

FIRST Impact Award - Team 9077

2025 - Team 9077
Team Number
9077
Team Nickname
The Crown
Team Location
Kadıköy, 34 - Türkiye
Describe the impact of the <i>FIRST</i> program on team participants within the last 3 years. Think about percentages of those graduating high school, attending college, in STEM careers, leadership skills, and serving as mentors/sponsors in <i>FIRST</i> programs.
As a team established at one of Istanbul's top science high schools, based on the results of the National University Exam of Türkiye, 100% of our team members graduate from high school and proceed to university education. At our school, students typically choose either medicine or engineering fields, with our team consisting of students interested in engineering. Therefore, 100% of our graduates pursue STEAM-focused careers. Our alumni serve as mentors, while some graduates support us with sponsorships.
Describe your community along with its unique opportunities and circumstances. Think about your geographic region, diversity of town/school, language barriers, socioeconomic barriers, and cultural expectations.
Our team #9077 The Crown which contains team members who are benefiting from the scholarships that the government is providing for successful students that are in need of financial assistance, we consist of 33 students from 31 cities, with 21 staying in the dormitory. Most of us discovered FIRST later in high school. Thus, we launched the "Dere Tepe Türkiye" project. We visited our hometowns and given over 1,500 middle school students the chance to experience FIRST first-hand.
Describe the team's methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the <i>FIRST</i> Mission in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.
Each year, we introduce freshmans to the FRC spirit through Welcome First. We also inform middle schoolers who are aiming to come to our school in the future (over 2000 people) about FIRST. We present FRC and our team to schools, companies, and community. Through workshops and stands at events, we have reached 10,000 people. During the semester break, we provided technical training to 800 middle schoolers from 2 continents, 7 regions, and 25 cities via online platforms.
Describe your team's goals and the progress you have made towards them to fulfill <i>FIRST's</i> Vision.
Our team is dedicated to realizing FIRST's vision by making STEAM education free and accessible. We publish a monthly magazine for the FRC community and organize workshops at schools to introduce FLL, FTC, and FRC. During our inter-high school innovation camp, we provided 500 students with case

studies focused on artificial intelligence,enhancing their creativity and problem-solving skills.Through workshops that also include kindergartens and our STEAMATIK project,we spread STEAM education.

What impact has your team seen from your efforts described in the above question? How does your team measure impact?

Impact begins within our team and gradually expands.The growing dedication of our team members, the increasing number of students eager to join us and students choosing our school specifically to be a part of The Crown all serve as proofs to our internal influence.Our impact has reached a global scale with 20+ projects developed,international collaborations, appearances on TV and news platforms,partnerships with NGOs,our influence extends far beyond.

Please provide specific examples of how your team and team members act as role models within the *FIRST* community with emphasis on the past 3 years. How do you share these best practices with other teams?

For 3 years,we have been inspiring FIRST.Through active engagement on Instagram,we shared our journey to motivate other teams and strengthen collaboration with meetings.We fostered a spirit of solidarity by sharing components with other teams.supporting all the teams,we enriched our website with guides along our Rookie101 handbook.We launched a mechanics101 training on youtube,to ensure accessibility.These efforts of our projects gained media recognition,reaching wider audience.

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

To spread experiences,we conjoined in establishing new teams.Adopting gracious professionalism,we mentored team 10383 and 9436 throughout their FRC journey,distributed over 1,000 manual copies for rookies on detailed design and finance.By attending the 'Rookie 101' livestream presented by FYF and constructed practice fields together for the usage of team #10383,we built ties with newly founded teams,prioritizing teamwork.By focusing on these areas,we improve and help each other grow.

What other initiatives have you created, grown, sustained, or participated in (*FIRST* or otherwise) to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What outcomes have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?

As #9077,our greatest motivation is to inspire those around us.Every year we organize "Career Days" for our students.We ran an innovation camp that hosted 500 students from various high schools across Turkey.Besides, as a team we have developed a new kit called "Turquoise Kit" in collaboration with Pinoo.With the robotic science workshop that our alumnus Salih Demirtaş had founded, we have provided robotics education to 2000 students through the online platforms.

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

Via School Support Association (ODD),we introduced 6000+ middle schoolers from 76 cities to STEAM.We conducted 70+ sponsorship meetings,and gained the opportunity to introduce FRC to numerous companies.We visited nurseries to provide education on safe internet usage,contributed to TEMA and LÖSEV initiatives,and raised funds at the TOKTUT kitchen,where we prepared and distributed meals to those in need.By collaborating with Acquaint,we were able to promote our team and FIRST internationally.

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

Over the past three years, we launched 'Mikrofon' project where prominent women shared their career experiences and challenges. By uploading the recordings on YouTube, and expanding the project into a panel, we reached 7700 people total. Through "Avucumun İçi," we helped 1,500 visually impaired individuals identify obstacles on their paths in advance. Additionally, every Friday, we taught math to hearing-impaired students using sign language, promoting equal educational opportunities.

Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will be sustainable.

At the end of Welcome FIRST presentations, we bring talented new members to our team. With a commitment to gracious professionalism, our experienced teammates share their experiences, contributing to the development of new members. This strengthens our team bonds while enhancing knowledge sharing and teamwork. Each term, we sustain previous projects and develop new ones in line with the competition theme. Additionally, we present honorary plaques to our sponsors at the end of each term.

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

As a boarding school team with students coming from over 55 cities, our crows need to go back to their hometowns every once in a while for holidays. This creates an enormous obstacle in the process of robot making. To end that conundrum, we are trying to tighten the time we are taking breaks during school time and sometimes even work overnight. We know this solution is tiring and sometimes exasperating for us however, we believe it is the only way to preserve and enrich the progress.

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, particularly noteworthy, or had a large impact.

To share the cultural diversity within our team, we organize events such as Yörefest at our school, where members with a passion for art and music host exhibitions and concerts. After the devastating earthquake in our country, some of our team members, who hail from the affected regions, developed an educational game called Dep-Ho to raise awareness about earthquakes. It is tradition for us to stay up late before competitions, ensuring our preparations are of the highest standard.

Judge Feedback

Within the delivered projects that we have submitted as a team, which one of ours is extending the term impact the best and which fields are given attention independently/externally?

An area the team has an opportunity to improve.

Something that really impressed the judges.

Essay

It all began 3 years ago, when a crow landed on the window of Istanbul Atatürk Science High School's book storage room. This crow drifted into the school, exploring each floor. Along the way, it perched on the

shoulders of 33 students who are eager to embark on a journey with it. Leading them back to that room, the crow took them on an adventure beyond their imagination. And now, those 33 students—we—are here to tell the story of how we took flight alongside that crow, soaring into an endless sky. The magic of our journey lies in how we navigate through the air like a flock, steering our course with our own wings, stopping at key milestones along the way, and taking off once more.

DISCOVERY The first stop on our journey was a place of teaching and uncovering new talents and ideas. Since our foundation, we have introduced over 330 students to the FRC. We opened our doors to those eager to explore engineering through our Welcome FIRST initiative. Recognizing that the first step into engineering could one day evolve into a university journey, we organized a Career Day at our school. Industry professionals shared their career experiences and visions with hundreds of students. We also developed an educational card game that teaches STEAM principles and robotics through engaging activities. We embraced FIRST's theme for the year—the mysteries of the ocean. Collaborating with IEEE, we provided public resources, Ocean Talks, a webinar series. We hosted live discussions with experts in marine and ocean engineering, later uploading these sessions to YouTube, where they reached over 500 people.

INNOVATION As we approached the next stop in our journey, we carried our discoveries with us—arriving at a place where creativity is centered, where we tackled challenges with innovations. Over the past 3 years, we have developed new projects and made them accessible to wider audiences online. One of these projects, The Crown Art Exhibition, merged creativity and technology. We introduced the works of artists to a broad audience, allowing thousands of people to experience the beauty of art. With '17 Countries 17 Global Goals', we focused on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. We interviewed students from diverse nations, learning about their perspectives on these global issues. We transformed these conversations into YouTube videos and Spotify podcast, ensuring accessibility for a wider audience, inspiring thousands of people worldwide.

IMPACT One of the most crucial aspects of this entire journey has been the impact we have created each time we soared with our flock. Making an impact starts within and gradually spreads to the world. With this mission in mind, we educated 3500 middle schoolers and reached a total of 29240 students through The Crown Academy. As part of this, we launched Dere Tepe Türkiye where during our vacations, we returned to our hometowns to teach basic robotics and STEAM education to children aged 7-15. Through our Winter and Summer Camps, we organized online trainings on various technical subjects for over 150 middle schools across 50+ cities. Our workshops brought hands-on learning experiences to 770+ students from 14 middle schools in Istanbul alone. Another one of our ventures, The Crow's Journey, was designed to instill awareness of the 17 Global Goals in preschoolers. We created engaging educational stories featuring our team mascot, the Crow, for each goal. We made the app available in Turkish, English, and German and added voice narration to ensure accessibility for the visually impaired. While educating the next generation, we never forgot our elders. Through our '7'den 77'ye' project, we visited nursing homes, introducing the elderly to modern technology. Within our school, we ran an innovation camp attended by 500 high schoolers across Turkey, a TEDx event featuring expert speakers with an audience of 150, and an entrepreneurship summit with 200 attendees. These events were shared across online platforms, reaching an audience of over 10000. Piling on our previous projects, this year we launched The Crowded World in collaboration with the ACQUAINT, bringing together individuals from over 50 countries, facilitating one-on-one conversations with people across the globe on topics such as FIRST, FRC, STEAM, and the 17 Global Goals, expanding our partnerships including teams #10396 and #8153. In its first year alone, our project brought together people from 4 continents, 28 cities and 35 hours of conversation in total. We also made an initiative where we combined medicine and STEAM to develop a project that enhances the accuracy and speed of stomach cancer diagnosis. This innovation, an AI-powered analysis of CT scans, provides an alternative to endoscopy. In response to the devastating earthquake that struck Turkey, we created the Earthquake Education Game to raise awareness and educate others for disasters—a project that received national

