

ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION
MiAK Quality Evaluation Unit (MiAKKDB)
Internal Quality Assurance Evaluation Report (İKGDR2024)

(The 2024 MiAK-MAK activities have been evaluated based on Articles 3.1.a, b, c, and d of the Quality Evaluation Unit Directive.)

3.1.a MiAK AND MiAK MEETING MINUTES

Documents and reports related to all MiAK activities, including accreditation processes and outcomes, are archived according to the procedures defined in the “MiAK Archiving Directive”.

3.1.b ACCREDITATION DECISIONS

In 2023, 10 programs applied to MiAK for accreditation, and 1 program from the previous period was added. Of the 11 programs, 2 institutions did not submit their Self-Evaluation Reports but stated their intention to continue in the 2024 schedule. The remaining 9 programs submitted their reports. One of these requested a postponement due to budget constraints. Thus, evaluation teams were formed and site visits conducted for 8 programs. The accreditation decision of one visit was deferred to 2025. As of 2024, the programs listed in Table 1 have completed their accreditation procedures.

Table 1 – Accreditation Decisions for 2024

ABDULLAH GÜL UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture Undergraduate Program (English)	3 Years
BALIKESİR UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture Undergraduate Program (Turkish)	2 Years (Supervised)
DOĞU AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture Undergraduate Program (English)	6 Years
ESKİŞEHİR TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture Undergraduate Program (Turkish)	6 Years (Conditional)
İSTANBUL AREL UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture Undergraduate Program (Turkish)	2 Years (Supervised)
TOBB UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY - Faculty of Architecture and Design – Architecture Undergraduate Program (30% English)	6 Years (Conditional)

YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture Undergraduate Program (%30 English)	6 Years
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In September 2023, applications for the 2024 MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar were received.

Two institutions applied to the 2024 calendar, and two institutions were carried over from the previous calendar. One of the transferred institutions suspended the process due to insufficient budget for transportation, accommodation, and meals during the visit. The other institution could not prepare the Self-Evaluation Report on time. All of these programs submitted their reports; however, one program (Sakarya University) requested to postpone its evaluation process before the visit and continued in 2025. Another program's (Akdeniz University) site visit was postponed to 2025 as well. Therefore, only two site visits were conducted in 2024.

2024 MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar Programs:

- YEDİTEPE UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Architecture – Undergraduate Architecture Program (English)
Visit Dates: 25–26–27 December 2024
- YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Architecture – Undergraduate Architecture Program (English)
Visit Dates: 21–22–23 October 2024

In September 2024, applications for the 2025 MiAK-MAK Accreditation Calendar were received.

Sixteen programs applied for the 2025 Calendar. Six were rejected due to not meeting application requirements. One program was transferred from 2023, and another from the 2024 calendar. Including the program that continued from 2024, twelve programs in total were accepted as meeting the conditions defined in the MiAK-MAK Accreditation Process Document, and evaluation teams were formed accordingly.

Table 2 – Ongoing Accreditation Processes in 2024

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2024, process ongoing
ERCİYES UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2023, continuing in 2025
İSTANBUL GEDİK UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture and Design – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2025
MEF UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture – Architecture (English)	Applied for 2025

SAKARYA UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2024, process ongoing
FATİH SULTAN MEHMET VAKIF UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture – Architecture (30% English)	Applied for 2025
YAŞAR UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture – Architecture (English)	Applied for 2025
ALTINBAŞ UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Engineering and Architecture – Architecture (English)	Applied for 2025
HASAN KALYONCU UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2025
İSTANBUL SABAHAATTİN ZAİM UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2025
MALTEPE UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture and Design – Architecture (Turkish)	Applied for 2025
MALTEPE UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Architecture and Design – Architecture (English)	Applied for 2025
İZMİR EKONOMİ UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Fine Arts and Design – Architecture (English)	Applied for 2023, process ongoing

3.1.c EVALUATION DOCUMENTS OF AT LEAST TWO PROGRAMS

The establishment of the MiAK Consistency Committee, whose operational procedures were comprehensively defined in the 2024 MiAK Consistency Committee Directive — prepared in accordance with the 2023 MiAK-MAK Accreditation Process Document — is important for preventing inconsistencies between accreditation decisions.

Within 2024, two programs were reviewed based on their Visit Team Final Reports:

- the first received a "6-year" accreditation decision (Yıldız Technical University – Architecture Undergraduate Program, 30% English),
- and the second received a "2-year supervised" accreditation decision (Balıkesir University – Architecture Undergraduate Program).

