



2025 ACTIVITY REPORT

www.ogad.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Autism Strong Family Association (OGAD) continued its work throughout 2025, building on 13 years of experience and institutional background.

The year 2025 marked a period of transition in which the organizational structure was streamlined, the digital infrastructure was renewed, and the groundwork was laid for the goals of the new term. Our Board of Directors focused on maintaining the sustainability of the association and keeping strong engagement with families. Artistic production activities continued; rights-based developments were closely monitored, primarily within the framework of the Turkish Autism Council (TOM) and in coordination with other umbrella organizations of which OGAD is a member.

This year, particular emphasis was placed on visibility efforts. Social media content was expanded, our website was redesigned, and OGAD's activities were made more accessible.

One of the key developments of 2025 was the initiation of preparations to activate the real estate property owned by our association in the Menderes district of Izmir. This site is planned as a center for production- and hobby-oriented, nature-based activities and family gatherings for individuals with autism. Following the completion of infrastructure arrangements, the aim is to gradually make the area operational through volunteer support, tree donations, and local partnerships.

At the same time, our production- and art-based initiatives are being restructured through a new spatial collaboration. In 2026, our goal is to adapt the shared space developed under the ongoing model with the Independent Artists Collective to better suit children's needs, and in the long term to establish a permanent, independent, accessible venue where OGAD can carry out continuous activities.

On behalf of the OGAD Board of Directors, I extend my sincere thanks to all our members who have contributed their time and effort throughout the year, to the umbrella organizations we collaborate with, and to all supporters who have contributed to OGAD's work.

On behalf of the OGAD Board of Directors
Yasemin Dağ
President

INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY AND GOVERNANCE

Following the Ordinary General Assembly held on 27 March 2025, OGAD's Board of Directors and Supervisory Board were reconstituted. The association's institutional structure continued to operate in compliance with its bylaws.

Throughout the year, board members remained in regular communication and monitored the association's administrative and financial processes.

Strategic planning efforts were initiated to strengthen the sustainability of the association. As a member of the Turkish Autism Council (TOM), the Autism Associations Federation (ODFED), and the Autism Confederation, OGAD maintained its institutional relations with these umbrella structures and closely followed developments within the respective platforms.

By maintaining its institutional continuity, OGAD continues its activities in line with the principles of transparency and accountability.

