# “Building the METU community in the Netherlands”

## METU Alumni Association NL
## Annual Report (Jaarverslag) 2024

### 1. General Information (Algemene Gegevens)

Name: METU Alumni Association NL
Legal Form: Vereniging
Statutory Seat: The Netherlands
KvK: 92566839

**Being established on 28 December 2023, 2024 marked the first operational year of the association, focusing on community building, institutional engagement, and initial event programming.**

✓ Formal registration at Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce

✓ Designing our Logo

✓ Opening bank account

✓ Seven committees established with dedicated volunteers

✓ Active social media presence and growing online community

✓ Strong ties with Turkish diplomatic missions and external parties for formal recognition and future collaboration

✓ Cross-city alumni network spanning the Netherlands

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## A. About the Association

### 1. Mission, Vision and Values

The mission of METU Alumni Association NL ( “The Association”) is to create a lifelong community of alumni in the Netherlands through increased opportunities for meaningful engagement in order to increase awareness, pride, participation, volunteer involvement, and philanthropic commitment to Middle East Technical University.

Establishing a mutually beneficial partnership with the alumni, University and other stakeholders in the Netherlands.

### 2. Values

- **Loyalty** - Pride in and commitment to the future that we are creating together as an alumni community, while honoring our history, traditions and achievements.
- **Integrity** - Transparency and ethical behavior in all of our interactions.
- **Diversity** - Recognizing and valuing differences and seeking alternative perspectives and inclusiveness in all that we do.
- **Innovation** - Striving to be an industry leader in alumni relations through a creative and transformational business model.
- **Continuous Improvement** - Pursuit of excellence through agility and responsiveness to stakeholders and the environment.

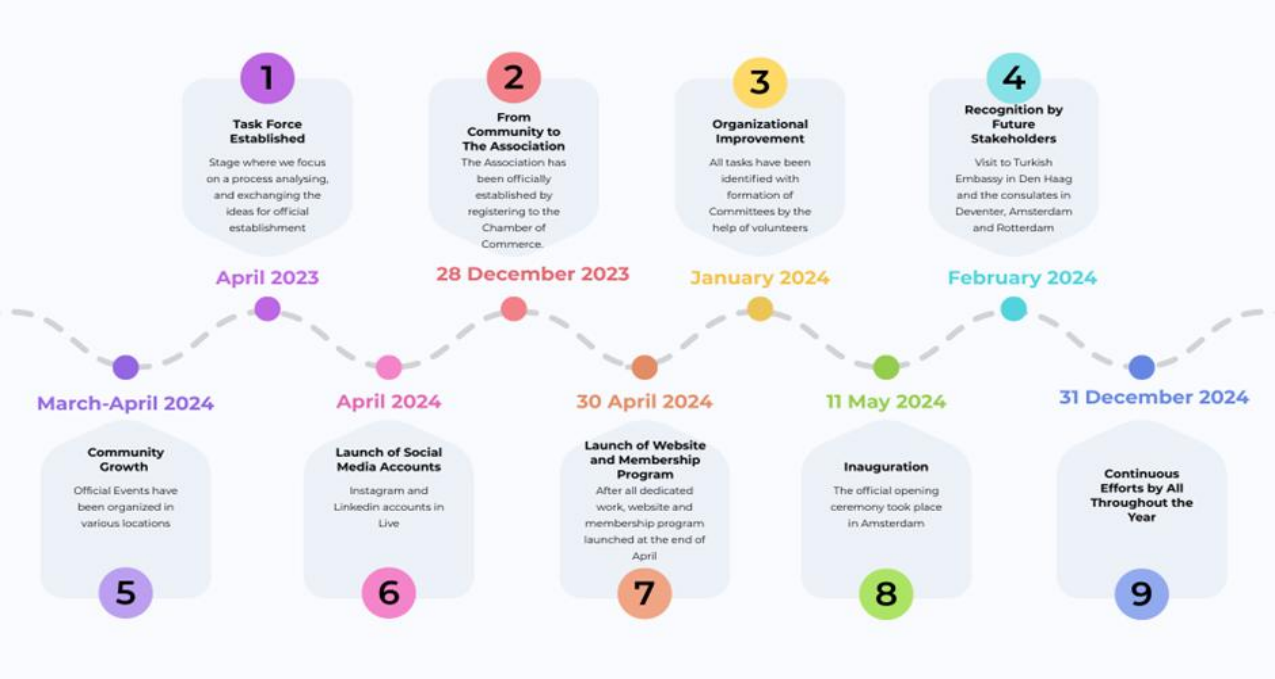
### 2. Our Journey: From Community to the Association

2024 marked the **first operational year** of the association, focusing on:

- Establishing institutional presence
- Building initial alumni network
- Launching community engagement activities



The Timeline to build METU Alumni Association NL is summarized below;




## 3. Organizational Structure & Roles and Responsibilities in Summary

**Board of Directors**

- Managing the Association by protecting the interests of the Association and the organization (members and volunteers) connected with it and representing the Association towards the members, volunteers and other stakeholders.

