

Dear Guests,

First I would like to welcome you all. Particularly I warmly welcome our foreign guests to Turkey. It's my privilege to inaugurate the EURAVON conference. I would like to congratulate the EURAVON's AYBU team and other partners from Turkey, Bulgaria, Cyprus and the Netherlands for the successful completion of this project.

Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU) is a research university. AYBU focuses on the teaching and emphasizes the research. Though we are a new university but our contribution through research and teaching to the society and industry is considerable. One of the major focus of our university's research is the transfer of the benefits of research to the society and industry. Therefore, our efforts are focusing on bringing together industry, society and university.

In order to encourage the research our university is providing best research possibilities both to its students and faculty members. These possibilities include, but not limited, to provide resources both financial and non-financial for the research. Additionally, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU) always strives to provide the environment, which is conducive for research, and other research related activities. Successful conduction of different ERASMUS and other international projects are a proof of our research capabilities and abilities.

Since one of the major focus of Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU) is its service towards the society therefore we as a university highly encourage and promote the volunteering initiatives. One such indicator is the inclusion of the community-focused voluntary work of our faculty members as one of the performance criteria for our faculty members.

Similarly, our university encourage the students to actively take part in the volunteering activities. There are different student clubs which are involved in the volunteering activities. We have a university co-ordinator which works as a rector advisor to co-ordinate the volunteering activities and other student related activities. Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU) not only encourage but also provides useful guidance and basic education about volunteering to its students through university's faculty members. Different faculties offer subjects which provide awareness and education about volunteering such as Corporate Social Responsibility.

EURAVON project of which AYBU is a co-ordinator is a bright example of the importance which we give to the volunteering related activities. EURAVON project through its mobility program provides an invaluable opportunity to the volunteers from different countries to come together and learn from each other experiences. Through the development of a toolkit for the volunteers it provides a learning platform for the volunteers to learn and enhance their volunteering experience.

I do not want to take much of your time. Therefore, once again I welcome you all and congratulate the EURAVON consortium for the successful completion of the project. Wishing you best for your future endeavours.