

Internal Quality Assurance Assessment Report (İKGDR-2023)

MiAK Architectural Education Accreditation - Quality Assessment Unit (MiAK-KDB)

(MiAK-MAK 2023 studies were examined through Articles 3.1.a, b, c, d of the Quality Assessment Unit Directive.)

3.1.a. MINUTES OF MiAK AND MiAK-MAK MEETINGS

Documents and reports regarding all studies of MIAK, including the accreditation process and results, are archived in accordance with the procedures determined by the "MIAK Archiving Directive".

3.1.b. ACCREDITATION DECISIONS

Visiting teams have been formed for fourteen programs that applied for accreditation in 2022. Institution visits, program evaluation processes and accreditation procedures were completed in 2023:

Table 1. 2023 Accreditation Decisions

ATILIM ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	3 Years
BAŞKENT ÜNİVERSİTESİ	%30 English	2 Years Supervised
BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ	English	6 Years Conditional
ÇANKAYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ	English	3 Years
DOKUZ EYLÜL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	6 Years
HALIÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	2 Years Supervised
İSTANBUL KÜLTÜR ÜNİVERSİTESİ	English	3 Years
İSTANBUL KÜLTÜR ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	6 Years Conditional
İSTANBUL MEDİPOL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	3 Years
KARADENİZ TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	6 Years Conditional
MİMAR SİNAN GÜZEL SANATLAR ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	6 Years
TED ÜNİVERSİTESİ	English	3 Years
TRAKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ	Turkish	3 Years

Applications were received from ten different institutions in the 2022 application period, and one institution was added from the previous period according to the 2023 Calendar. These institutions attended the Program Information Workshop and nine of them submitted their Self-Assessment Report. Two institutions that could not submit reports applied to MiAK-MAK for postponement to continue in the 2024 Calendar. Visiting teams of nine institutions were

formed, reports were delivered to the team members and the preliminary report stage was reached:

Table 2. Architecture programs that have reached the Preliminary Report Stage in the MiAK-MAK 2023 Accreditation Calendar

- İSTANBUL AREL ÜNİVERSİTESİ – Turkish
- DOĞU AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTESİ - English
- ABDULLAH GÜL ÜNİVERSİTESİ - English
- BALIKESİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ – Turkish
- ERCİYES ÜNİVERSİTESİ – Turkish
- ESKİŞEHİR TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ – Turkish
- İZMİR EKONOMİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ - English
- TOBB EKONOMİ VE TEKNOLOJİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ - %30 English
- YILDIZ TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ - %30 English

Since the MiAK accreditation processes spanned several periods and did not match the ÖSYM calendar, the MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar was rescheduled to be in line with the ÖSYM calendar and applications for the 2024 MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar were received in September 2023. Two institutions applied for the 2024 Calendar, and both institutions were shifted from the previous calendar. The accreditation processes of these institutions are planned to coincide with the ÖSYM Calendar and printed booklet. In addition to these institutions, an information workshop was held on December 16, 2023 for programs that want to apply to MiAK in the future. More than twenty programs participated in the open call workshop.

Table 3. Programs Applicants in the MiAK-MAK 2023 Accreditation Calendar

- YEDİTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ - English
- YILDIZ TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ - English
- AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTESİ - Turkish
- SAKARYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ – Turkish

3.1.c. EVALUATION PROCESS DOCUMENTS OF THE TWO PROGRAMS

The establishment of the MiAK Consistency Committee, whose working procedures have been determined in a multifaceted manner with the 2024 MiAK Consistency Committee Directive prepared in accordance with the MiAK-MAK 2023 Accreditation Processes Document, is important in preventing possible inconsistencies between accreditation decisions.

The "Visiting Team Result Reports" of two programs, one of which was accredited for "6 years" (Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Architecture Undergraduate Program) and the other for "2 years supervised" (Başkent University Architecture Undergraduate Program (30% English)) accreditation, were examined. MSGÜ Architecture Program was entitled to 6-year accreditation due to its accreditation experience, proper execution of preparations, large teaching staff, well-constructed training program and design studios, physical spaces that will contribute to the learning culture, and collaboration environments with other departments of the unit. It was deemed consistent within the framework of "MiAK-MAK Processes Document" and "MiAK-MAK Conditions Document". Başkent University Architecture Program is entitled to a 2-year accreditation due to the relatively low number of academic staff, elective courses that can be opened depending on part-time faculty members, the lack of adequate coverage of some subjects in the training program, not being able to present them in the information

packages, and the lack of adequate cooperation environments with other departments of the unit. It was deemed consistent within the framework of "MiAK-MAK Processes Document" and "MiAK-MAK Conditions Document".

3.1.d. ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

Annual Activity Report includes those sections: 1) Introduction; 2) Corporate Information; 3) MiAK and MiAK-MAK 2023 Studies and Activities; 4) Financial Situation of MiAK Association and MiAK Economic Enterprise; 5) Contains. The report can be viewed publicly on the MiAK Website.

