techniques Training**

Within the scope of work carried out with individuals at risk of substance use, training on Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques has been provided to field workers, psychologists, and social workers in order to strengthen clients' intrinsic motivation for change and to manage client resistance effectively. The trainings are conducted by Prof. Dr. Kültegin Ögel and Clinical Psychologist Melike Şimşek, and the training–supervision process is currently ongoing.

The trainings covered the core components of the Motivational Interviewing approach, including structuring change talk, managing resistance, goal setting, client-centered communication, and brief intervention techniques. Thanks to this comprehensive training process, the Commission's capacity for application evaluation and its institutional competence in ensuring accurate and timely client referrals have been significantly strengthened.

### **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Techniques Training**

Throughout the year, the members of the Commission participated in more than 80 hours of CBT-focused training and workshops.

This study provided:

- Therapists with up-to-date, evidence-based methods
- Strengthened preventive practices for youth and families
- Risky behaviors to be identified at an early stage r.

CBT-based approaches are among the most effective methods in addiction-prevention programs. The Commission has become the first official institution to embed this approach at an institutional level in TRNC.

Addiction Prevention Trainings in TRNC;

- Systemic and CBT-Based Trainings
  - Programs were delivered for families, teachers, healthcare personnel, and youth workers.
- Trainings at Schools
  - Awareness and protective behavior trainings were provided in secondary schools.
  - Youth-specific training content was prepared.
- Private Sector Trainings
  - Trainings were delivered to adults working in various sectors.
  - Early warning signs and referral mechanisms within workplaces were explained.

## **Rehabilitation, Consultation and Social Adaptation**

- Individual and family counselling
- Vocational and skills-building workshops
- Social Reintegration Center activities
- Handcraft production and exhibition support
- Referral to treatment and follow-up programs

Under this heading, it was aimed to empower individuals and families affected by substance use, support their reintegration into society, and increase their access to support mechanisms.

### **Neighborhood Mothers Project**

Within the scope of this project designed for voluntary women living in neighborhoods, they received training on recognizing early risk signs, strengthening family communication, identifying critical behaviors related to substance use in children and young people, and making proper referrals.

The neighborhood mothers worked in coordination with the Commission to support families at risk, guide them to the helpline, and strengthen the social reintegration mechanism. This model has made a significant contribution to expanding the community-based protection network.

## **Scientific, International, and Institutional Collaborations**

### **ICODAAS 2025 – International Scientific Conference**

The Commission hosted ICODAAS 2025 – the International Conference on Drug Use and Addiction Studies, bringing together leading experts from the United States and Germany.

Some of the participants included:

- Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis, USA
- Prof. Dr. Eva Hoch, Germany
- COL Marisol Castaneto, USA
- Dr. Kayla Ellefsen, USA

- Dr. Erin Spargo, USA
- Prof. Dr. Kültegin Ögel, Türkiye
- Clinical Psychologist Melike Şimşek, Türkiye

Through this organization, the international visibility of TRNC has increased; scientific collaborations have expanded, and the Commission's work has begun to be followed on a global scale.

During the same period, Commission specialists delivered information directly to the public and communicated scientific knowledge in an accessible manner on TV programs.

### **Academic and Clinical Supervision**

- Supervision program focused on systemic approaches and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) that lasted for a year was implemented.
- With this support, field services quality has been strengthened significantly.
- Throughout the supervision process, case analysis, assessment of family dynamics, risk management, and the enhancement of professional resilience among field workers have been targeted to be increased..

### **International Representation**

The Commission has represented TRNC through formal presentations at various scientific meetings. Through such presentations, TRNC's scientific approach has gained visibility on an international scale, and our country's attitude and policies towards combating addiction have been introduced to a global audience.

### **ESPAD - Scientific Book Preparation**

- Thanks to the implementation of ESPAD, TRNC has obtained data that is simultaneous with and comparable to Europe's most comprehensive youth data system.
- The Commission completed the TRNC section of ESPAD in accordance with international standards and made preparations for its publication as an online book.

Thanks to these:

- TRNC has achieved a shared data standard with Europe,
- Substance use trends among young people have become trackable, and
- Reliable data use in policy-making has been strengthened.

The students who participated in ESPAD research were 15 and 16 years old. Before the study, the necessary approvals were taken from the Ministry of Education, the schools where the study was conducted were informed in writing and institutional permissions were secured. The parents of underage participants were informed in detail about the purpose, scope, confidentiality principles, and voluntary nature of the research. After obtaining written parental consent, the students were informed and participated based on their own will. All responses were recorded anonymously, and no individual information was reported.

### **National Scientific Panel – Participants and Content**

At the special scientific panel organized by the Commission, numerous academics and institutional representatives specializing in addiction, toxicology, forensic sciences, public health, psychiatry, and public safety came together. The panel was an important meeting that strengthened TRNC's multidimensional approach to combating addiction.

Speakers who participated in this panel included:

Prof. Dr. Kültegin Ögel (Psychiatrist); Prof. Dr. Bülent Çaplı; Prof. Dr. Nebile Dağlıoğlu (Ankara University, Forensic Toxicology); Prof. Dr. Kaya Süer (Infectious Diseases); Prof. Dr. Mustafa Necmi İlhan (Gazi University, Public Health); Prof. Dr. Serap Annette Akgür (Ege University, Addiction Toxicology); Prof. Dr. Elif Gökçearsan (Ankara University, Social Work); Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sertaç Ak (Hacettepe University, Psychiatry – Forensic Medicine); Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şeref Can Gürel (Hacettepe University, Mental Health); Assoc. Prof. Dr. İsmail Volkan Şahiner (Mental Health); Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şafak Yalçın Şahiner (Ankara University, Mental Health); Asst. Prof. Dr. Sevcan Kılıç Akıncı (Ankara University, Forensic Sciences); Dr. Zafer Bekiroğulları (President of CBPis); Dr. Ömer Kardaş (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry); Clinical Psychologist Irmak Çavuşoğlu Kanbur (Vice President of CBPis); Murat Sarıgüzel (Turkish Police Academy, 2nd Degree Police Chief); Gazi Levent Kurtoğlu (Head of Department of Smuggling Intelligence, Operation and Data Collection); Clinical Psychologist Melike Şimşek; Erdem Koç (1st Degree Police Chief); Teyfide Tecel Hatipoğlu (President, Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission).

## **Data Analysis, Testing Services, and Monitoring**

- A data pool was developed based on substance types.
- Risk profiles were created using test results.
- Statistical reporting was carried out regularly.

Before the tests were administered, participants were informed about the purpose, scope, and limits of data use; all samples were processed only for evaluation and referral purposes. The results were reported anonymously, and no individual identity information was associated with the data.

### **ESPAD – Simultaneous Data Collection with Europe**

The research was conducted during the same period and with the same technical standards as in European countries. Thanks to this, the prevalence of substance use, protective and risk factors, and patterns of social behaviour were measured for the first time in such a precise and comparable way.