Our Board of Directors



Yasemin Dağ
President



Demet Ayşe Uyar
Vice
President



Çimen Polat
Secretary
General



Tülay Gülaçtı
Treasurer



Ahmet Gülaçtı
Board
Member

Substitute Members of the Board of Directors

Esra AKGÜL
Selen ULUÇ
Filiz KURT
Rana BERİ
Şehriban GÜLCÜ

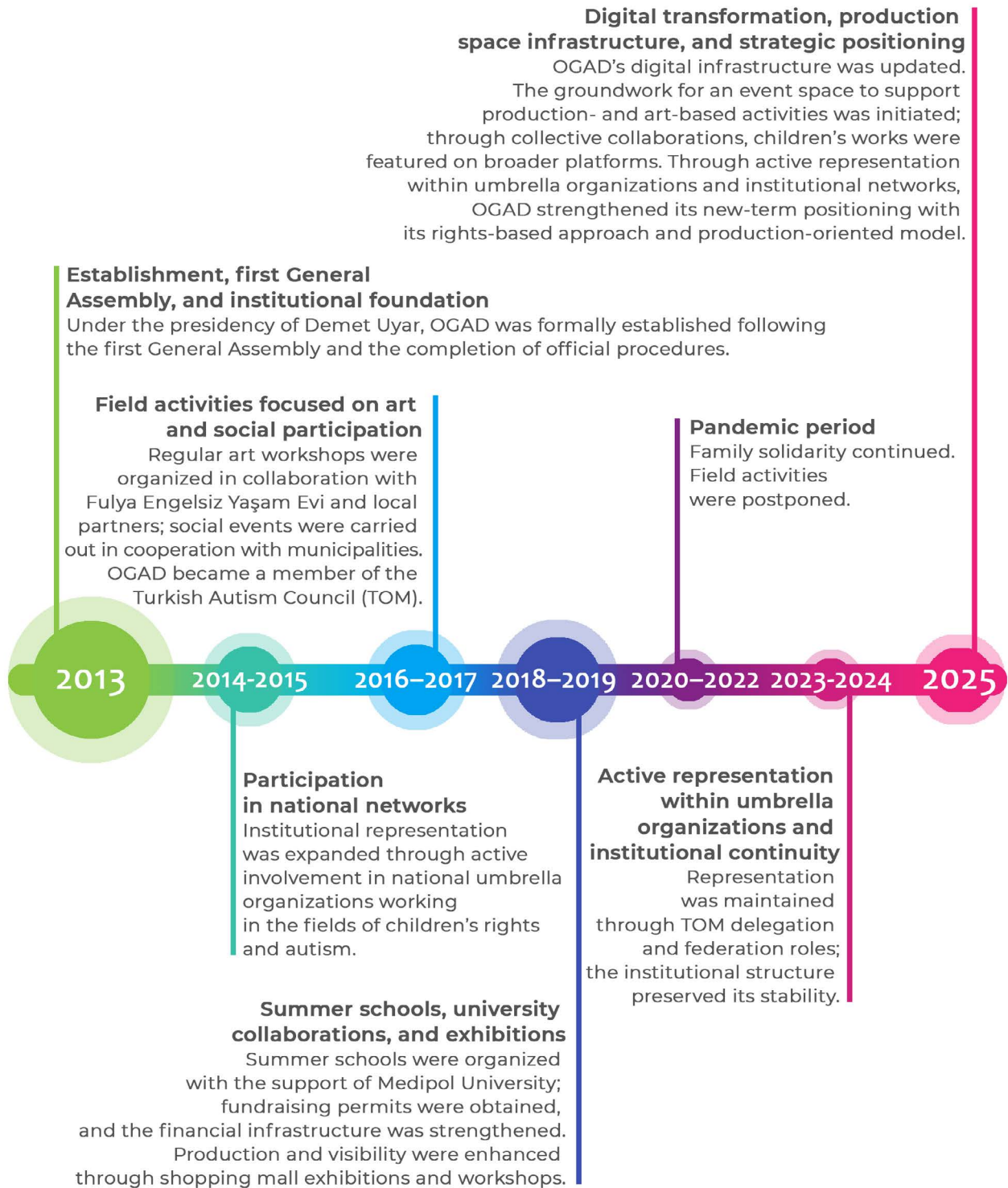
Supervisory Board

Ercan DAĞ
Cumhur İNCE
Kudret EZERLER

Substitute Members of the Supervisory Board

Aylin ÇETİN
Özlem KESKİN
Hülya ÖZTUNCER

13 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL KNOW-HOW



With 67 registered members, OGAD continues its work as a multi-stakeholder organization, collaborating at both local and national levels.



Website Redesign

In 2025, OGAD's website was redesigned and restructured into a simplified, user-friendly format. Information on the association's activities, event announcements, and updates was consolidated into a single, centralized platform. The website has been positioned as the core digital infrastructure for donations and project presentations.

www.ogad.org

Social Media Activities

Throughout 2025, a total of 46 posts were shared on Instagram. These posts included:

- Informational and awareness content related to special days
- Announcements regarding legislative changes in the field of autism
- Updates on the association's activities
- Public statements

On LinkedIn, posts were published to enhance institutional visibility. The existing account on X has been placed under review for reactivation.



ART AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES



Painting Workshops

Free painting workshops for children and individuals with autism, led by artist Ercan Dağ, were initially launched at the Şişli Disability Coordination Center and are currently continuing at OGAD's new venue in Şişli, where the organizational structuring process is ongoing.

The workshops aim to support participants' self-expression skills, increase attention and focus spans, and foster self-confidence through creative production. While group work enhances social interaction, the artworks produced further strengthen the children's sense of confidence.

IAAF İstanbul Art Fair (December 2025)

OGAD participated in the 4–7 December 2025 edition of the IAAF İstanbul Sanat Fuarı, held at the Lütfi Kırdar Kongre Merkezi. In the space allocated by the Independent Artists Collective, artworks produced by children with special needs were presented to art audiences.