EVALUATION

3.1.d (i) Compliance of MiAK activities with regulations and directives on issues such as institutional structure, sustainability, continuous improvement, participation, standards, reliability, training, transparency and archiving.

- Institutional structure: The General Assembly, which is the most authoritative decision-making body, consists of 82 members registered with MiAK as of 2023. The MiAK Association Board of Directors (7 members) and the Board of Auditors (3 members) are elected by the General Assembly. The Architectural Accreditation Board (MiAK-MAK) (7 members) has 5 members determined by MOBBİG, and 2 members determined by the Central Executive Board of the Chamber of Architects.

There are three members each in the MiAK-MAK Commissions (Quality Assessment Unit; Document Update Commission; Education Commission) and the MiAK Committees (Consistency Committee; Finance Committee; Objection Committee). Finally, in 2023, the MiAK Working Groups (International Studies Group 6 members; Press and Broadcast Communication Group 5 members) were established.

In addition to the MiAK and MiAK-MAK Members, the members of the commission, committee, and working group are determined from among the volunteers who respond to the calls made to the academicians and professionals who support MiAK-MAK with their work. Within the framework of the institutionalization efforts that started with the association and continued with the establishment of the MiAK Economic Enterprise, the "Architectural Education Accreditation Association (MiAK) Accreditation Studies Agreement" will enable the institutions and MiAK to continue their work under the legal guarantee was developed and completed.

- Sustainability: The 2-year "Quality Assessment Registration Certificate" received by MiAK as an Association on 17.11.2021 has been extended for two years until 17 May 2025 as a result of the evaluator meetings, studies and YÖKAK inspections following the application made on 09.06.2023. It is observed that the distribution of duties within the commissions, committees, and working groups within the MiAK Board of Directors and MiAK-MAK, strategic plan studies, program accreditations that are tied to the annual calendar and whose numbers do not decrease, and MiAK activities are carried out within the framework of the annual budget in accordance with the regulations and guidelines.

- Continuous Improvement: The “Internal Quality Assurance Assessment Report”, the first of which was prepared for 2022 and published on the Website and prepared for 2023, also serves to reflect continuous improvements.

The “Thematic Analysis Report”, which aims to determine strong and developmental aspects by examining the evaluations of the programs whose MiAK-MAK accreditation evaluations and decisions were finalized in 2022 and announced on the Website, through tables and graphs, has been prepared and published on the Website. Considering that this report will be used in the preparation of the programs, it would be positive to share the report every year. In addition to the “Thematic Analysis Report”, the “Objection Committee Directive” and the “Complaint, Objection, and Information Form” developed have also been published on the Website.

Among the “MiAK Working Groups” that contribute to the institutionalization and development of MiAK, the “International Working Group” is expected to contribute to internationalization. The application for membership to the “Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA)” is an important step towards the goal of providing international qualification to architecture programs in Turkey.

The development and updating of the website have ensured that it is published in English as well as Turkish. The “MiAK Press and Broadcast Communication Group” was established and the “MiAK Bulletin” was planned and started to be published digitally periodically. The MiAK Bulletin aims to ensure continuous communication with architecture and architectural education, environment, and components. The bulletin is planned to include news, announcements, short articles, explanations, and analyses regarding the interactions of MiAK with all its organs, MiAK-MAK, and also the components in the profession and education of architecture with MiAK.

- Participation: 3 meetings (“Architecture and Education Congress XII” / İYTE, İzmir; “MOBBİG 55” International Cyprus University, Lefkoşa; “MOBBİG 54” Firat University, Elazığ) were attended by MiAK stakeholders and presentations were made on behalf of MiAK.

New members are accepted to MiAK by the decision of the Board of Directors. In order to increase the number of program evaluators and observers, which are still at a sufficient level, for 2024 and the following years, an announcement was made by MiAK-MAK for evaluator and observer candidates in 2023; There is an “online” application opportunity through the website.

- Standards: MiAK and MiAK-MAK continue to document and secure their independence and their own independent standards with the legislation they are rapidly creating. It is known that the legislation should ensure that programs continue their self-assessment studies while preserving their own originality, as well as MiAK’s own independence.

Some arrangements have been made to comply with external determinants. Due to the MiAK accreditation processes being spread over several periods and not being compatible with the ÖSYM calendar, the MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar has been re-planned to be compatible with the ÖSYM calendar, and applications for the 2024 MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar were received in September 2023.

- Reliability: The “Architectural Education Accreditation Association (MiAK) Ethical Rules Document”, which was accepted by the decision of the MiAK Board of Directors on 15.02.2021, includes “Conflict of Interest”, “MiAK Ethical Rules”, and “MiAK Privacy and Ethical Rules Statement”. The “MiAK Privacy and Ethical Rules Statement” is signed by individuals who voluntarily take part in program evaluations and have adopted an ethical approach.

The establishment of the MiAK Consistency Committee, whose working procedures are determined in a multifaceted way with the MiAK Consistency Committee Directive (2024), is important in terms of increasing the effectiveness of preventing possible inconsistencies between accreditation decisions and therefore reliability.