### **Preparations for the General Population Survey**

The scientific infrastructure for a national study to measure substance use tendencies in the general population of TRNC has begun to be established. In this scope, preparations related to the question sets, sampling structure, data collection methods, and ethical approval processes have been initiated. While preparing the methodology of the study, participant rights, informed consent, data protection principles, and the framework of voluntary participation were taken as the basis. The anonymous recording of all responses, the protection of personal information, and unbiased data analysis will be ensured throughout the whole process.

### **Urine Screenings**

- For individuals who applied to the Commission and those referred by relevant institutions, toxicology urine tests were administered
- The tests were classified according to the types of substances used.

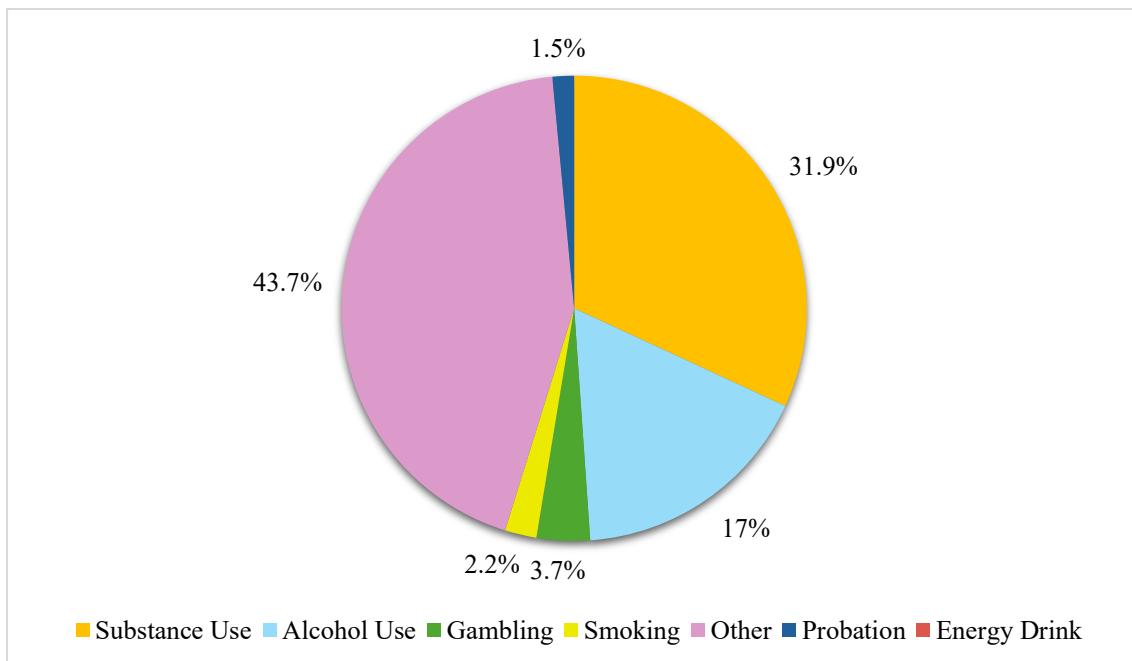
- The results were analyzed based on number of individuals, gender, age group, and substance type.
- The percentage distributions obtained were used to identify high-risk groups and to strengthen decisions related to referrals for treatment.

## Media, Communication, and 1191 Consultation and Support Line

- Social media campaigns
- Press releases
- Referral and counselling records from 1191 Consultation and Support Line
- Prevention services general website: <https://kktconleme.org>

### 1191 Consultation and Support Line Data (2024–2025)

**Graph-3:** Call Topics Distribution to the 1191 Consultation and Support Line – 2024



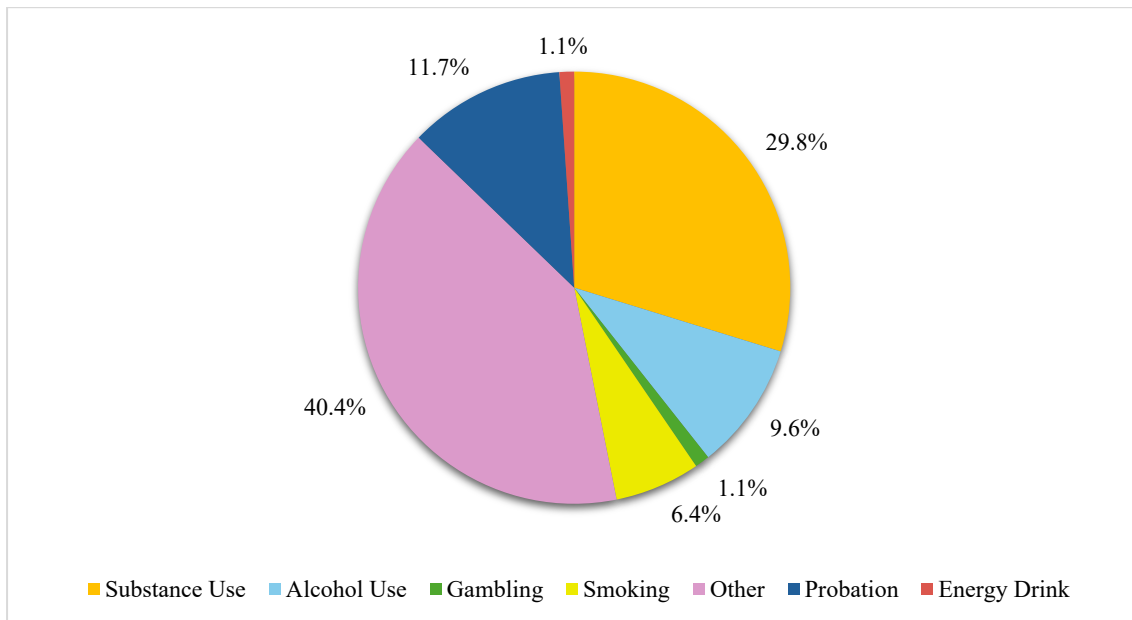
A total of 135 calls were placed in 2024. It can be seen that the “Other” category stands out with the highest percentage of 43.7 when the call topics are examined. This category includes the topics such as general information demands, referral needs, consultation application, as well as the ones that could not be classified under a specific heading. Substance Use topic ranks the second with a percentage of 31.9 and it accounts for an essential part of the

calls received throughout the year. This is followed by Alcohol Use with a percentage of 17.0, a rate that indicates a noteworthy demand for information and support.

Among other reasons for calls are Gambling (3.7%), Smoking (2.2%), and Probation (1.5%), which have much lower rates. About Energy Drink Addiction, however, there were no applications to be recorded.

Overall, the assessment indicates that the calls received throughout 2024 were largely concentrated in the “Other” and Substance Use categories, demonstrating that callers had a wide range of information and support needs.

**Graph-4:** Call Topics Distribution to the 1191 Consultation and Support Line – 2025



There were 94 calls in 2025. When the percentage distribution of the call topics was examined, it is clear that the Other category constituted the largest share during the year, at 40.4%. This category includes general information requests, consultation applications, and some other referral needs that could not be classified under a specific category.

