



## Gaziantep supports its residents through culture and distance learning

To support inhabitants during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gaziantep, a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in Turkey, has implemented a wide package of measures that capitalizes on the creative and cultural potential of the city. Through digital technologies and social media, the Municipality has been able to continue its various operations namely in the fields of culture, education and innovation.

To provide cultural and creative contents and experiences to all generations, the city, in cooperation with the Art Centre, has organized online workshops related to marbling, painting, mosaic, music, design and cooking. An audio book application has also been set up to allow citizens with disabilities to experience the rich literature of the city and beyond.

To cater to the specific needs of children, the Children's Library and Science Center have broadcasted 'Fairy Tale Time' and 'Book Reading Time' through social media. Furthermore, to support women and youth, training in artificial intelligence and block chain as well as innovation competitions are foreseen to be organized through the city's social media and YouTube channel.

COVID-19 has also widely impacted the education system in the city. To protect the health of the children and their families, while continuing their education, a distance-learning system has been developed to allow them to continue learning at home. Furthermore, in the framework of the GASMEK (Gaziantep Arts and Vocational Trainings Center), more than 6500 students have been assisted in the preparation for their university exams.

Enriching the experiences of its inhabitants has been one of the major objectives of the city. In this regard, the Gaziantep Digital City Archives that gathers over 60,000 pieces, has been made accessible to all its inhabitants online.

**KEY WORDS:**

- Education and learning
- Youth engagement