

COBLET 2022 and 11th GOBLET AGM

1. Hybrid mode

The 1st Colloquium on Bioinformatics Learning, Education and Training (CoBLET), themed “Bioinformatics Training and Education: Charting the Path Ahead”, will be held in a hybrid mode: both in-person and virtually, from 11th-14th of October, 2022. The in-person event will be at Beykoz Institute of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, Istanbul, Turkiye, while at the same time the event will be broadcasted via the Zoom platform.

The event will focus on thematic discussions about education and training in bioinformatics with various features:

- Keynote talks by distinguished local and international luminaries in the field of bioinformatics
- Half-day training workshops by eminent local and international trainers focusing on how to develop and teach bioinformatics curriculum
- An on-site interactive session on the Past, Present & Future of Bioinformatics Education in Turkiye led by ISCB RSG-Turkiye
- A bioinformatics eduthon
- Short talks: 8 minutes with 2 minutes of Q&A session.
- Poster presentation: 3 minutes with 2 minutes of Q&A session

The major tracks covered at COBLET are:

- 1-Emerging technologies
- 2-Pedagogical methods and innovations
- 3-Being industry-ready
- 4-Sustainable development

Given the hybrid nature of CoBLET, we encourage and welcome participants to attend the event in-person. It will be a great opportunity to meet and physically interact with notable luminaries from the field. CoBLET2022 aims to be an interactive platform for trainers, researchers, educators and students to foster networking amongst the bioinformatics community.

[Abstract](#) submission is OPEN and Participation is FREE, but [Registration](#) is required.

2. Venue

The in-person event will be held at [Beykoz Institute of Life Sciences and Biotechnology](#), Istanbul, Türkiye, which is located in Beykoz.

The google maps location for the venue is [Bezmialem Vakıf Üniversitesi Yaşam Bilimleri ve Biyoteknoloji Enstitüsü](#)

Physical Address

1. Beykoz Institute of Life Sciences and Biotechnology (BILSAB)
No. 10, Ali İhsan Kalmaz sokak, Yalıköy, 34820 Beykoz, İstanbul, Türkiye.

3. Coming to Türkiye

Türkiye has the unique position of being a country that lies partly in Asia and partly in Europe. It is the bridge between Asian and European continents with İstanbul being that bridge. Turkish is the main language of communication although English is also widely spoken especially in İstanbul.

3.1 Visa requirements

The Republic of Türkiye grants visa-free access to some countries. At the same time, for those countries where a visa is required, the application can be made either online or in person according to your country's requirements.

For detailed information, please check the links:

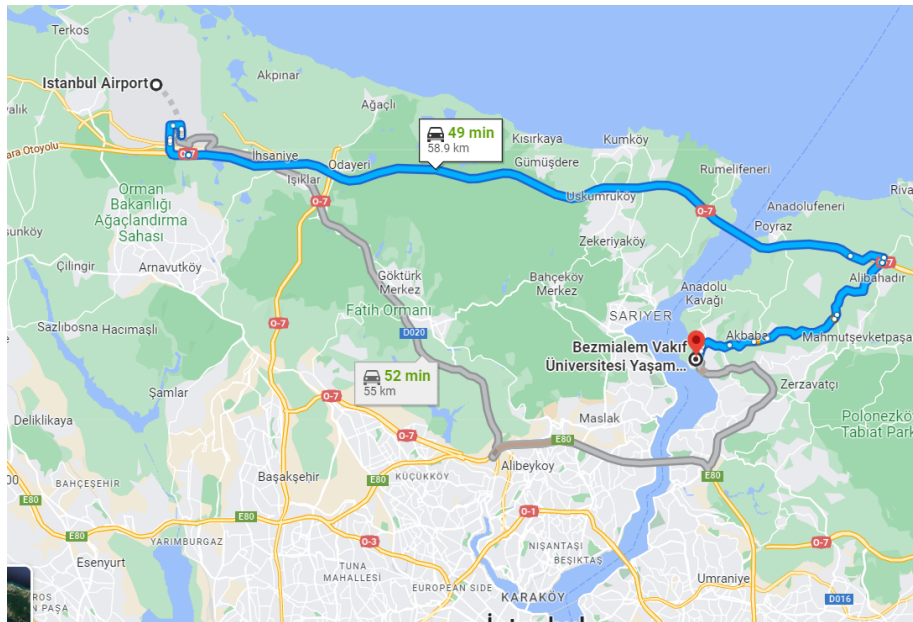
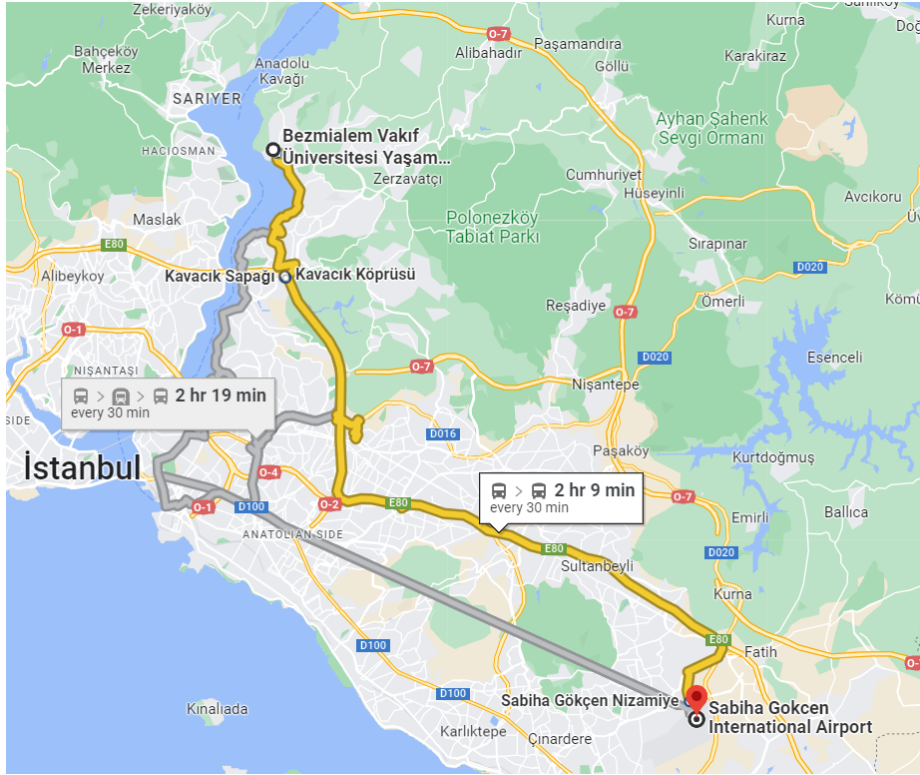
<https://www.mfa.gov.tr/general-information-about-turkish-visas.en.mfa>

In order to apply online: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>

Please find out from the Turkish embassy in your country, if available, for more specific information. We will try to assist where possible.

3.2 International airports

The city has two airports. İstanbul Airport (IST) (51.4 km from the venue) is on European side, and Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) (48.3 km from the venue) is on the Anatolian (Asian) side. Sabiha Gökçen (SAW) is the closest one to the [venue](#).



3.3 Health insurance

Visitors who don't need to get a visa can enter Türkiye freely (subject to immigration clearance), but it is advisable to purchase one for the protection and support. It is mandatory for other visitors to obtain a standard travel insurance package.

3.4 COVID19 status in Türkiye

COVID-19 restrictions were removed by the government countrywide on 17th July 2022. There is no obligation to test when entering the country. To reduce the risk of catching and spreading the virus, the following necessary precautions, which are given by CDC, are recommended to implement:

- Get Vaccinated and stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Wear a mask
- Stay 6 feet away from others
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces and crowds
- Test to prevent spread to others
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor your health daily

As for the official records, 77,5% of Istanbul's population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Do check your own country's requirements for international travel during COVID-19.

For the updated information about the covid scenario in the country, please check the information provided by the government of Türkiye: <https://covid19.saglik.gov.tr>

We suggest that visitors get health insurance covering COVID-19 in case of any risk. You can purchase it from a local company in your country or from a company in Türkiye.

Please click for detailed information: <http://www.covidinsurance4turkey.com/>

3.5 Transportation

GOBLET Members and invited speakers

Specially arranged transport will be made available for invited speakers and GOBLET members from the airport to the recommended hotel(s) and from the recommended hotel(s) to the event venue. Please inform us about your itinerary by emailing us: goblet2022@bezmialem.edu.tr

For all other participants, the following information is useful

For transportation from airports to the city center (Kadıköy or Taksim or Beşiktaş), you can use transportation available at the airports. The bus charges are minimal compared to taxis.