This participation enabled the children's productions to be showcased within a mainstream art fair environment and enhanced the visibility of OGAD's social participation model through art.



Craft İstanbul International Handicrafts and Design Fair (October 2025)

OGAD participated, in collaboration with the Independent Artists Collective, in the Craft İstanbul Uluslararası El Sanatları ve Tasarım Fuarı held on 2–5 October 2025 at the Dr. Mimar Kadir Topbaş Gösteri ve Sanat Merkezi.

Artworks produced by children with special needs within the association were presented to fair visitors; the children's creative processes and artistic expression were introduced to a wide audience.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Collaboration in Education with the Classroom Teacher (Mr. Erdi Kanbaş – September 2025)

An online training session was held with Special Education Specialist and academician Mr. Erdi Kanbaş, focusing on how effective collaboration should be established among the classroom teacher, the family, and special education professionals. The session addressed in-school communication, role distribution, and the impact of collaboration on the child's development.

Violence, Neglect, and Physical Intervention in Educational Settings (In collaboration with Denizli Autism Association – Attorney Meryem Bilge İnci, December 2025)

This training was organized to ensure that both families and educators act with a clear understanding of the legal framework in response to increasing cases of violence and neglect. The session addressed school safety, legal rights, the limits of compulsory physical intervention, and available complaint and application mechanisms. Delivered within a rights-based framework, the training centered on the child's safety and clarified the responsibilities of both families and educators.

Movement Training Through Peer Collaboration (September–November 2025)

Free workshops were organized in collaboration with OGAD and Akran Movement Education Center, focusing on body awareness, movement coordination, and cognitive skills development.

ADVOCACY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Participation was ensured, on behalf of OGAD, in the Ankara City Council meeting and in meetings with the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (TBMM) and relevant ministries on 30 September 2025 under the umbrella of the Turkish Autism Council (TOM).

Key issues brought to the agenda included the safety of individuals with autism in educational settings, access to services, and inequalities in implementation. Joint, solution-oriented advocacy efforts were carried out within this framework.



ADVOCACY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION

A meeting was held with the Minister of Family and Social Services, Ms. Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş. On 9 December 2025, under the umbrella of the Turkish Autism Council, representatives of more than 100 civil society organizations met with the Minister of Family and Social Services, Ms. Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş.

The meeting addressed the implementation processes of the Autism Action Plan, challenges encountered in educational settings, access to services, and operational shortcomings in the field. Representatives of the associations directly shared the difficulties experienced in practice and proposed solutions with the relevant authorities. On behalf of OGAD, our Board Member Ms. Çimen Polat attended the meeting, bringing forward feedback received from families and structural issues related to educational processes. During the discussion, it was emphasized that individuals with autism should be supported through more effective and monitorable policies in the areas of education, healthcare, social services, and employment.



The 6th Ordinary General Assembly of ODFED Was Held

The 6th Ordinary General Assembly of the Autism Associations Federation (ODFED) was held on 20 October 2025 with the participation of representatives from member associations.

Mr. Ergin Güngör was re-elected as Chair of the Board, and our Association's President, Ms.

Yasemin Dağ, was elected as Secretary General. By participating in the 6th Ordinary General Assembly, OGAD continued its institutional representation within the umbrella structure. OGAD continues to contribute to discussions aimed at strengthening joint rights-based efforts and enhancing the sustainability of the federation's structure.

Meeting with the District Governor of Şişli, Mr. Cevdet Ertürkmen

On 16 December 2025, OGAD held a meeting with the District Governor of Şişli, Mr. Cevdet Ertürkmen. The discussion focused on the primary needs of individuals with autism and their families living in Şişli. Key topics included educational settings, opportunities for social participation, safe activity spaces, and the strengthening of local support mechanisms. Concrete challenges faced by families in the district, along with proposed solutions, were directly conveyed, and evaluations were made regarding enhanced cooperation with public institutions and the development of more accessible local support structures.

OGAD will continue its engagement with local authorities and public institutions, contributing to efforts aimed at improving the quality of life of individuals with autism.