The justification for the 6-year accreditation of Yıldız Technical University's program included the following points:

- The program is located on a city campus with historical and natural qualities,

- It is regarded as a prominent and valued unit within the university, with its members' work respected and utilized,
- Academic staff, administrative personnel, and students all demonstrated a strong sense of institutional belonging,
- Efforts and sensitivity were observed in strengthening buildings and improving spatial quality,
- The curriculum includes a strong emphasis on professional training supported by practical courses,
- The self-evaluation report and associated documents were prepared diligently,
- Quality and accreditation are integral parts of the institutional culture, and necessary documentation is maintained consistently,
- Innovative programs such as "Shining-Star" and "Koop" provide undergraduates with academic and professional experience,
- Alumni relations are strong, and internship opportunities are available, contributing positively to professional development.

The 2-year supervised accreditation of Balıkesir University's program was based on the following observations:

- While the program has a strong academic staff, expertise is not evenly distributed among the departments,
- Efforts are needed to further develop institutional culture and a sense of belonging,
- High student numbers in elective and practical courses without the possibility of forming separate sections was evaluated negatively,
- The absence of clear distinctions between in-field and out-of-field elective courses, and the lack of graduation requirements related to course type, led to students opting for fewer or no in-field electives — this was considered a negative issue,
- Some course file folders lacked essential information, making it impossible to conduct a complete two-year evaluation in line with MiAK criteria,
- Deficiencies were identified in the implementation of Structural System Design and Building Design courses,
- Curriculum revisions and missing documents mentioned in the Visit Team Final Report were inadequately addressed.

Based on the above reasons, the 2-year supervised accreditation was found to be consistent with the MiAK-MAK Process Document and the MiAK-MAK Conditions Document.

3.1.d ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The Annual Activity Report, which includes the sections Introduction, Foundation and History, Mission, Vision and Quality Policy, Organizational Structure, International Activities, Improvement Efforts, Areas for Development, Strengths, and Conclusion, is shared annually with the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (YÖKAK), and as of 2025, through the YÖKAK Information Management System (MiS).

The Activity Reports for each MiAK term are also publicly accessible on the MiAK website. The most recent report — covering the period from 19 November 2022 to 30 November 2024 — was published and titled "2nd Term Board of Directors Activity

Report", including the following sections: Introduction, Institutional Information, Activities and Operations of MiAK's 2nd Term and MAK's 9th Term, Financial Status of MiAK Association and MiAK Economic Enterprise, and Conclusion.

EVALUATION

3.1.d (i) Compliance of MiAK activities with regulations and directives regarding organizational structure, sustainability, continuous improvement, participation, standards, reliability, education, transparency, and archiving

- **Organizational Structure:**

As of 2024, the General Assembly, the highest decision-making body of MiAK, consists of 83 registered members. The MiAK Association's Board of Directors (7 members) and Supervisory Board (3 members) are elected by the General Assembly. The Architecture Accreditation Board (MiAK-MAK) consists of 7 members, 5 of whom are appointed by MOBBİG (Communication Group of Heads of Architecture Departments), and 2 by the Central Executive Committee of the Chamber of Architects.

MiAK-MAK commissions include:

- Quality Evaluation Unit (3 members)
- Document Update Commission (3 members)
- Education Commission (3 members)

MiAK committees include:

- Consistency Committee (3 members)
- Finance Committee (3 members)
- Appeals Committee (3 members)

In 2024, the following working groups were also established:

- MiAK Strategic Plan Working Group (6 members)
- MiAK Graduate Accreditation Working Group (7 members)
- MiAK Architectural Education Research and Data Generation Working Group (5 members)

The Press, Publication, and Communication Working Group (4 members) is responsible for communications through the MiAK e-bulletin and social media.

Members of these commissions, committees, and working groups are selected from among MiAK and MiAK-MAK members as well as volunteer academics and professionals who respond to public calls for support.

As part of institutionalization efforts — beginning with the formation of the association and continuing with the establishment of the MiAK Economic Enterprise — a formal document titled "Accreditation Work Agreement of the Architectural Education Accreditation Association (MiAK)" was developed to legally safeguard MiAK's activities with institutions.

- **Sustainability:**

MiAK was granted a 2-year Quality Evaluation Registration Certificate as an association on 17.11.2021. Following its application on 09.06.2023, evaluator meetings, related activities, and YÖKAK audits led to the certificate's renewal until 17 May 2025.

It has been observed that the duties and task distributions within the MiAK Board of Directors, MiAK-MAK commissions, committees, and working groups — along with strategic planning efforts and annually scheduled accreditation processes (which vary in number each year) — have been conducted in accordance with regulations and within the framework of the annual budget.