- To call a taxi: <https://www.bitaksi.com/>
- Bus:
 - Istanbul Airport and major towns <https://hava.ist/en>
 - Sabiha Gökçen and major towns <https://www.havabus.com/>

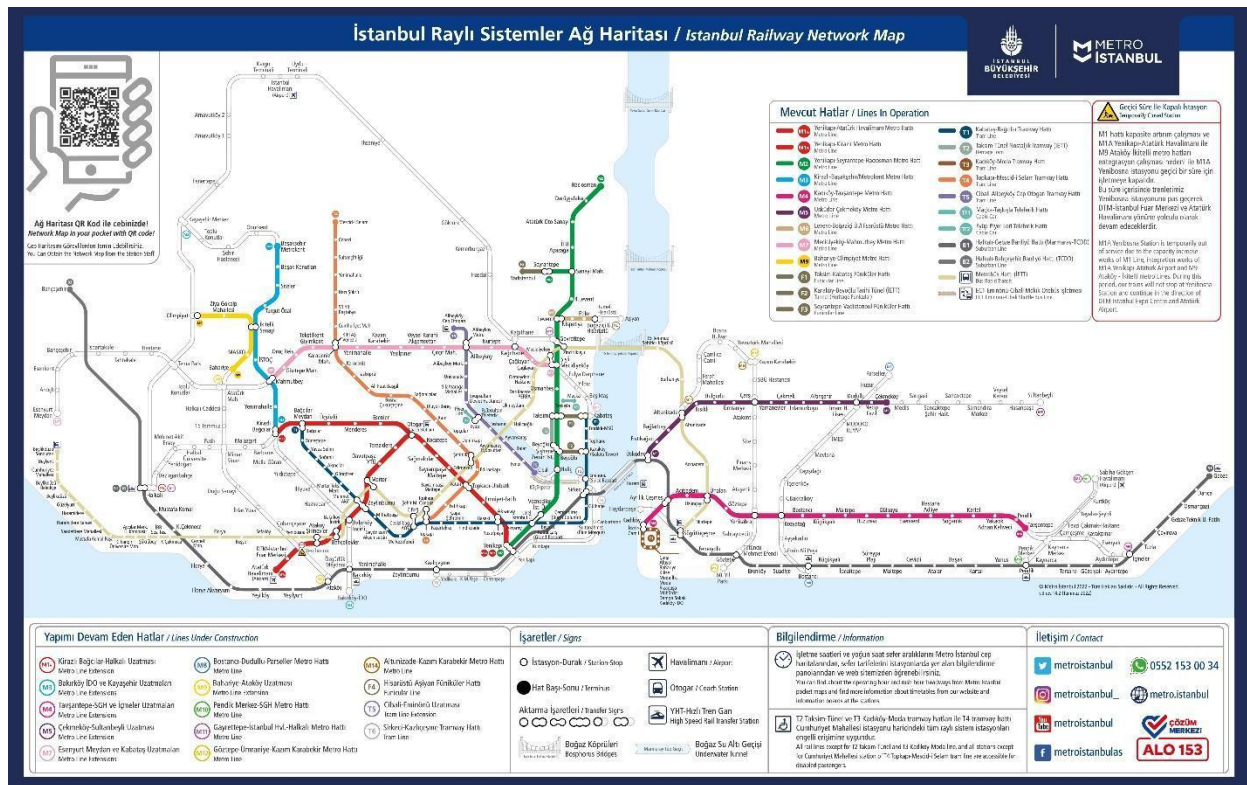
To move around the city, alternatively, you can use various modes of public transport such as metro, tram, buses and ferries.

Here are the buses passing from the nearest bus stop to the venue is the Beykoz Kundura:

- 15 / 15T from Üsküdar
- 15F from Kadıköy
- 11H / 20 from Ümraniye
- 121A from Mecidiyeköy (European Side)

The travel app is a reliable and easy-to-use travel companion. You can find directions with detailed offline maps and in-depth travel content with this Istanbul city guide: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ulmon.android.playistanbul&gl=US>

Istanbul has a very efficient intracity Metro Railway system. You can follow this map to find the number of the train and the nearest station.



Istanbul Kart

Cashless payment system is implemented on the public buses and metro systems using the Istanbul Kart. You can get more information [here](#) and [here](#).

University shuttle availability

The shuttle will be available from the [Bezmialem Vakif University main campus](#) (Fatih) to the venue (Beykoz) on the days of Colloquium.