media coverage. Partnering with TOKTUK, we provided and distributed meals to those affected in the earthquake zones. Beyond these, we actively contributed to NGOs such as TEMA, LÖSEV and TOKTUK, dedicating 30 hours of volunteer work. To promote environmental awareness within our school, we planted 55 saplings and placed informational QR codes on existing trees, educating our peers about their significance.

INCLUSION As we soared together as a flock, we made sure no one was left behind. Thus, we prioritized gender equality and inclusivity in every one of our initiatives. With this mindset, we developed an app called "Avucumun İçi Gibi". This software was designed to assist visually impaired individuals by detecting and alerting them to potential obstacles around, enhancing their safety while navigating the streets. We conducted lessons at Mehmet Sait Aydos Middle School for the hearing impaired to promote inclusivity. While addressing societal differences, we also worked for gender equality. Through our First Like a Girl campaign, we shared the stories of the female members of our team on social media, reaching an audience of 7300 people. Building upon this, we launched Mikrofon, a project where we interviewed accomplished women across various fields and shared these conversations on our YouTube channel. Among our esteemed guests were Captain Pilot Özden Yaman Tekirdağ, one of only 90 female captain pilots in Turkey, and Fatma Şahin, the goalkeeper of the Beşiktaş Women's Football Team. Expanding the impact of Mikrofon, we transformed it into Megafon, a large-scale panel discussion. As part of this, we hosted three distinguished deans—Merter Yalçınkaya, İtir Erhart, and Türker Kılıç—in our school's conference hall, fostering discussions on leadership and academia. Through both 'Mikrofon' and 'Megafon', we reached a total of 7700 people across our social media platforms.

TEAMWORK Throughout this journey, we stuck together with all of crows, always looking out for one another. But our efforts were never limited to just ourselves—we placed great importance on fostering strong connections with other teams as well. At regionals and kick-off events, we met dozens of teams, expanding our network and strengthening our collaborations. Over the past three years, we have held online meetings with a total of 20 FRC teams, providing mentorship and guidance along the way. We hosted Robistim in our workshop, sharing insights about the Rookie All-Star award to support their journey. Additionally, we assisted various teams in different fields, ensuring they had the resources and knowledge needed to succeed. To support rookies, we created inclusive booklets covering topics such as mechanics, software, and PR, making them available on our website as a valuable resource for newcomers. Our collaboration extended to #8153 Tech4Peace, where we actively participated in their Pangea project—an initiative rooted in gracious professionalism, sustainability, and teamwork. Together, we developed projects aligned with the 17 Global Goals, reinforcing our shared vision for a better future. Furthermore, we partnered with #10383 to establish a shared FRC field at our school, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and creating a space where both of our teams could grow and refine our skills side by side.

FUN For us, flying was never just about reaching a destination—it was about making every wingbeat an enjoyable part of the journey. Knowing the speciality of the process, we created "The Crown Memory Book" to preserve our most cherished moments, ensuring that the experiences we've shared will stay with us forever. As a team, we attended theater performances, where we had the opportunity to meet Hayko Cepkin. Wanting to celebrate the diverse cultural backgrounds within our team—spanning 31 different cities—we organized Yörefest, which brought together over 500 students at our school to experience a fusion of traditions across Turkey. Beyond these, we also integrated sports into our FRC journey by participating in various Istanbul Marathons, reinforcing our belief that teamwork extends beyond robotics and into every aspect of life.

MEETING-COLLABORATIONS As #9077, to overcome the financial challenges which were a part of our journey, we initiated outreach efforts, starting with our alumni and network before expanding to some of Turkey's and the world's leading companies. Through these meetings, we secured resources for our team and had the opportunity to advocate FIRST on a global scale. We engaged in discussions with prominent figures such as Burcu Yüce from "Akbank" and Nazım Erdoğan from "Sahibinden". We met Ali Koç and were hosted in

Fenerbahçe VIP box. We connected with international organizations such as TACCS, FTAA and Turkish Philanthropy Funds. We negotiated with major corporations, including TÜBİTAK, Autodesk, Ford, and Papara, working tirelessly to secure the necessary funding to expand our team's mission. In the end, what makes this journey truly invaluable is that we fly together. As a flock of crows, we navigate through challenges, carrying our experiences like feathers, knowing that each flight brings us closer to our purpose. We are 9077, and this is what we do.;