Substance use applications still rank the second, with a percentage of 29.8%. This proportion signifies that information and support requests about substance use continue to be an essential reason for calling the line.

Compared to the previous year, the most notable increase is seen in the Probation category at 11.7%. This increase indicates that processes and referrals carried out in coordination with relevant institutions became more prominent in 2025.

At 9.6%, the Alcohol Use category shows a decrease compared to 2024 whereas the Smoking category, at 6.4%, shows an increase when compared to the previous year. The Gambling and Energy Drink Addiction categories account for 1.1% each. It should be noted that the Energy Drink Addiction category is particularly significant as it was recorded for the first time in 2025.

An overall evaluation shows that the 2025 call distribution exhibits a more balanced structure when compared to that of 2024, with noticeable increases in the Probation and Smoking categories. This situation indicates that the support request areas have diversified and some other topics have been more noteworthy over the course of the year.

The graphs shared above illustrate the percentage distribution of calls received by the 1191 Alo Support Line by topic in 2024 and 2025, and enable the visual comparison of the application trends between these two years. When the data is examined in general, it shows a decrease in the total number of calls from 2024 to 2025 (135 → 94); however, the distribution in 2025 appears more distinct and better categorized in terms of topics.

The change between the two years by call reasons emerges as:

- **Substance Use: 43 → 28**

A notable decrease is observed in 2025.

- **Alcohol Use: 23 → 9**

A significant decline in requests for information and support is evident.

- **Other Category: 59 → 38**

Although it remains the largest category proportionally, it shows a decline parallel to the overall decrease in total calls.

- **Probation: 2 → 11**

The most striking increase is observed in this category, which became more prominent in 2025.

- **Smoking: 3 → 6**

An increase in applications related to this topic is observed.

- **Energy Drink Addiction: 0 → 1**

This topic was recorded for the first time in 2025.

- **Gambling: 5 → 1**

A notable decrease is observed in the applications.

With a general look, the year 2024 has higher application volume with the most significant calling reasons being “Other” and “Substance Use”. In contrast, although there is a lower number of applications, 2025 stands out as a year in which topics diversified and the distribution across categories were more balanced. In particular, the increases observed in the Probation and Smoking categories indicate a higher demand for support or information in these areas in 2025.

### Online Publication Platform

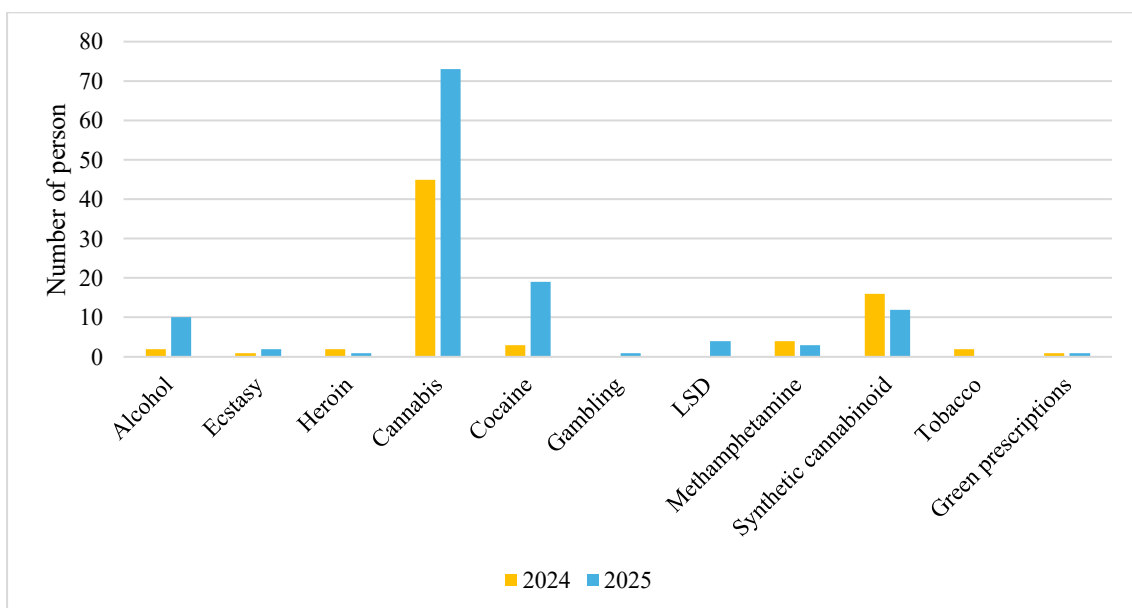
A new digital platform was set up where scientific content related to addiction is published. This platform:

- Provides easy access to information for the public,
- Provides publication space for the academicians,
- Strengthens the transparency of the Commission’s work.

## Statistical Evaluation

### Comparison of Substance Preference (2024–2025)

**Graph-5:** Changes in Substance Preferences Between 2024 and 2025



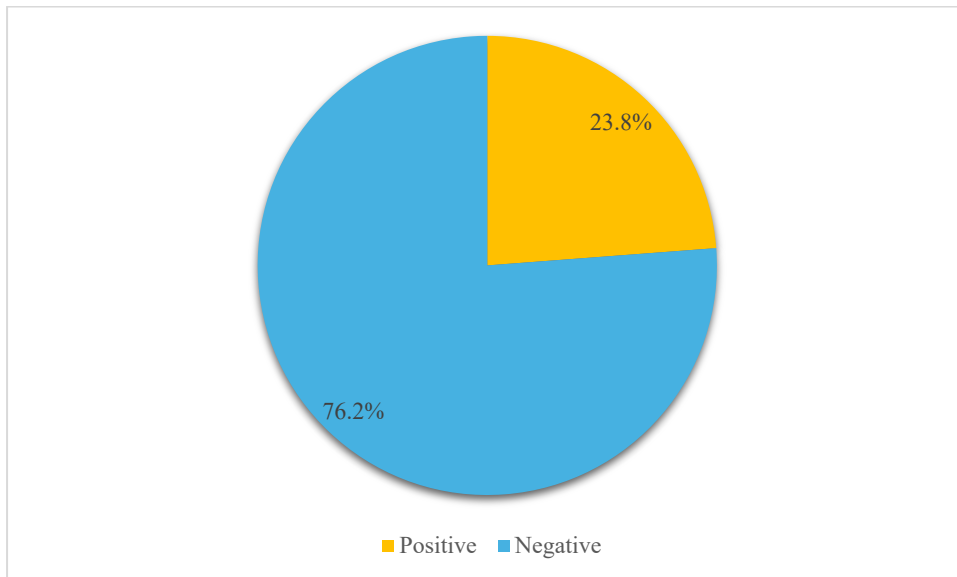
This graph illustrates the numerical change in the substances preferred by the people who applied to the Bibapsoft system in 2024 and 2025. There are two separate columns for each substance:

- 1. Increase in Cannabis Use:** The most apparent increase shown in the graph is observed in cannabis use. While 45 individuals used cannabis in 2024, this number rose to 73 in 2025. This increase indicates that cannabis use became more dominant among applications.
- 2. Increase in Cocaine Use:** There is also a notable rise in cocaine use. While 3 individuals used cocaine in 2024, this number increased to 19 in 2025. The fact that the blue bar is significantly higher than the orange bar in the graph clearly illustrates this difference.
- 3. Alcohol Use:** Whereas the number of individuals using alcohol was 2 in 2024, it became 10 in 2025. This increase is clearly visible in the graph.
- 4. Emergence of LSD in 2025:** While there was no LSD use in the 2024 data, it can be seen that 4 individuals used LSD in 2025. Therefore, only the blue bar appears for this substance.
- 5. Synthetic Cannabinoids and Methamphetamine:** There is a slight decrease in synthetic cannabinoid use compared to 2024 (16 → 12). A small decline is also observed in methamphetamine use (4 → 3). In these substances, the orange bar is higher than the blue bar.
- 6. Other Substances:** There are no major changes for substances such as heroin, green-prescription drugs, and tobacco. As the numbers are low, the bars are close to each other.