- **Continuous Improvement:**

The Internal Quality Assurance Evaluation Report, first prepared in 2022 and published on the website, serves the purpose of reflecting ongoing improvements and is updated annually.

Previously developed forms such as the MiAK-MAK Program Evaluation and Visit Team Evaluation Survey continue to be used, ensuring regular feedback is collected from programs and visiting teams at the end of each visit.

To expand the Visit Team Pool and ensure nationwide participation, continuous open calls have been issued — including for the 2024 term. The evaluator pool currently includes 192 individuals, consisting of faculty members, architects, and students.

Visit teams are formed by mixing experienced and new members to ensure continuity of knowledge and experience.

The application and evaluation calendar is regularly revised to align with the academic schedules of applying institutions and the working efficiency of evaluators.

MiAK's activities are shared with academic communities and all stakeholders via MiAK Bulletins, allowing for feedback.

During the formation of MiAK commissions, care is taken to include both experienced and new members, to ensure knowledge transfer.

Documents such as the MiAK-MAK calendars, agendas, announcements, and news are regularly updated and published on the MiAK website. The site also includes sections for complaints, suggestions, and information requests.

The MiAK Architectural Education Research and Data Generation Working Group conducts annual studies on architectural undergraduate programs, including enrollment quotas, occupancy rates, and ranking statistics. These are compiled into reports and submitted to the Board of Directors along with recommendations, and shared with relevant institutions such as MOBBİG, MİDEKON, YÖKAK, and the Chamber of Architects. These reports are also featured in the MiAK e-bulletin.

- **Participation:**

MiAK delivered presentations on its behalf at two stakeholder meetings hosted by educational and accreditation institutions:

- MOBBİG 56 hosted by Karadeniz Technical University (<https://mobbig.mo.org.tr/...>)
- and MOBBİG 57.

At the XII National Congress on Architecture and Education held at IZTECH (İYTE), MiAK also contributed views on elective courses through the Council of Architecture Faculty Deans (MİDEKON). Furthermore, a report on changing quotas in architecture departments was prepared and shared with stakeholders and the general public through a bulletin. Upon request, a position paper on the Architecture Profession and Education was submitted to the Chamber of Architects.

Based on a recommendation by the International Affairs Working Group and with Board approval, MiAK was invited to attend the bi-monthly meetings of CEENQA (Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education). MiAK delivered a presentation at one of these meetings. MiAK's official membership application to CEENQA will be evaluated at the General Assembly in June 2025.

- **Standards:**

While closely following international and national developments, MiAK and MiAK-MAK continue to uphold their independence by documenting and securing their own unique standards and regulations.

It is emphasized in every briefing session that MiAK's regulatory framework must not only ensure the association's autonomy but also allow evaluated programs to maintain their own identity during self-assessment processes.

- **Reliability:**

The MiAK Code of Ethics Document, approved on 15.02.2021 by the Board of Directors, includes sections on Conflict of Interest, MiAK Ethical Rules, and the MiAK Confidentiality and Ethical Conduct Declaration.

The Confidentiality and Ethics Declaration is signed by individuals voluntarily participating in program evaluations who adhere to MiAK's ethical standards.

The creation of the MiAK Consistency Committee, as defined in the 2024 Directive, is critical to enhancing the reliability of MiAK decisions by minimizing inconsistencies among independently operating visit teams and their accreditation recommendations.

- **Education:**

- On May 11, 2024, an "Accreditation 101 Workshop" was held. Open to faculty members and staff of architecture undergraduate programs, this event included

sessions on “What is accreditation?”, “Why seek accreditation?”, “What is the national and international significance of accreditation?”, and “What is the role of MiAK?”.

Participants included 34 educators from 18 universities, along with MiAK Board and MiAK-MAK members.

- On June 1, 2024, the MiAK-MAK Visit Team Orientation Workshop was held for the 2024 application period. It introduced 25 participants to the MiAK-MAK documents and accreditation process.
- On July 6, 2024, a Self-Evaluation Report Preparation Workshop was conducted for academics and educators working in architecture undergraduate programs. Topics included “What is a Self-Evaluation Report?”, “Why is it important?”, “How should the process and format be structured?”, and “What role does MiAK play, and what support does it offer?”.
43 faculty members from 20 universities participated, alongside MiAK and MiAK-MAK members.
- On November 2, 2024, the MiAK-MAK Program Information Workshop was held for 40 participants from programs applying in the 2025 MiAK-MAK Calendar.

- **Transparency:**

MiAK places great emphasis on the principle of **open access and documentation**. As in previous years, all 2024 activities were carried out in accordance with this principle, ensuring stakeholders and the public had access to written records of all operations.