- **Committees:**
    - **Events & Social Activities Committee**

- Organizing networking events and encouraging professional solidarity between the Members and the Companies they work.
    - **External Relations Committee**

- Establishing strong relationships between METU and Dutch universities as well all external stakeholders.
    - **Communications & Social Media Committee**

- Developing a shared social strategy; facilitating two-way communication about social media initiatives; share ideas and strategies to promote social engagement; and encourage social participation across the members and external stakeholders.

- **Fundraising & Scholarship Committee**

- Establishing relations and obtaining donations/sponsorship with local and international organizations
    - **Member Relations Committee**
- Increase the number and diversity of the members, follow up the membership records and transactions, and foster quick communication between the members and the Board of Directors.
    - **Ethics and Audit Committee**
- Developing Code of Good Governance and Ethical Standards to be observed by the members of the Association subject for approval of the Board of Directors and ratification of the General Assembly.

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**B. Year in Review**

**1. Community Engagement & Visibility**

*We hosted our first official event, unveiling our mission, objectives, and activities to the community.*

*This milestone event marked the beginning of a new chapter for METU alumni in the Netherlands.*



- Number of events : 18

18 events have been organized in 2024 to get together with an approximate participation of 500 graduates. Below is the list;

| DATE | TYPE | WHERE |
|---|---|---|
| 20.02.2024 | Courtesy Visit | Consulate General Deventer |
| 21.02.2024 | Courtesy Visit | Consulate General Amsterdam |
| 22.02.2024 | Courtesy Visit | Consulate General Rotterdam |
| 02.03.2024 | Breakfast | Amsterdam |
| 11.03.2024 | Courtesy Visit | Turkish Embassy Den Haag |
| 16.03.2024 | Breakfast | Amsterdam |
| 07.04.2024 | Breakfast | Rotterdam |
| 11.05.2026 | Opening | Amsterdam |
| 01.06.2024 | Breakfast | Eindhoven |
| 21.06.2024 | Courtesy Visit | Turkish Airlines Amsterdam |
| 02.07.2024 | Reunion | Hoofddorp |
| 04.07.2024 | Webinar on Retirement | Online |
| 07.10.2024 | Courtesy Visit | Taxture BV, Amsterdam |
| 10.10.2024 | Meeting | SunExpress Brand Manager |
| 27.10.2024 | Republic Day | Amsterdam |
| 03.11.2024 | Reunion | Groningen |
| 23.11.2024 | Breakfast | Rotterdam |
| 10.12.2024 | Webinar on Labor Laws and Legislation | Online |

The main objective of all these activities was concentrated on building strong relationship and networking opportunities among our graduates in the Netherlands.

The Association has also established close contacts with the Embassy, Consulates, other alumni groups and companies for further engagement. These visits strengthened our institutional ties and set the Association for future collaboration.

A total of 18 events and activities were held in 2024 in different locations.

7 of these activities were paid activities where a small amount of the ticket sales were transferred to the Association Account to cover administrative expenses. 2 activities were occasional reunion activities organized by the volunteers in Hoofddorp and Groningen.

2 activities were in the form of Webinars on Retirement-Social Security issues given by he Labour Attaché at the Turkish Consulate of Deventer whereas 1 Webinar was on Labour Laws and Legislation given by Ms. Aysegul Avci and Ms. Luca Keuben at CMS Netherlands.




The impacts of all activities were;

- Formal recognition
- Strengthened alumni bonding
- Increased visibility
- Cultural cohesion
- Cross-community participation

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**C. Membership Development**





Membership system has been opened (online) as of 30 April 2024 together with the Website. Total number of members has reached 56 as of 31 December 2024

Instagram and LinkedIn accounts were opened also in April 2024 to increase alumni awareness.

Membership Fees was set for EUR 50.00 for one year and EUR 90.00 for two years.



## D. Financial Overview

Income & Cost Statement and the Balance Sheet of 2024 is shown at the below lists. Main income items are composed of membership fees and contributions generated from events and activities.

The biggest expense item was one-time Notary expenses for official establishment of the Association.