Overall, the graph shows that cannabis, cocaine, and alcohol use increased among applications in 2025, while there were slight decreases in some other substances.

## Statistical Distribution of Urine Screening Results (2024–2025)

**Graph-6:** Statistical Distribution of Urine Screening Results (2024–2025)



The graph shows the distribution of results for individuals who were referred to the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission by relevant institutions and underwent urine toxicology testing between 2024 and 2025. According to the statistical distribution, 76.2% of those who underwent the test tested negative, meaning that there was no trace of narcotic substances in the urine samples. These rates indicate the general trend of substance use among referred individuals. While the majority tested negative, the presence of a group with positive results highlights the importance of intervention, monitoring, and rehabilitation processes.

## Scope of Tender No. 082/2025 – Implementation Process and Outputs

### Scope of Tender No 082/2025

NORTHERN CYPRUS PRIME MINISTER’S ANTI-DRUG COMMISSION

Tender No: 082/2025

Procurement of Services Based on Cognitive and Systemic Approaches 2025–2026–2027

Implementation Report

## **ANNEX–1: SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Within the scope of this tender, the contractor is expected to fully deliver the following services:

### **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Modules**

- Organizing at least 120 hours of CBT workshops

### **Book Writing and Publication**

- Completing all necessary preparations in order to publish the Anti-Drug Commission’s ESPAD report as an online book

### **2025/2026 Panel and Conference Organization**

- Organizing conferences with the participation of international experts
- Developing content and manage preparatory processes
- Converting presentations into reports and turning them into online academic publications

### **Media Program Preparation and Presentation**

- Preparing and presenting a TV program aimed at introducing the Commission
- Ensuring the continuity of the “Anti-Drug Warriors” program

### **Academic and Clinical Supervision**

- Providing at least 120 hours of systemic and CBT-based academic and clinical supervision within six months (online or in person)

### **International Academic Representation**

- Delivering at least one presentation on behalf of the Commission at an international academic conference and managing all related preparations

### **Scientific Research**

- Conducting scientific research on narcotic drugs across the TRNC
- Making preparations for presentations and online publications during 2025–2026

### **Drug Prevention Trainings in the TRNC**

- Conducting awareness-raising activities through systemic and CBT-based training programs

### **Client Acceptance and Psychological Services at the Commission**

- Providing face to face or online client acceptance sessions two afternoons every week
- Finalizing the schedule with the Commission at least one week in advance

### **General Population Surveys**

- Making preparations for data collection on the use of addictive substances across the TRNC

### **Education Programs at Schools**

- Giving addiction prevention and awareness training to middle and high school students
- Organizing addiction and sexuality education programs for families

### **Private Sector Trainings**

- Providing addiction awareness training for managers and employees

### **Trainings at Universities**

- Giving addiction awareness training for university students

### **Establishment of Online Publication Platforms**

- Establishing online scientific journal platforms related to addiction
- Preparing an online conference journal to publish the Commission's conference papers

### **Legal Regulation Studies**

- Doing preparatory work on addiction education before a license
- Developing regulatory proposals for individuals facing legal issues due to substance use

Tender No. 082/2025, which is conducted by the Commission, has been prepared with the aim of providing services that are specialized, scientifically productive, and internationally competent in the field of combating addiction.

The contractor of the tender, Dr. Zafer Bekiroğulları Psychological Services LTD., has implemented a comprehensive and versatile process in both academic and clinical fields, and significantly took the Commission's institutional capacity to the next level.

This report presents all activities completed within the scope of the tender in detail and demonstrates that the process is continuing smoothly toward 2026.

## **Implementation Areas of the Tender and Detailed Outcomes**

The following sections were completed in line with the services described in Annex–1 and they were fully implemented.

### **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Modules (120 Hours)**

#### **Implementation Process**

- A 128-hour CBT program was formed.
- The training progressions were in a modular structure:
  - Analysis of the thought–emotion–behavior cycle
  - Identification of triggers
  - Stages of behavioral experiments
  - Motivation enhancement techniques
  - Reduction of relapse risk
  - Family-focused CBT practices
- The trainings were supported by case analyses.
- Participants are Commission staff, psychologists, social service workers, and other relevant professionals.

#### **Result**

The CBT approach has been integrated into the Commission’s working structure and the quality of case interventions has been strengthened.

### **ESPAD Book Writing and Publication Process**

#### *Editorial and Authorship Team*

##### Editor:

Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis – USA

##### Authors:

- COL Marisol Castaneto, USA
- Dr. Kayla Ellefsen, USA
- Dr. Erin Spargo, USA
- Dr. Zafer Bekirogulları, TRNC

- Teyfide Tecel Hatipođlu, TRNC
- Melis Yađmur Minas, TRNC

### **Implementation Process**

- The transformation of ESPAD data into a scientific report has been completed.
- The English book has been scheduled for online publication in January 2026.
- The Turkish book will be published in the TRNC in February 2026.

### **Result**

This publication is the second youth data book of the TRNC aligned with European standards (the first one was also produced by the Commission).

## **2025–2026 Panel and International Conference Organization**

### Chair of the Scientific Committee:

Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis – USA

### Speakers:

- COL Marisol Castaneto, USA
- Dr. Kayla Ellefsen, USA
- Dr. Erin Spargo, USA
- Prof. Dr. Eva Hoch, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Kltegin gel, TRNC/Trkiye
- Prof. Dr. Mahmut erkez, TRNC
- Prof. Dr. Meryem Gvenir, TRNC
- Melike Őimsek, Trkiye

### **Implementation Process**

- The conference program was prepared, invitation processes were carried out, and academic planning was completed.
- The presentations were turned into scientific reports and were prepared for the 2026 online publication process.

### **Result**

The Commission has become visible in international science circles.

## **Preparation and Presentation of Media Programs**

### **“Anti-Drug Warriors” – BRT**

It was prepared and presented by Dr. Bekiroğulları weekly over the past two years. The program has become the most powerful platform with informative content on addiction-related issues aimed at the public.

### **“My Parents at School” – BRT**

It is a program aimed at strengthening family structures and protecting children. It was co-presented with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Azize Ummanel.