3.6 Accommodation

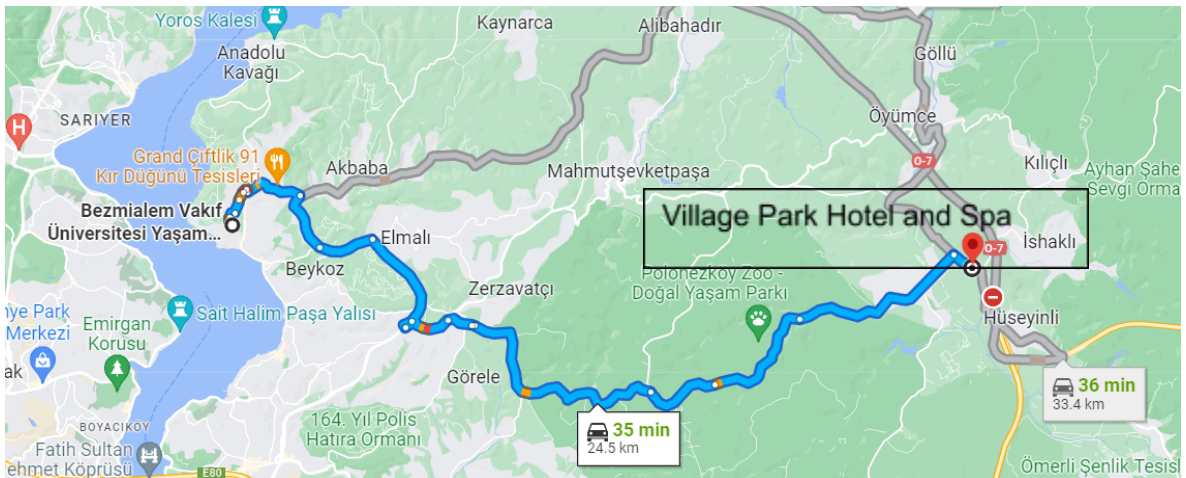
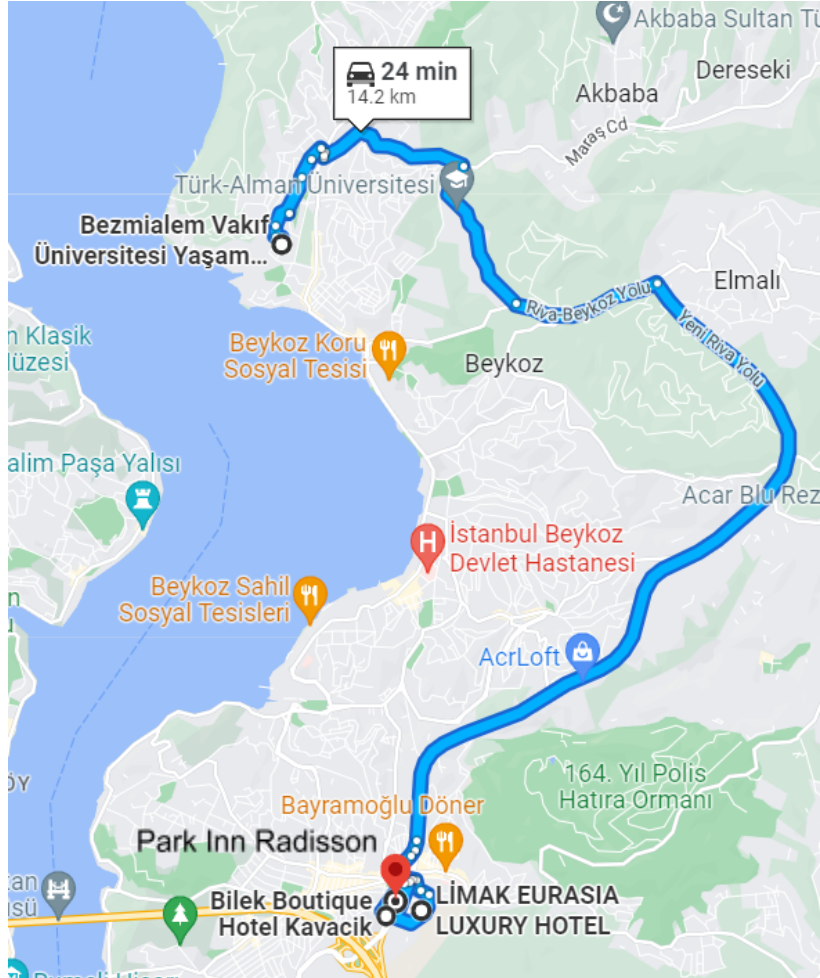
For all participants of the CoBLET2022, the Bezmialem Vakif University has made a special arrangements to facilitate the accommodation. Please click the link for suggested hotels' which have an agreement with Bezmialem Vakif University:

No.	Name of the Hotel	Single Room	Double Room	Contact Person
1.	Dosso Dossi Hotel	105 Euro 1,921 TL	110 Euro 2,013 TL	Sevim Dağ +90(549) 660 90 14
2.	Akgün Hotel	850.00 TL	1,100TL	Ayşe Göksu +90(212) 534 48 79 (landline number)
3.	Holiday Inn İstanbul City Hotel	80 Euro 1,464 TL	85 Euro 1,555.50 TL	Betül Duysak +90(530) 940 28 72
4.	Eresin Hotel Topkapı	80 Euro 1,464 TL	80 Euro 1,464 TL	Merve Erdil +90(534) 647 19 67
5.	Golden Hill Hotel (Vatan Caddesi)	1,000,00 TL	1,400 TL	İsmail Kabak +90(535) 321 29 80
6.	Golden Hill Hotel (Findıkzade)	500 TL	700 TL	İsmail Kabak +90(535) 321 29 80
7.	Park Inn by Radisson İstanbul Asia Kavacık	*80 Euro	90 Euro	Didem Hnm +90 (0216) 693 34 34
8.	Village Park Hotel and Spa			+90 (533) 921 16 50
9.	Bilek Boutique Hotel	*1,100 TL	*1200TL	Hilal Hnm +90 (0216) 424 20 24
10.	Limak Eurasia Luxury Hotel	*120 Euro	140 Euro	Esra Hnm +90 (0530) 764 41 96

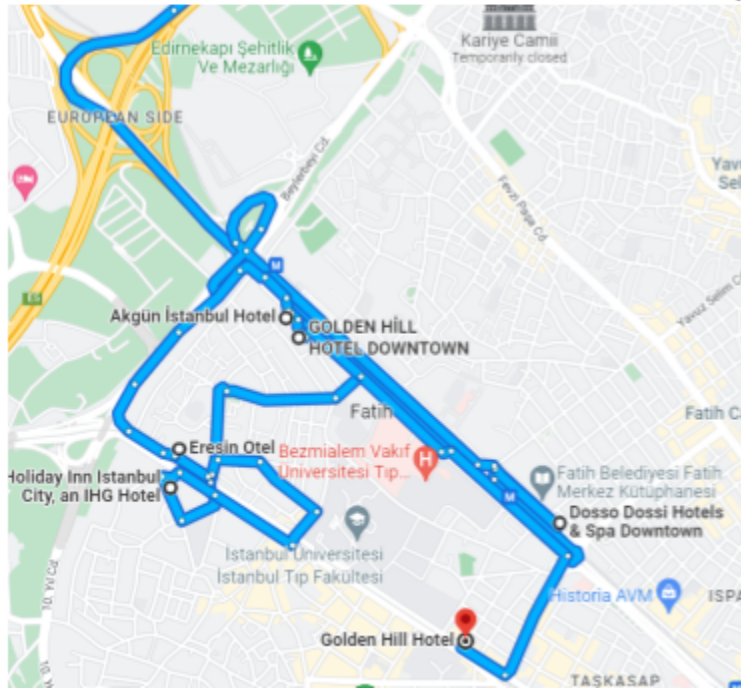
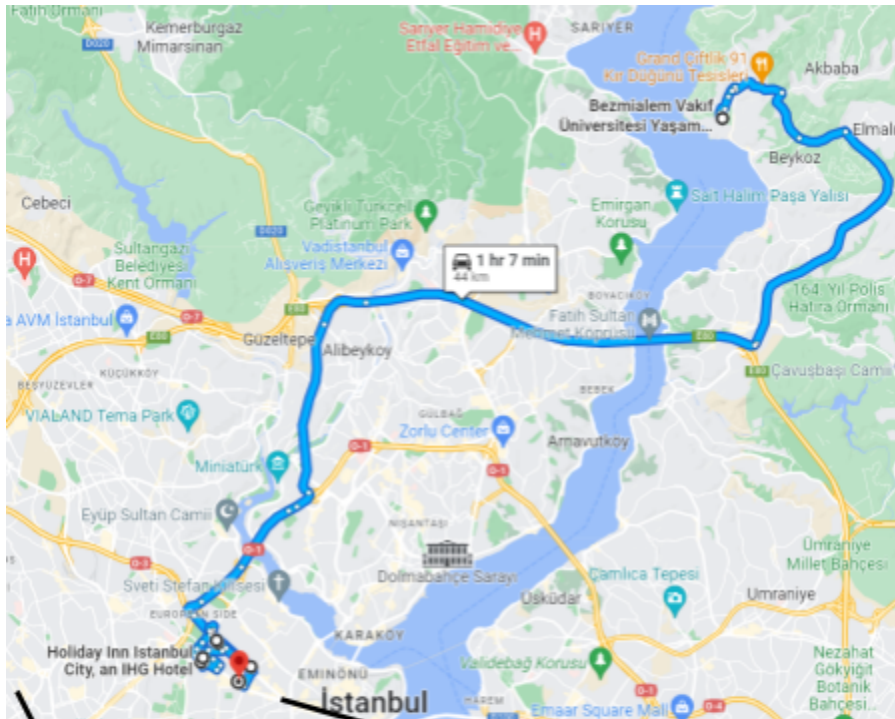
TL= Turkish Lira