### Income and Cost Statement 2024

**METU Alumni Association NL**

**Income & Cost Statement 31 December 2024**

| | Income (Gross) | Costs (Net) |
|---|---|---|
| Contribution -Membership & Events | 12,392.90 | |
| Donations | 314.83 | |
| Marathon Test Payments | 10.00 | |
| Loan to be Paid | 1,586.98 | |
| | | |
| Payment Costs - Stripe | | 122.30 |
| Bank Charges - Current Account | | 147.30 |
| Bank Charges and Interest - Donation Account | | 28.25 |
| Interest Paid - Donation Account | | 0.03 |
| KvK Amsterdam | | 83.05 |
| Taxture Legal B.V. | | 3,758.87 |
| Hostnet.nl | | 222.04 |
| Paid Membership Pro | | 378.11 |
| The College Hotel Amsterdam - Opening Amsterdam | | 2,999.71 |
| PrinterPro.nl | | 29.60 |
| Copie Sjop | | 15.30 |
| Wasvenboerderij - Eindhoven Breakfast | | 940.00 |
| The College Hotel Amsterdam - Opening Amsterdam | | 431.40 |
| Repuclic Day Activity | | 2,997.36 |
| Breakfast Event - Rotterdam | | 626.00 |
| Verenigingen.nl Membership | | 69.00 |
| **TOTAL COSTS** | | **12,848.32** |
| **BALANCE - CURRENT ACCOUNT** | | **1,169.84** |
| **BALANCE - DONATION ACCOUNT** | | **286.55** |
| **TOTAL** | 14,304.71 | 14,304.71 |

- **Balance Sheet 2024**

**METU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NL**
**BALANCE SHEET 31 December 2024**

| ASSETS | 31.12.2024 | EUR | | LIABILITIES | 31.12.2024 | EUR | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Liquid Assets | | | | | | | |
| ABN AMRO Bank Current Account | | 1,169.84 | | Loans to be Paid | | 1,586.98 | |
| ABN AMRO Bank Donation Account | | 286.55 | | Loss for 2024 | | -130.59 | |
| | | TOTAL | 1,456.39 | | | TOTAL | 1,456.39 |

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- **Statement by the Audit and Financial Committee 2024**

  The following were appointed as the Audit and Financial Committee of METU Alumni Association NL for the 2024 audit and approval of financial statements

  The audit was conducted in person and thoroughly reviewed the documents presented by the METU Alumni Association NL. The Audit and Financial Committee found the following documents belonging to the Association and audited them in full :

  Balance sheet as at 1 January 2024 and as at 31 December 2024, and the statement of income and expenses for 2024;

- Overview of bank transactions for 2024 (no cash transactions);
- Bank statements for both current account and donation account 2024;
- Number of Membership for 2024;
- Detailed review of income transactions,
- List of invoices paid in 2024.The audit and financial committee has made the following findings and recommendations:

  1. The balances of the bank accounts on 1/1/2024 and 31/12/2024 matched the balances in the accounts.

  2. The items on the statement of income and expenses were checked in full, and the items showed a 100% match with the accounting records.

  3. Based on the initial advice of the audit and financial committee, the Executive Board has arranged the bank account in such a way that authorized board members always apply the four-eyes principle for bank transfers regardless of the amount.

  4. Based on the advice of the audit and financial committee, the treasurer has determined that the association has sufficient financial resilience to comfortably meet the expenses and administrative obligations of an average year. This provides administrative stability and certainty to the members for the longer term.

  Finally, the audit and financial committee is of the opinion that, based on its investigation, the figures processed in the records for 2024 and included in the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024 present a true and fair view. It proposes to the General Meeting of METU Alumni Association NL to grant the treasurer acquittal and discharge for the financial policy conducted by her/him in an excellent manner, and to adopt this in its entirety.

Furthermore, this signed statement must be added to the documents of the General Meeting.

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**E. Challenges**

- Early-stage issues:
    - Limited Funding
    - Initial set-up issues
    - Engagement consistency
    - Resource constraints

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**F. Strategic Outlook & Lessons Learned**

- Membership expansion
- Professional networking events
- Stronger Engagement
- Sponsorship development
- Regular event calendar
- Corporate Partnerships

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**G. Maturity Comparison**

| **Dimension** | **METU Alumni NL** | **Mature Alumni Associations** |
|---|---|---|
| Lifecycle stage | Early-stage | Established |
| Reporting | None / informal | Annual reports + audited financials |
| Programming | Social & networking | Career services, mentorship, funding |
| Revenue model | Event-based | Donations, sponsorships |
| Governance | Volunteer-driven | Formalized |

## H. Acknowledgement

***We extend our deepest gratitude to all our members and volunteers whose dedication, passion, and generosity of time made this journey possible. This community exists because of you.***