### **Result**

The Commission’s capacity to reach the public has expanded, and its education and awareness-raising activities have been strengthened.

## **Academic and Clinical Supervision (120 Hours)**

### **Implementation Process**

- In total, 124 hours of supervision were provided.
- The process integrated Systemic Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) models.
- Implementation focused on three primary objectives:
  - Case formulation
  - Analysis of family dynamics
  - Risk and crisis assessment

Both face-to-face and online supervision sessions were utilized.

### **Result**

Case management capacity improved significantly, and the overall quality of the Commission’s services increased.

## **International Academic Representation**

The Commission was represented by Dr. Bekiroğulları and his team at the following scientific meetings:

- ICEEPSY Barcelona – English presentation
- ICEEPSY Antalya – English presentation
- ICEEPSY Madrid – English presentation

Following the presentations, scientific workshops were organized for Commission staff.

### **Result**

TRNC has established a visible position within the international academic network in the field of addiction.

## **Scientific Research and ESPAD Processes**

### **Implementation**

- ESPAD activities were conducted under the supervision of Dr. Bekiroğulları.
- Full compliance with European Union protocols was ensured.
- All scientific content, data accuracy, and objectivity were developed based on methodological rigor and academic integrity.
- Results were generated solely from authorized, ethical, and verified data sources

### **Presentation and Publication**

- Initial presentations were delivered in Antalya.
- Turkish-language presentations will be delivered in the TRNC in 2026, with invited speakers from the USA and Germany.

## **Anti-Drug Trainings Across the TRNC**

### **Implementation Process**

- Systemic and CBT frameworks formed the structural basis of all trainings.
- Comprehensive programs were delivered for youth workers, teachers, families, and public personnel.
- Trainings included case analyses, role-play practices, and referral procedures.

### **Result**

A substantial increase in awareness was achieved across city centers and districts, accompanied by a rise in family applications.

## **Client Intake and Psychological Services to the Commission**

### **Implementation**

- Dr. Bekiroğulları provided on-site services at the Commission center twice weekly in the afternoons.
- Families reported high satisfaction levels, supported by Dr. Bekiroğulları's qualifications as the only specialist holding a master's degree in Systemic Therapy and formal undergraduate training in CBT in the TRNC.
- Referral, assessment, and individual therapy sessions were conducted regularly.

Prior to service delivery, all participants were informed about confidentiality principles, limits of data use, and voluntary participation rights. Participants retained the right to terminate sessions at any time. Personal information was protected in all records, and no identifying data were linked to individual files.

## **Preparing General Population Surveys**

### **Implementation**

- For wide-range surveys planned for 2026, the following preparatory components were completed:
  - Question sets
  - Methodology design
  - Ethical approval preparation
  - Data collection framework.

## **Addiction Awareness and Sexuality Education in Schools**

### **Implementation**

- Trainings were delivered in multiple middle and high schools.
- Programs were customized according to age groups.
- Parent-focused workshops were organized at the Commission facilities.

All participating schools were informed in advance, and required institutional permissions were obtained. Families of underage students were informed, participation was voluntary, and no personal data were recorded.

## **Result**

Family awareness increased, and students' ability to recognize early warning signs improved.

## **Private Sector Trainings**

### **Implementation**

- Workplace response protocols for substance-related incidents were introduced.
- Early detection models were presented to managers and employees.
- Trainings were delivered using sector-specific case studies.

## **Trainings at Universities**

Within the scope of addiction awareness programs, the following topics were addressed:

- The addiction cycle
- Trigger analysis
- Case analysis methodologies
- Cognitive processes leading to substance use
- Emotion regulation strategies
- Risk assessment in university settings
- Neurobiological foundations of addiction
- Trauma-related vulnerability
- Crisis intervention procedures
- Family role dynamics
- Evidence-based evaluation of lived experiences
- Recovery process assessment
- Support mechanism evaluation
- Early detection indicators
- Adaptation of CBT stages for higher education
- Family and environmental support analysis

All participants were informed in advance regarding the scope and objectives of the trainings. Participation was voluntary. No personal identifying data were recorded in any activity.

## **Establishment of Online Publishing Platforms**

### Journal of Drug Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment

- Established as a peer-reviewed international journal focusing on substance use disorders, treatment approaches, epidemiology, policy studies, and historical analysis.
- Modern publishing standards implemented, including plagiarism screening (iThenticate), DOI assignment, and ORCID integration.

### EHASS – Highlights from the Drug Abuse and Addiction Studies Sessions

- Developed as a dedicated academic outlet for Commission conference outputs.
- Modern publishing standards implemented, including plagiarism screening (iThenticate), DOI assignment, and ORCID integration.

## **Legislative Regulation Studies**

- A draft framework was prepared for pre-license informational training programs.
- Regulatory proposals were developed for individuals facing legal consequences related to substance use.

## **Overall Evaluation**

All services delivered under Tender No. 082/2025 were completed:

- On time
- In full
- In compliance with scientific standards
- Within internationally recognized quality frameworks.

As a result, the Commission's institutional capacity has been strengthened both scientifically and operationally. Services targeting youth, families, and professionals have expanded significantly.

All activities were conducted in accordance with participant rights, data security, voluntary participation principles, and scientific transparency.

## Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission– News Summary (2024–2025)

This document includes a chronological summary of the main news items related to the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission that could be identified from open sources during the year 2024.

- **14 April 2024 – Announcement of the Strategies Panel**

The TRNC Anti-Drug Strategies Panel was announced, scheduled for 15–17 April, followed by substance testing workshops on 18–19 April.

- **15 – 17 April 2024 – Panel Launch**

The panel commenced officially. Chairperson Teyfide Tecel Hatipoğlu delivered strategic statements.

[https://netkentuni.net/haberler/kktc-basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-davet-mektubu?utm\\_source](https://netkentuni.net/haberler/kktc-basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-davet-mektubu?utm_source)

- **18 – 19 April 2024 – Substance Testing Workshop**

A technical workshop on substance testing was organized with the participation of narcotics units.

[https://bati.ege.edu.tr/a-683288/kktc\\_basbakanlik\\_uyusturucu\\_ile\\_mucadele\\_stratejileri\\_toplantisi.html?utm\\_source](https://bati.ege.edu.tr/a-683288/kktc_basbakanlik_uyusturucu_ile_mucadele_stratejileri_toplantisi.html?utm_source)

- **29 May 2024 – Prime Minister's Statement**

Prime Minister Ünal Üstel emphasized the government's commitment to protecting youth from drugs.

- **22 August 2024 – Book Launch**

The book titled “Substance Abuse in Northern Cyprus: Trends, Risks, and Responses” was launched.

[https://haberkibris.com/basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-arafindan-hazirlanan-kitabin-tanitimi-yapilacak--1543-2024-08-20.html?utm\\_source](https://haberkibris.com/basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-arafindan-hazirlanan-kitabin-tanitimi-yapilacak--1543-2024-08-20.html?utm_source)

- **24 August 2024 – Public Data Shared**

Updated data on substance-related risks and interventions were shared with the public.

