

Pinar Ozbek

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Pinar Özbek, M.A., Ed.M., is the coordinator and one of the instructors of the Academic and Life Skills (ALIS) Program at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2017, she led the initiation of the First-Year Experience Network in Turkey in 2017, which now has 250 members from 90 institutions. The inaugural FYE symposium in Turkey was organized in 2018 by her team at Koç University. Ms. Özbek serves as a consultant and conducts workshops for higher education professionals planning to implement FYE programs at Turkish universities. She also visited various universities in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Morocco, Ireland, Scotland and Belgium where she offered guest lectures and consultation to staff members regarding the implementation of soft skill development programs for undergraduate students. Since 2019, she has been a member of the Wellbeing in Higher Education Network within the global Wellbeing Project.

Ms. Özbek teaches experiential courses and offers workshops on soft skills to undergraduate and graduate students as well as staff members and faculty members within Koç University, other universities and companies in Turkey. She co-authored the book entitled *University and Beyond: Life Skills for Young Adults*, a manual for life skills instructors as well as a guide for college students. She is also the co-author of a book chapter, "Transition to Professional Life Through Experiential Learning," in the *Palgrave Handbook of Experiential Learning in International Business*. Özbek previously served as the secretary-general and vice president of the Turkish Psychological Association.

She earned her bachelor's in psychology from Boğaziçi University in Turkey. She then completed her M.A. and M.Ed. in mental health counseling at Teachers College, Columbia University on Fulbright scholarship.