- Education: “Program Information Workshop” and “Visiting Team Workshop” are being held; 2 MiAK-MAK Program Information Workshops; 2 MiAK-MAK Visiting Team (team members and observers) Information Workshops were held in 2023. Since the MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar applications were received in September 2023, more than twenty programs participated in the Information Workshop held on December 16, 2023, upon the open call made for programs that want to apply to MiAK in the future periods.
- Transparency: It is seen that the principle of conducting all studies openly to stakeholders and the public through written documents is given importance and is followed.
- Archiving: Documents and reports related to all studies of MiAK, including the accreditation process and results, are archived according to the procedures determined by the “MiAK Archiving Directive”.

3.1.d (ii) Strengths and development areas

Strengths:

- a) Being an independent, impartial, long-standing accreditation organization formed through the joint efforts of architecture educators;
- b) Encouraging architecture departments to engage in external peer evaluation for quality culture and quality assurance;
- c) Being competent to meet the increasing external peer evaluation requests and applications for accreditation of architecture programs;
- d) Being able to provide a sufficient number of trained evaluators from different architecture schools for program accreditation processes;
- e) Being run by MiAK bodies with experienced and impartial staff;

- f) Having strong communication and cooperation with the “Chamber of Architects” and the “Architecture Schools Department Heads Communication Group (MOBBİG)” representing all architecture departments;
- g) The authority to carry out accreditation activities has been extended by YÖKAK for a second time, for two years between 17.11.2023 and 17.05.2025.

Aspects Open to Development:

- a) Studies can be conducted on aspects open to development and/or improvement by evaluating the experiences of student participation in accreditation processes to date.
- b) Considering the increasing number of applications in the future, it is a matter to be considered to meet the efforts of the evaluators who are currently training and taking part in intensive architectural education accreditation visit studies based on dedication.
- c) It is understood that thematic analysis reports will continue to develop to benefit all architectural education programs.
- d) The application for membership to the “Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA)” is a step taken towards the development of MİAK in line with its internationalization goal and the goal of providing international qualification to architecture programs in Turkey.
- e) The income of MİAK Association and MİAK Economic Enterprise is limited to membership entrance fees, annual membership dues, and program accreditation payments. It can be considered that existing practices and developments can be sustained with increases that can be made under the current economic conditions; however, new economic resources may be required for new developments.

3.1.d (iii) Improvement efforts made on previously identified areas open to development

- a) Lack of a strategic plan and performance indicators:
The Strategic Plan has been prepared and its data has been collected; It will be published on the Website in the first months of 2024.
- b) Thematic analyses have not been conducted:
“Thematic Analysis Report 2022” has been prepared and published on the Website. In 2022, thematic areas will be evaluated for programs whose accreditation decisions have been finalized.
- c) Lack of a clear complaint mechanism:
The “Objection Committee Directive” developed has been approved by the MİAK Board of Directors and published on the Website. The “Complaint, Objection and Information Form” has been added to the Website.
- d) Inability to receive feedback from visiting teams regarding the process efficiently:
In the 2023 update to the MİAK-MAK Accreditation Processes Document, ANNEX D: MİAKMAK Program Accreditation Process Evaluation Form 1 and ANNEX E: MİAK-MAK Visiting Team Accreditation Process Evaluation Form 2, which are requested to be filled out by the program after the visit, were added.
- e) Increasing student participation, informing students before the visit, and strengthening communication between students are weak. It would be appropriate to encourage student observer candidates to participate in the evaluation processes and to conduct studies for their active participation in the visiting teams.:

Instead of student observers selected from the Chamber of Architects student representatives, but considered not to have sufficient active participation, students who are determined by the call made to accredited institutions and who receive training in workshops participate in the evaluation processes. In the upcoming periods, it is planned to spread accreditation awareness starting from students with open-invitation workshops in inviting institutions.

4. Evaluation and recommendations:

- Determining the strategic plan and performance indicators is important for measurement and evaluation.
- Thematic Analysis Reports should be prepared and published regularly.
- The challenging conditions of the pandemic led to the establishment of Visiting Teams with members from the same cities as the programs. Since these conditions are eliminated, it would be positive to establish Visiting Teams with members from as many different cities as possible in order to bring together different perspectives.
- Visiting Team student members can graduate before the visit takes place. Therefore, selecting 2-3 year students and providing them with training will strengthen mutual communication between institutions.
- Since students are the main stakeholders in the education process, studies should be carried out to raise awareness about accreditation on various social media platforms. In this way, students can create internal demand for the initiation of accreditation studies in the institutions where they study.
- Having survey forms where the members of the Accreditation Visiting Team evaluate the process and the distribution of tasks within the team is important for transparency.
- It seems necessary to meet the needs of the evaluators who are currently training and taking part in the intensive architectural education accreditation visit studies, which are still carried out based on dedication, to provide a sufficient number of trained evaluators.

MiAK Quality Assessment Unit - 06.2024

Prof. Dr. Selahattin Önür



Prof. Dr. Nur Esin



Prof. Dr. Nazan Kırıcı