<https://www.kibrismanset.com/basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyondan-guncel-veriler-riskler-ve-mudahaleler>

- **1 October 2024 – Addiction Awareness Training**

Certification-based awareness training was conducted.

<https://www.kibrismanset.com/basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-bagimlilik-farkindalik-egitimi-duzenledi>

- **3 October 2024 – Presidential Reception**

President Ersin Tatar received Commission leadership and members.

<https://www.birkibris.com/cumhurbaskani-tatar-uyusturucuyla-mucadele-komisyonu-baskani-ve-uyelerini-kabul-etti>

- **21 October 2024 – Medi Foundation Protocol**

A cooperation protocol was signed with the Medi Foundation.

[https://www.kibrispostasi.com/c35-KIBRIS\\_HABERLERI/n537556-basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-ve-medi-foundation-protokol-imzaladi](https://www.kibrispostasi.com/c35-KIBRIS_HABERLERI/n537556-basbakanlik-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-ve-medi-foundation-protokol-imzaladi)

- **News of the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission in 2025**

This document contains a chronological summary of the main news related to the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission that could be identified from open sources during the year 2025.

- **1 April 2025 – Addiction Conference at EMU**
  - Event: Conference titled “A Multidisciplinary Perspective on Addiction”
  - Location: Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)
  - Organizers: EMU Directorate of Social and Cultural Activities and Medi Foundation
  - Contributors: Northern Cyprus Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission and EMU PDRAM
  - Content: A multidisciplinary approach to addiction from medical, psychological, and social perspectives

<https://www.noktakibris.com/kibris/daude-multidisipliner-acidan-bagimliliga-bakis-konferansi-gerceklestirildi>
  
- **7 May 2025 – Drug Awareness Seminar at CIU**
  - Event: Seminar titled “The Underlying Causes of Addiction and What Can Be Done for Prevention”
  - Location: Cyprus International University (CIU)
  - Organizer: CIU Child Development Club
  - Moderator: Prof. Dr. Çağla Gür
  - Speaker: Teyfide Tecel Hatipoğlu, Chair of the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission
  - Content: Causes of addiction, risks among children and adolescents, and preventive measures

<https://haberkibris.com/ukude-uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-semineri-duzenlendi-1037-2025-05-07.html>
  
- **26 June 2025 – International Day Against Drug Abuse and High School Student Survey**
  - A statement was made in observance of June 26, the International Day Against Drug Abuse.
  - In parallel with the European Union, a nationwide survey was conducted involving 3,901 10th-grade high school students.
  - Purpose: To identify young people’s substance use tendencies, as well as risk and protective factors.
  - It was announced that the collected data would be presented at an international scientific meeting in November.

<https://www.halkinsesikibris.com/genclerde-madde-bagimlilik-artiyor>

• **14 July 2025 – ESPAD 2024 Results and ICODAAS 2025**

- The ESPAD 2024 results were shared with the public.
- Data were announced on alcohol, cannabis, gambling, digital behaviors, and e-cigarette use among high school–aged youth.
- It was emphasized that the lifetime cannabis use rate in the TRNC is lower than the European average and South Cyprus (RoC).
- It was announced that the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister’s Anti-Drug Commission will host the ICODAAS 2025 conference, to be held on November 9–11.
- It was stated that the ESPAD results will be presented as a scientific paper at ICODAAS 2025.

<https://haberkibris.com/uyusturucu-ile-mucadele-komisyonu-espada-2024-sonuclarini-acikladi-1610-2025-07-14.html>

• **25 July 2025 – “Sustainable and Scientific System” Statements**

- Commission Chair Teyfide Tecel Hatipoğlu made a written statement.
- Goal: To establish a sustainable, evidence-based system that not only prevents addiction but also supports individuals’ reintegration into society after treatment.
- The Social Adaptation Center and rehabilitation activities were highlighted.
- Two major data collection studies were announced for 2026:
- A repetition of ESPAD 2025 (high school students aged 15–16)
- A general population study on substance addiction
- It was emphasized that by hosting ICODAAS 2025, the TRNC is progressing toward becoming a regional scientific hub.

<https://radyoguvan.gov.ct.tr/Sayfa/HaberDetay/9977>

• **30 July 2025 – “Addiction Turns into a Family Disease” Interview**

- A comprehensive interview was given to Gündem Kıbrıs.
- The Commission was described as a “first-step center” in addiction services.
- Core functions include referral to treatment, rehabilitation, education, and day programs at the Social Adaptation Center.
- It was emphasized that addiction gradually becomes a “family disease” and that families must actively participate in recovery processes.

<https://www.gundemkibris.com/bagimlilik-bir-aile-hastaligina-donusur>

- **31 July 2025 – Addiction Is Not a Shame, It Is a Disease” Message**

- Another interview was given to Gündem Kıbrıs.
- Addiction was emphasized as a treatable disease rather than a source of shame.
- The importance of families and educators being informed about addictive substances was highlighted.
- Social reintegration without stigmatization was underlined.

<https://www.gundemkibris.com/bagimlilik-bir-aile-hastaligina-donusur>

- **7 October 2025 – Warning on Cigarette Sales to Minors and ALO 1191 Call**

- The Chair of the Commission stated that reports had been received regarding the sale of cigarettes to individuals under 18 years old.
- It was emphasized that this situation poses a serious threat to children’s health and to the future of society.
- Call to citizens: The public was urged to report any sale of cigarettes to individuals under the age of 18 by calling the ALO 1191 hotline.
- It was emphasized that the ALO 1191 hotline serves as the Commission’s reporting and advisory line, enabling direct communication with the public.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that early use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes strengthens addiction and leads to serious health problems.

<https://tak.gov.ct.tr/haber-detay/hatipoglu-18-yas-alti-cocuklara-sigara-satisi-yapanlar-alo-1191-hattina-bildirilsin-07-10-2025>

- **Social Media and Other Visibility Throughout 2025**

- “Drug Combat Warriors” themed videos and awareness content were published on social media platforms.
- Various announcements and video materials related to ICODAAS 2025 were shared.
- The Commission’s visibility increased throughout the year across scientific platforms and digital media channels.



Turkish Republic of  
Northern Cyprus Prime Ministry

# IV. EVALUATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY



Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's  
Anti-Drug Commission

# IV) EVALUATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY

## A) Institutional Superiority

When the Commission's 2024–2025 activities are examined, several strengths stand out which include strengthened institutional structure, expanded training and field operations, and institutionalized science-based practices:

### **Institutionalization of a Scientific and Evidence-Based Working Culture**

- Regular delivery of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Systemic Approach trainings,
- Widespread application of Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques,
- Development of testing, screening, and statistical systems supporting data-driven policy formulation,

These practices significantly strengthen alignment with international standards.

### **Strengthening of National and International Collaborations**

- Hosting high-level scientific events such as ICODAAS 2025
- Ongoing academic collaborations with experts from the United States and Europe
- Implementation of ESPAD studies in compliance with international protocols

These efforts enhance the Commission's visibility and credibility.