*= Prices are subject to change with booking dates

You can make alternate arrangements to stay during your visit. Please let us know of the alternate arrangements to facilitate you better.



Hotels in the Asian Side



Hotels in the European Side

3.7 Food

Lunch and coffee/ tea will be available at the venue throughout the duration of the Colloquium. In case of any **special requirement**, such as vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerance, gluten intolerance, please let us know so that we can provide you the best services.

There are several cafes and restaurants around the hotels mentioned above where you can visit for breakfast and dinner.

3.8 Weather in Istanbul in October

In October, the weather in Istanbul turns cool. According to the online weather forecasts during October, in Istanbul, at air temperature values, the temperature in the week of the conference (October 10-16) is expected to be in the range of 18-22°C, and the precipitation expectation is specified as 0% throughout the week. You can see the current status here: <https://www.mgm.gov.tr/eng/forecast-cities.aspx?m=ISTANBUL>

3.9 Clothes

It is recommended to bring slightly warm clothes as it might be cooler during the day as well as at night. Closed shoes and/or sneakers should be useful to go around the city.

3.10 Tourist attractions list

BİLSAB is located almost at the North end of the Asian side of Istanbul. You may like to see the historical Mecidiye Palace right next to the campus and dine on the Bosphorus. You could visit the Beykoz Kundura Factory, which had been established as a shoe factory on the coast and had been running for many years, was converted into a museum. In addition, you may like to go to a small fishing town, Anadolu Kavağı and/or Riva.

Besides this, there are ample tourist locations/destinations in İstanbul (<https://visit.istanbul/en>). We recommend you to visit the Sultanahmet area, which is a historical center of Istanbul. You could discover traces of a long history, societies, and cultures in this district. The district is 15 minutes away from our Fatih Main Campus by tram. The primarily places could be: Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome Square, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, Hagia Sophia, and Yerebatan Cistern, among others.

4.0 In-person participants with special needs

4.1 Specially-abled (wheel chair bound, hearing impaired, and sight impaired)

If you are a specially-abled person and require assistance, please inform us by email (goblet2022@bezmialem.edu.tr; bvucoblet2022@gmail.com) of your needs so that we can facilitate you in the best possible manner.

4.2 Participants with young children and breast-feeding mothers

Inclusivity is one of the ethos of CoBLET2022. We highly encourage participants to let us know via email (goblet2022@bezmialem.edu.tr; bvucoblet2022@gmail.com) if your child or children are accompanying to the event and you need any special space to breast-feed your child or just be with them during the event. This will help us provide you with better services during the event so that you can attend the sessions with a peace of mind.

However, we highly recommend, that you make appropriate personal arrangements to take care of your child/children when present on the venue during the event. A room can be arranged for your child/children to play and hang around.

5.0 Exchanging money

There are several money changers at the airports and around Istanbul. The rates are typically better outside the airport.

6.0 Internet facilities for in-person participants

Free internet is available at the venue. You can check with our Help Desk for connecting you to the internet at the venue.

Hotel staff can guide you for free WiFi at the hotels you are staying in.

You can buy a tourist sim at the airport for your other needs during your stay in Istanbul. You can get more information [here](#) regarding sim cards and data plans.

- End of Document -

Last updated: 19 August 2022