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

OGAD's activities in 2025 were carried out through voluntary contributions, project-based revenues, and limited individual donations. The association does not collect regular membership fees.

Income generated during the year consisted of proceeds from fairs and artwork sales, individual donations, and royalties from publications donated to the association. These resources were used to cover operational expenses.

The main expenditure categories in 2025 were as follows:

- Accounting and financial consultancy services
- Website and digital infrastructure expenses
- Maintenance fees and upkeep costs related to the association's property
- Banking and official transaction fees
- Printing and organizational expenses

Certain transportation and organizational costs related to advocacy and representation activities were covered personally by members of the Board of Directors.

OGAD aims to establish a sustainable and transparent financial structure and continues its efforts to diversify funding sources. Detailed financial statements are prepared by a certified public accountant in accordance with legal requirements and are shared with members at the General Assembly.

Books Donated to the Association with Assigned Copyrights



Koçluk Hakkında Her Şey
Author: Demet Uyar



Benim Gökyüzüm Yeşil
Author: Mine Baki

2026 GOALS AND ROADMAP

In 2026, OGAD aims to further concretize and institutionalize its work in the fields of production, education, and advocacy.



1. Activation of the Izmir Menderes Site

The property planned as a production and hobby space for individuals with autism is intended to become fully functional for nature-based activities, workshops, and family gatherings following the completion of infrastructure arrangements. Within this scope, the development of volunteer support, tree donation initiatives, and local partnerships is planned.

2. Continuity of Educational Programs

Rights-based, practice-oriented training programs for families and educators are planned to continue in both online and in-person formats. Priority topics include safety in school environments, collaboration, and rights awareness.

3. Expansion of Art and Production Activities

In 2025, OGAD's production- and art-based initiatives began to be strengthened through a new spatial infrastructure. Within the framework of the ongoing collaboration with the Independent Artists Collective, a shared workshop and event space used by artists has been opened to the artistic production of individuals with autism. This space is structured as a production environment where children and individuals with autism can regularly participate in workshops, alongside voluntary contributions from artists. Participation in art fairs continued in collaboration with the collective, enabling children's works to gain visibility on broader art platforms. This model represents a sustainable example of production-based social inclusion. In 2026, improvements to the physical conditions of the current venue and its adaptation to be fully suitable for children are planned. In this context, financial and in-kind support is needed for renovation expenses and for the provision of materials related to painting, ceramics, and other artistic disciplines. OGAD remains open to collaboration with all individuals and institutions willing to support the establishment of a permanent and accessible production space.

4. Diversification of Funding Sources

The development of diversified funding models—including donations, royalties, event revenues, and project-based resources—remains a core priority for building a sustainable financial structure.

5. Advocacy and Institutional Representation

Structural challenges faced by individuals with autism in Türkiye continue in the areas of education, healthcare, social services, and employment. OGAD prioritizes maintaining its rights-based approach in these fields and strengthening its representation within umbrella organizations.

Volunteer Art Education and Organization

Mr. Ercan Dağ dedicated his time and effort on a voluntary basis, providing free painting lessons to our children and organizing fair participations as well as coordinating supporting artists.

Digital and International Monitoring

Ms. Özlem Keskin contributed to the association's visibility by managing LinkedIn activities and monitoring international developments.

Institutional Networking and Conceptual Support

Ms. Meriç İçinözbebek supported our collaboration processes through ideas and professional connections.

Field Knowledge and Family Experience

The Evde Beceri Kazandırma (EBK) Group strengthened our work by sharing field-based knowledge and lived family experiences.

Art Space and Fair Support

The Independent Artists Collective (BSK) supported our children's artistic production and contributed to maintaining our presence at fairs by providing exhibition space.

Donation Support

Our members and donors provided financial and/or moral support to ensure the continuity of the association's activities.

Institutional Representation and Joint Advocacy

The Management and Secretariat Team of the Turkish Autism Council (TOM) provided coordination, support, and collaboration in rights-based advocacy processes.

WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE.



**WE CONTINUE
MOVING FORWARD
TOGETHER**



www.ogad.org