

Chairman's Award - Team 8153

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2022 - Team 8153

Team Number

8153

Team Nickname

Tech 4 Peace

Team Location

Istanbul, Istanbul - Turkey

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last 3 years. This can include but is not limited to percentages of those graduating high school, attending college, in STEM careers, and in *FIRST* programs as mentors/sponsors.

In the last 3 years 95% of our participants plan on pursuing STEM related fields in university. Similarly, 85% of our participants have applied to various summer/winter school programs regarding STEM studies such as coding, engineering and 3D design. Furthermore, our team have organized 216 hours per member of STEM activities for our community. The impact of FIRST has also influenced our mentors and alumni who have volunteered for STEM related activities including FLL and VRC challenges.

Describe your community along with how your team addresses its unique opportunities and circumstances.

Our team organized many events, including the Violence Against Women organization, to shed light on the circumstances regarding women in all business fields. We also partnered with GirlsWhoCode by translating their Women In Tech curriculum to Turkish to further aid the community of women who wish to engage in STEM fields. During the pandemic, we organized online lessons with all the SAGEM institutions in Turkey, extending the span of STEM education and also produced face shields for medical workers.

Describe the team's methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the FIRST message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative. How does your team measure results?

To spread the values introduced to us by FIRST, we started publishing our online newspaper "Tech4News" which reaches over 600 people monthly. Similarly, our team co-organized an interview with the Violence Against Women organization for the "Nokta Koy Zirvesi" where two of our members shared their journey and experiences with FIRST. We also participated in the "First Like A Girl" movement, where our members helped spread the messages of equity, diversity and inclusion through 1 minute videos.

Please provide specific examples of how your team members act as role models within the FIRST community with emphasis on the past 3 years.

With our determined and dedicated team members, our group motivates others to strive for a better future by mentoring the younger generation and starting their FLL teams. Similarly, started Germany's second FRC team, acting as their role models during their introduction to the world of FIRST. Furthermore, our alumni volunteered for the VEX IQ and FRC challenges. We also started producing youtube videos in order to motivate and educate potential FIRST community members.

Describe your team's initiatives to Assist, Mentor, and/or Start other *FIRST* teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.

Since it is our mission to use our knowledge and expertise to inspire and assist other people, we put great importance in started and mentoring other teams. With that in mind, our team started Germany's second FRC team: "MintRobots" and three FLL teams. Since our team originated from the VRC Challenges, we also started a new VEX team: Terminus, and mentored them.

Beyond starting teams, what initiatives have you done to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What results have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?

Beyond starting teams, we partnered with the Türkan Efe Middle School, giving them courses regarding coding and 3D design, motivating them to participate in the "Kids Coding Water" competition where they won the Applicability award. Similarly, we have been giving programming and 3D design lessons to SAGEM students for 2 years. We also gave courses regarding safe internet usage to the ?ZEV foundation. Furthermore, we started a FPV club, teaching people how to use race drones.

Describe the partnerships you've created with other organizations (teams, sponsors, educational institutions, philanthropic entities, etc.) and what you have accomplished together with emphasis on the past 3 years

By partnering with Cappadocia University, we became the first high school in Turkey to give UAV flight licenses alongside regular flight education. We also partnered with GirlsWhoCode and translated their curriculum to Turkish, aiding in their effort to close the gender gap in technology. Through our partnership with the Enabling the Future movement, we produced 3D printed prosthetic limbs. By partnering with "SEEM Türkiye" we received education on how to keep our team and its successes sustainable.

Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within your team, *FIRST*, and your communities.

We co-organized the "Nokta Koy Zirvesi" event with the Violence Against Women organization. During this event girls from our team addressed the difficulties that women face in STEM fields and how they overcame these challenges, their stories reached over 5000 people. Similarly, we became one of the few FirstLikeAGirl volunteers, girls in our team shared their experiences in the FIRST and STEM fields. We also partnered with ?ZEV to aid the mentally handicapped with safe internet usage courses.

Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will continue to run effectively for the foreseeable future

By introducing FIRST programs to our schools' other campuses, we ensure that the younger generation of students who join high school will be introduced to FIRST from a young age, and those who are interested shall be inspired to join our team. We consult "SEEM Türkiye" in regards of sustainability strategies and they educate us in the field of team management. We also established an alumni office so that our graduates can stay connected with our team and help us with their knowledge and experience.