### **Comprehensive Training and Awareness Programs**

- Multifaceted trainings for schools, universities, military units, public personnel, and families
- Expansion of large-scale awareness campaigns targeting educators, parents, administrators, and youth
- Continuous operation of the 1191 Hotline enabling direct public engagement,

These initiatives strengthen preventive approaches.

### **Structuring of Social Integration and Rehabilitation Efforts**

- Effective use of the Social Integration Center
- Regular individual and family counseling services
- Expansion of vocational and skills-based workshops.

These efforts demonstrate holistic psychosocial support development

### **Transparent and Secure Data Management**

- Use of anonymized data
- Secure storage of urine toxicology tests, Bibapsoft records, and 1191 hotline data
- Implementation of modern data protection protocols

These practices reflect strong ethical and scientific standards.

## **B) Weaknesses and Areas That Need Improvement**

Based on the analysis of the information and areas of implementation presented in the report, the challenges faced by the Commission are concentrated under the following headings:

- **Occasional Inter-Institutional Coordination Gaps**

Some unexpected delays in information flow and operational coordination limit service efficiency occasionally.

- **Societal Awareness and Resistance**

The persistence of stigmatizing attitudes toward addiction in certain segments of society occasionally limits the effective use of referral and support mechanisms

- **Technical Burden of Data Security Requirements**

- Anonymous data management
- Secure registration systems
- Digital infrastructure demands

These create increasing technical workload on the Commission.

- **Sustainability of Personnel and Infrastructure Resources**

The large-scale programs being implemented increasingly highlight the need to expand human resources and the number of specialists.

## **C) General Evaluation**

When the activities carried out between 2024 and 2025 are viewed as a whole, it becomes clear that the Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's Anti-Drug Commission has made strong progress in building its institutional capacity, standardizing evidence-based practices, and developing a multidimensional intervention model that reaches diverse segments of society.

From schools and universities to military units and public institutions, educational programs have expanded steadily. At the same time, social integration, counseling, and rehabilitation services have been delivered regularly and systematically. The introduction of data-driven testing, analysis, and monitoring systems has further strengthened the quality, consistency, and accountability of the Commission's work. Growing international cooperation, the hosting of scientific conferences, collaboration with respected experts, and active participation in Europe-wide studies such as ESPAD have also significantly increased the Commission's visibility and scientific credibility.

Alongside these achievements, several areas for improvement remain. Coordination challenges between institutions, financial and operational limitations, rising data security requirements, and pockets of societal resistance highlight the need for continued development to ensure even greater effectiveness and sustainability.

Nevertheless, the outcomes of the past two years clearly demonstrate that the Commission has embraced a holistic and forward-looking approach to combating addiction. Its commitment to continuous improvement and evidence-based service delivery has strengthened its operational foundation and prepared it well for the next phase.

Within this framework, the Commission is aligning its structure with both national strategies and international best practices, strengthening the institutional memory of the TRNC in the fight against addiction, and positioning itself as a policy-driven body that contributes

directly to societal well-being. The knowledge gained, programs implemented, and partnerships established provide a solid foundation for 2026 planning and signal strong potential for even greater impact in the coming period.

## **Conclusion and 2026 Planning**

As the Drug Prevention Commission, our plans for 2026—developed within the scope of scientific and international projects carried out to protect the health of our youth and the future of our society—reflect not only a one-year action plan but also the TRNC’s long-term direction in combating addiction.

### **Strategic Goals for 2026**

The fight against drugs in our country is a strategic priority not only in the field of health, but also in terms of social welfare, the education system, security policies, and international reputation. For this reason, every planned project constitutes a public investment that strengthens the TRNC’s determination and the country’s position on the global stage.

Our main objectives for 2026 are as follows:

- Opening new centers and strengthening existing services
- Expanding educational modules
- Developing and ensuring the sustainability of digital education and monitoring platforms
- Strengthening family support programs through a systemic approach
- Completing certification and accreditation processes in line with international standards
- Achieving fully data-driven policy development through ESPAD, general population surveys, and clinical data

These goals aim to permanently enhance both institutional capacity and the country’s ability to combat addiction.

### **Contributions to the Public Interest**

The projects to be implemented with the requested budget are not merely scientific activities; they are long-term investments that strengthen public health, social harmony, and the international reputation of the TRNC:

- **Securing the future of youth:** Through ESPAD and youth-focused research, the living conditions, risk factors, and protective factors affecting young people will be scientifically identified, generating robust data to guide education and health policies.
- **Public health and safety:** The adoption of scientific and evidence-based approaches will serve to protect not only individuals but also families and society as a whole; reductions in drug-related crime rates, lower health expenditures, and increased social harmony will directly strengthen the public interest.
- **Widespread education and awareness:** International conferences, online publication platforms, and school/university-based trainings will reach teachers, families, youth, and employees, creating a broad network of awareness and contributing to the formation of a more resilient societal protection framework.
- **International cooperation and prestige:** Conferences and panels featuring distinguished scientists from the United States and Europe will reflect the TRNC's determination and credibility, enhance the country's visibility on international scientific platforms, and expand cooperation networks.
- **Economic and social contribution:** Healthy generations mean lower health expenditures, a more productive workforce, and a safer social environment. This directly supports the efficient use of public resources, increased social welfare, and the country's long-term development.

In conclusion, the planned projects are not merely scientific studies; they are strategic steps in the public interest that reinforce societal health, security, prosperity, and the international standing of the TRNC.

## **2026 Scientific and International Project Package**

When the projects planned for 2026 are considered as a whole, they demonstrate that the Commission operates as a structure that both develops data-driven policies and works in full integration with international scientific networks.

Below is a summary of the key projects planned for 2026:

### **ESPAD 2026 Report and Book Writing (Reporting of ESPAD 2025 Data)**

- Scope: Analysis of ESPAD data collected in 2025 and publication as an internationally standardized scientific report and an online book.
- Objective: Strengthening the TRNC's capacity for synchronized and comparable reporting with Europe; to create a permanent reference source on substance use, risk behaviors, and protective factors among youth.

### **ESPAD 2026 Data Collection Process (New Cycle Start)**

- Scope: Nationwide data collection in the TRNC among students aged 15–16 in 2026, in full compliance with the ESPAD protocol.
- Objective: To ensure the TRNC's continued full participation in the European youth research system; to enable the planning of preventive policies and interventions for young people through regularly updated data.

### **Book Writing and Publication (Continuation of ESPAD 2026 Studies)**

- Scope: Maintaining editorial and publishing infrastructure to ensure that data collected within the ESPAD cycle continue to be published regularly in reports and books in subsequent years.
- Objective: To establish a sustainable, internationally referenced publication series based on youth data in the TRNC.

### **Status of Substance Use in Northern Cyprus – 2026 Annual Scientific Report**

- Scope: Annual scientific evaluation of substance use prevalence, types of addiction, risk factors, and existing intervention strategies across the TRNC (continuation of the 2023–2024 reports).
- Objective: To create an up-to-date, comparative, year-based reference document in the field of addiction, providing reliable information for the Commission's strategic planning and for the public.