- **Archiving:**

All documents and reports related to MiAK’s operations — including accreditation processes and outcomes — are archived according to the procedures defined in the MiAK Archiving Directive.

3.1.d (ii) Strengths and Areas for Improvement

- **Strengths:**

- A. MiAK is an independent and impartial accreditation body with a strong foundation, established through the collaborative efforts of architectural educators.
- B. It encourages architecture departments to engage in external peer evaluation as part of a culture of quality and assurance.
- C. MiAK is capable of meeting the increasing demand for peer evaluation and accreditation in architectural programs.
- D. It continues to provide a sufficient number of trained evaluators from various schools of architecture.
- E. MiAK’s governing bodies are managed by experienced and impartial professionals.
- F. The association maintains strong communication and cooperation with the Chamber of Architects and MOBBİG (Communication Group of Heads of Architecture Departments).

- G. It actively involves institutions, educators, and students in the accreditation process, thus integrating them into quality assurance practices through workshops and training.
- H. MiAK has members and commissions that closely follow international developments and reflect those insights into institutional practices.
- I. Its authority to conduct accreditation activities was extended for two more years by YÖKAK, covering the period from 17.11.2023 to 17.05.2025.

● **Areas for Improvement:**

- A. MiAK could evaluate past experiences regarding student participation in accreditation processes to identify areas for improvement. Since students graduate shortly after contributing, their feedback and experience sharing may be limited in duration.
- B. Considering the increasing number of applications, it is necessary to assess the financial compensation of evaluators who currently perform intensive site visit duties on a voluntary basis.
- C. MiAK's application to join the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) represents a step toward internationalization and aims to contribute to the global recognition of architecture programs in Turkey.
- D. The financial resources of MiAK Association and its Economic Enterprise are limited to membership fees and accreditation payments. While moderate fee increases may help sustain current activities, new developments will require additional financial resources.
- E. The MiAK Architectural Education Research and Data Generation Working Group was established to initiate analyses and evaluations encompassing all architecture programs.
- F. Although the MiAK website is now available in English in addition to Turkish, there is currently insufficient budget for further software and portal development.
- G. The association has not yet reached the economic capacity to cover the significant foreign currency-based membership fees required for joining major international accreditation organizations.

3.1.d (iii) Improvement Efforts Regarding Previously Identified Areas for Development

- A. MiAK continues to explore opportunities to improve student participation in accreditation processes by reflecting on past experiences.
In previous years, students selected for visit teams came only from already accredited institutions. For the 2025 teams, all architecture department chairs were invited to nominate undergraduate students interested in accreditation to participate voluntarily. From 33 students across 18 universities, those residing in nearby cities were given priority when forming teams.

- B. Given the growing number of applications, MiAK has also acknowledged the need to reconsider the current practice of voluntary labor in site visits and evaluation activities.
As of now, evaluators still serve on a voluntary basis during accreditation site visits.
- C. MiAK is committed to continuing and expanding thematic analysis reports, which are seen as valuable resources for all architectural education programs. These reports are published annually and made publicly available.
- D. MiAK's application for membership in CEENQA (Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) is aligned with its internationalization strategy and aims to enhance the global qualifications of architectural programs in Turkey.
Membership negotiations are ongoing, and admission is expected in 2025.
- E. The financial resources of MiAK and its Economic Enterprise remain limited to initial membership fees, annual dues, and program accreditation fees.
Although fee adjustments under current economic conditions may help sustain existing activities, new developments will require new funding sources.
- F. While no new financial resources have yet been secured, there has been a noticeable increase in applications due to rising interest in accreditation. This has led to an increase in MiAK's revenue through application fees.

4. Evaluation and Recommendations:

- To increase its international recognition, maintain the currency and consistency of its website and national/international publications, ensure the continued diligence of visit team activities, and adapt to current economic conditions, MiAK must increase its financial income.
- In addition to membership and application fees, MiAK should consider the possibility of charging for its training activities as a means of generating revenue.
- Following site visits, training events, and workshops, MiAK should continue to collect stakeholder feedback. Based on these evaluations, the Plan–Do–Check–Act (PDCA) cycle should be actively maintained. Although MiAK currently uses surveys and direct interviews, publishing the results of these evaluations would improve visibility and transparency of the improvement cycle.
- In line with the strategic plan, a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) could be developed to address targeted areas of development.
- To broaden participation in MiAK-MAK and its working commissions, and to engage more academics, the association should announce vacancies for expiring positions on its official website prior to elections. The volunteer-based working model should continue to emphasize knowledge continuity and fair workload distribution, as it has in the past.

MiAK Quality Evaluation Unit – May 2025



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