Describe your team's innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and engage your sponsors within the past 3 years

In order to secure sponsorships, we utilize our members' families contacts in the business world. We keep close ties with our sponsors and document our promises to them to ensure we keep them. Similarly, we remind them of how their investment has contributed to our sustainable success. In preparation for sponsorship meetings, we prepare our reasons for specifically wanting their aid and what we can accomplish with their help.

Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.

Due to the Turkish Lira losing much of its value in face of the USD, our team found it difficult to deal with of our finances with the limited resources and sponsors available. In response, our team opted to research for more grant programs for possible financial support. We applied for support from the Fikret Yüksel Foundation whose support was crucial in supplying our registration fee for the FRC tournament. Similarly, we used our members' family contacts to secure sponsorships.

Describe your team's goals to fulfill the mission of *FIRST* and the progress you have made towards those goals.

Our goal is to develop STEM capabilities to contribute to a brighter future where technology peacefully aid human advancement while serving the FIRST mission. To fulfill this goal, we educated our community on STEM matters; In 2020 we met with the district governor to promote interest for STEM areas in public schools. Similarly, we visited the town hall and had a meeting with the deputy mayor, with whom we started a SAGEM project for which we have been educating students in STEM fields for 2 years.

Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* Judges, including items that may not fit into the above topics. The judges are interested in learning about aspects of your team that may be unique or particularly noteworthy.

Since the roots of Tech4Peace (T4P) lies in the VRC, we have started a second VEX team called Terminus, who won their first VRC tournament. On our youtube channel, we started a series of livestreams called T4P Talks, where we

organize "talks" with important names in STEM fields, sharing their knowledge and expertise with the world. We are also working on a T4P Sustainability Guidebook to help other teams in the FIRST community with our knowledge and experiences.

Essay

In recent decades, advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence have reached previously unheard-of heights. Modern unmanned aerial vehicles which are taking over the skies are a testament to said advancements: they possess the ability to take off and land completely autonomously. This rapid advancement of robot and AI technology has left some people worried of the implications this may have on the future: could self-learning robots learn to break free of their human creators and threaten mankind? This is the kind of thinking that our team aims to disprove by showing society just how beneficial robots can be in a multitude of different areas. We are team 8153 Tech4Peace and our mission is to develop our STEM capabilities to contribute to a brighter future where technology and robots peacefully aid human advancement. As Tech4Peace, we give great importance to the accumulation and distribution of information. This is why we strive to be known as a robotics team that inspires people by sharing our knowledge and experience in the field of robotics.

When our journey started in 2019, it was our interest in coding, design, problem identification and solving that inspired us to create a team from scratch. As our name "Tech4Peace" suggests, we aim to utilize technology and robotics for the greater good to create a more peaceful world. Since our founding we have organized countless activities under the "Tech4_" name in order to encourage our community to take action STEM areas.

Tech4Teams

As Tech4Peace, we value teamwork and teambuilding to the highest extent, as it forms the basis of modern civilization. This way of thinking inspired us to form many teams, including Germany's second FRC team "MintRobots". We also formed 3 FLL teams including: team #45 Joyful Jellyfish for FLL Discover; team #951 Beyaz Mart? for FLL Explore; team #735 SAGEM for FLL Challenge, mentoring them through the process of developing teamwork and team-management skills.

Since our team's roots lie in the VEX Robotics Competitions, we honored our origins by forming a new VRC Team: Terminus. We mentored Terminus during the preparation period for their first VRC tournament, and they won the Championship Award in their rookie tournament. Alongside this we started our school's FPV Racing Drone team, who will compete in this year's Tech Drone League Season.

Tech4Support

We had organized one of the off-season VRC tournaments to host in our school, which would have been the first time a High School hosted a VEX Tournament. However, due to the pandemic, the National Education Ministry forbid the hosting of such events and we had to cancel the tournament. Despite this, we were able to support the STEM community through volunteer work: our mentors attended the VEX IQ and FLL challenges as judges. Similarly, our alumni volunteered for the VEX IQ challenge, and are going to the FRC Istanbul and Bosporus tournaments as volunteers. Going beyond the robotics community, we supported the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic by making face shields and masks and providing them to medical workers in order to aid them in their battle against the virus.