### **General Population Surveys (Substance and Behavioral Addictions)**

- Scope: Large-scale field research covering all age and socioeconomic groups, focusing on substance use and behavioral addictions (internet, gaming, shopping, gambling, etc.).

- Objective: To strengthen the nationally lacking data base; to develop targeted prevention and intervention strategies by mapping risks; and to establish a scientific foundation enabling the TRNC to participate in international comparisons.

### **Organization of an International Conference (November 2025 – Reporting and Publication Process in 2026)**

- Scope: Organization, documentation, reporting, and transformation into online academic publications of the international conference held in November 2025.
- Objective: To strengthen scientific knowledge sharing in the field of addiction; to increase the TRNC’s international visibility together with experts from the USA and Europe.

### **January 2026 International Panel and Academic Publication Organization**

- Scope: Organization of a high-profile international panel in February 2026; publication of the panel outputs as a peer-reviewed academic book (Editor: Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis).
- Objective: To position the TRNC as a scientific center in the fight against addiction; to build a strong bridge between policymakers, academics, and practitioners through the panel.

### **Journal of Drug Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment (J-DUDPT) – Sustainability of the Scientific Journal**

- Scope: Continuation of regular publication of the journal operating with an international editorial board, double-blind peer review system, and DOI infrastructure; management of applications to international indexes.
- Objective: To institutionalize TRNC-based scientific publishing; to establish a regional scientific focal point in the field of addiction.

### **EHASS – Emanate: Highlights from the Drug Abuse and Addiction Studies Sessions Journal Sustainability**

- Scope: Ensuring the sustainability of the online journal publishing panel and academic meeting outputs; maintaining content flow and increasing international accessibility.
- Objective: To secure the lasting impact of scientific organizations organized by the Commission; to make the TRNC’s scientific legacy visible.

### **Systemic Analysis of Families Applying to the Commission and Scientific Reporting of Clinical Genograms**

- Scope: Analysis of family systems of individuals applying to the Commission across three generations; reporting of clinical genograms, attachment structures, and intergenerational trauma transmission.
- Objective: To scientifically reveal family dynamics underlying vulnerability to substance use; to produce targeted, individual- and family-specific intervention and policy recommendations.

### **Systemic Therapy Training and Year-Long Supervision Program for Commission Staff**

- Scope: Provision of systemic family therapy–based training and regular supervision for Commission personnel.
- Objective: To enhance case management skills, family work competence, and professional resilience of field specialists; to sustainably improve service quality.

### **Individual Systemic Counseling and Supervision Support for Commission Staff**

- Scope: One-to-one systemic counseling and supervision for counselors, psychologists, and field workers.
- Objective: To ensure sustainable service delivery without burnout among staff working with high-risk cases; to strengthen ethical and clinical decision-making processes.

### **CBT-Based Refresher Training Modules**

- Scope: Refresher modules for professionals previously trained in CBT, focusing on knowledge renewal, case-based practice, and updated techniques.
- Objective: To keep CBT practice in the field up to date; to standardize the quality of psychosocial services provided to the public.

### **Awareness and Empowerment Trainings for Middle and High School Students and Their Families**

- Scope: CBT-based psychoeducation programs on substance use, sexual health, peer pressure, and digital risks for students and parents in public and private schools.

- Objective: To enable adolescents and families to respond functionally when facing risks and to establish a sustainable preventive mental health culture in schools.

### **Trainings for University Students and Private Sector Employees**

- Scope: Awareness trainings in universities and the private sector on substance use, stress management, and preventive behaviors.
- Objective: To strengthen young adults and the working population against risky behaviors; to provide CBT- and systemic-approach-based skills.

### **Boarding House – Temporary Shelter and Social Integration Center (2026–2027)**

- Within the 2026 planning framework, it is planned to establish a Boarding House – Temporary Shelter and Social Integration Center for individuals who have become homeless due to substance addiction, have been rejected by their families, or require safe shelter during crisis periods..

This center will provide;

- Safe accommodation for individuals without housing due to drug and alcohol addiction
- Provision of basic needs (food, hygiene, clothing)
- Psychological first aid
- Referral to treatment
- Social integration activities
- Access to vocational skills programs.

The center will play a critical role in preventing individuals who are homeless during crisis periods from becoming involved in crime, engaging in increased risky behaviors, or losing access to treatment—thus serving an essential function for public safety and public health.

This structure will represent the first social protection model implemented in the field of substance addiction in the TRNC.

### **Protection-Oriented Institutional Framework and Project Development**

All of the Commission’s activities work together to create a strong, multi-layered safety net for children and young people. Rather than operating as isolated projects, each initiative

supports and strengthens the others, forming a continuous system that grows and adapts for the future.

The 1191 counseling hotline, the Bibapsoft data system, national surveys such as ESPAD, the Boarding House – Temporary Shelter and Social Integration Center, professional trainings in systemic and cognitive-behavioral approaches, school and university programs, legislative development efforts, and the online scientific publishing platform are all connected parts of the same protective network. Together, they ensure that prevention, support, research, education, and policy work hand in hand to better protect and empower young people.

Through this structure, particularly for children and young people:

- Children and young people are supported before they ever encounter substances, through school-based trainings and family-focused programs that help recognize early warning signs. Teachers and parents are guided with clear, practical steps on how to respond and intervene early.
- When risky behaviors begin to appear, the 1191 hotline and the Bibapsoft system make it possible to receive requests for help quickly. Children and young people are then guided without delay to the right treatment, psychological support, or social services, ensuring that no one is left waiting when help is needed.
- ESPAD and general population surveys help us understand where the greatest needs are — which age groups and regions are most affected, and which risk factors are rising. This allows resources to be directed where they can make the biggest difference for children and young people.
- For young people who are separated from their families, experiencing homelessness, or facing crisis, the Boarding House – Temporary Shelter and Social Integration Center offers a safe place to stay, immediate psychological support, and a pathway back into education, work, and community life. This helps prevent young people from being pushed into street life, crime, or harmful environments.
- Ongoing systemic and cognitive-behavioral trainings, supported by year-long supervision, strengthen the skills and confidence of professionals working directly with children and young people. This ensures higher-quality care in case management, family engagement, and crisis response.
- Through legislative development and online scientific publishing, the knowledge and successful practices built today are preserved within laws, institutions, and shared

learning systems. This protects progress over time and ensures that positive impact continues beyond individual projects or leadership changes.

Thanks to this holistic structure, each project implemented today not only produces outcomes for its specific year but also;

- Strengthens early warning, early intervention, and long-term monitoring mechanisms for children and young people
- Creates a protected and reinforced foundation upon which future projects can be built.

For this reason, the Commission's projects and systems function as a permanent protection framework aimed at safeguarding children and young people not only from today's risks but also from potential threats in the years to come.



Turkish Republic of  
Northern Cyprus Prime Ministry

# APPENDICE



Northern Cyprus Prime Minister's  
Anti-Drug Commission

# APPENDICE

## Photo Album of Trainings, Panels, and Field Activities



