Educ8 Empowerment Program for Young Women started in 2015 as an initiative of Günay Aksoy living in New York with the goal of helping young women realize their potential despite their background, economic status and gender.

2015 was the first cycle of charitable Educ8 Empowerment Program for Young Women and 5 participants from Turkey who face economic and traditional challenges came to NY for 1-month and studied English and participated in various planned activities.

The impact of the program was beyond English education. During the 1-month program, these women not only studied English in various schools but they also spent time with mentors in their fields of study, practiced English with native speakers and participated in field trips organized by our volunteers from different cultures. Educ8 was able to transform the lives of these bright and amazing young women and touched the lives of many others who were involved in this program. The program helped expand these women’s horizons and realize their potential!
Project by Numbers

Hometown of Participants

2015 New York
- Antalya (Alanya): 1 student
- Batman: 1 student
- Gaziantep: 1 student
- Şanlıurfa: 1 student
- Şırnak: 1 student

2016 New York
- Adiyaman: 1 student
- Diyarbakır: 1 student
- Elazığ: 1 student
- Mardin (Midyat): 1 student
- Ordu: 1 student

2017 London
- Diyarbakır: 1 student
- Erzincan: 1 student
- İzmir: 1 student
- Kars: 1 student

2018 London
- Bursa: 1 student
- İstanbul: 1 student
- Mersin: 1 student
- Şırnak: 1 student

2019 London
- İstanbul: 2 students
- Konya: 1 student
- Van: 1 student
Project by Numbers

Degree Subjects of Participants

- Engineering: 5
- Medical School: 4
- Psychology: 3
- Law: 2
- Education: 2
- Architecture: 2
- Molecular Biology: 1
- Public Administration: 1

Universities

- Marmara University: 22.7%
- Yıldız Technical University: 18.2%
- Ege University: 13.6%
- Middle East Technical University: 9.1%
- Ankara University: 4.5%
- Antalya University: 4.5%
- Gaziantep University: 4.5%
- Çanakkale University: 4.5%
- Istanbul University: 4.5%
- Istanbul Technical University: 4.5%
- İşık University: 4.5%
Budget

The program is as follows and all expenses are to be paid through the program budget:

- 4 weeks of English language studies at Language Studies International LSI Central, London (6 hours per day– in July–August)
- 4 weeks half board accommodation at Bowden Court, London
- Plane tickets (İstanbul–London–İstanbul)
- Local transportation (1 month Oyster card)
- Travel insurance
- Local telephone cards
- Weekly allowance for expenses

Girls will also have English speaking volunteers to take them around London, make visits to offices like Google and Facebook. They are assigned mentors in the fields they study. They are also given concert and musical tickets and make cultural visits to museums.

The approximate cost of the 4 week program is 3000 usd per student.
Eda (2015 NY) works as the only female electronic and automation maintenance engineer in Technical Services Department of Limakport İskenderun since her graduation. She is also doing masters on antenna engineering.

Fatma (2015 NY) works as a doctor in Bitlis; in the recent residency exam she has taken, she came 272nd among 18 000 and wants to specialize in plastic surgery.

Kesire (2016 NY) works with Syrian refugees as a psychologist in the Social Cohesion and Youth Participation Project in İzmir funded by Unicef.

Rosalin (2017 London) has founded her own law firm in İzmir. Also gives legal support to victim women cases in women's rights associations where she works as a volunteer.
For many Educ8 students coming from eastern towns or villages in Turkey, spending a month in an English speaking environment immersed in cultural events, visiting museums, theatres and shows, meeting with mentors and professionals from companies like Google, Facebook, architectural and law firms is a life changing experience. They improved not only their English but also their belief in themselves in their capabilities.

Some returned to USA for internships and research projects, others enrolled in Erasmus programs and still others make plans to carry on with their studies abroad and all thanks to the confidence gained through a month of Educ8.

One participant recently said in a zoom group meeting “If one day they ask me what were the three important things in my life I would say one was my Educ8 experience..”

We hope to continue with Educ8 program in the summer of 2022 when language schools start face to face education and life returns to its regular routine.
Our donors and volunteers, we thank you for your ongoing support.