Tech4Partnership

By partnering with Kapadokya University, Aç? Schools became the first High School in Turkey to give both UAV flight licenses and flight education.

We partnered with GirlsWhoCode, an American organization with the goal of closing the gender gap in technology and became the first Turkish FRC team to do so. They have reached 500 million people around the world and have educated 450.000 girls in technology. We helped them in their endeavors by translating their "Women in Tech" curriculum to Turkish.

We also partnered with the Turkish branch of the "enabling the future" movement, who have 40.000 volunteers around the world and have delivered free hands and arms to over 15.000 people who have little to no access to medical care. We provided them with prosthetic limbs in order to help them with their mission.

Furthermore, to make sure that our team and its successes are sustainable, we partnered with "SEEM Türkiye" and received education on sustainability. We are currently preparing a Tech4Peace Sustainability Guidebook to help other FRC teams with our knowledge and experience in order to educate them on sustainability.

Tech4Publishing

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In order to accumulate and distribute information, we started publishing our newspaper: Tech4News. Through our newspaper we informed our community on the latest news in the field of technology and robotics, reaching over 600 people monthly.

Similarly, our team is developing an app called Teleop, in order to provide the FIRST community with a platform to interact and share information with one another.

We also translated and published the guides prepared for rookie teams by the Compass Alliance, an organization formed by 10 FRC teams from around the world with the goal of enhancing the FRC community by helping new teams with their collective knowledge and experience. We translated their Design 101, Prototyping 101 and Programming 101 rookie guides to Turkish and published them in order to empower the Turkish FRC community.

By forming our YouTube channel, we taught 3D design and programming to our viewers, enhancing their knowledge of STEM fields. Furthermore, we started Tech4Peace Talks on our YouTube channel, with the goal of organizing interviews with leading figures in the fields of technology, robotics, design and programming. These talks have reached over 1700 people.

Tech4Equity

Our team co-organized an event called the "Nokta Koy Zirvesi" with the Violence Against Women Organization, primarily concerning prejudices against women in the business world. During this event, girls from our team talked about their experiences in the STEM area and the difficulties they faced, reaching over 5000 people. Our goal with this interview was to promote the inclusion of women in STEM and business fields by inspiring them to remove the barriers standing in their way of pursuing their desired career path for a more diverse and equal world.

We also became one of the few #FIRSTLikeAGirl volunteers, helping them in their mission to inspire girls to become the next generation of science and technology leaders by providing them with the experiences of girls in the STEM field, who act as their role models in their journey to become a part of the STEM and FIRST community. Girls from our community shared their experiences in the FIRST community via 1 minute videos.

Furthermore, by partnering with ?ZEV, an organization dedicated to helping mentally handicapped people actively participate in society, we organized face to face courses to educate mentally handicapped people on safe internet usage to include them in the digital community.

Tech4Advocacy

In 2020, we met with the district governor, Mehmet Özer, to promote interest for STEM areas in public schools. As result of this meeting, we started a project to give courses on 3D design, coding and Arduino to the Türkan Efe Middle School. As a part of this project, they attended the "Kids Coding Water" competition, where they won the Applicability Award.

Similarly, we visited the Town Hall and met with the deputy mayors Sevgi Atalay and Hüseyin Co?kun in order to discuss developing a project to engage the Sar?yer Municipality in the field of STEM. In cooperation with the SAGEM project we developed with the Sar?yer Municipality, we reached out to all of the Sar?yer Belediyesi Gençlik E?itim Merkezi (SAGEM) establishments in Turkey, and we have been providing them with online education in the field of 3D design, coding and robotics for 2 years.

Through these countless activities, Tech4Peace has taken the steps to bring forth a revolution of sorts, in the FIRST community and beyond. Countless sleepless nights, organized meetings and developed projects by our team were necessary to not only influence FIRST community, but to also begin said revolution. As the saying goes, "you can't move mountains by whispering at them". Tech4Peace aims to spread the core values and beliefs of FIRST by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated, where everyone has equal access to the vast information and knowledge our community has to offer.