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**Ministry of National Education and Turkcell join their efforts  
for the “Bridge of Hearts”**

## **THE FIRST ABUTMENT OF THE “BRIDGE OF HEARTS” BUILT IN DIYARBAKIR**

**The “Bridge of Hearts” Project prepared jointly by the Ministry of National Education and Turkcell was kicked off with a ceremony in Diyarbakır. The Project is intended to have 100,000 students from all of Turkey’s 81 provinces visit provinces other than their own, know Turkey’s natural and cultural beauty, and build lasting friendships.**

The first party of students in the “**Bridge of Hearts**” Project conducted by the Ministry of National Education with Turkcell, the main sponsor, departed from Diyarbakır today after a ceremony attended by the Minister of National Education Dr. Huseyin Celik, Turkcell CEO Sureyya Ciliv, and the Governor of the Province of Diyarbakır Huseyin Avni Mutlu.

Speaking at the ceremony held on June 3rd for the project conducted jointly by the Ministry of National Education and Turkcell, **Minister of National Education Dr. Huseyin Celik** said, “*Our children are of great importance to us as the assurance of our future. We believe that moral development takes shape through what is made available to the child at an early age. It is with this understanding that we initiate the “Bridge of Hearts” Project which we are convinced that it will broaden the vision of our children and allow them to discover the natural and cultural beauty our country has to offer.*” Declaring the “Bridge of Hearts” to be a project of the entire Turkey, Minister Celik called upon opinion leaders and artists to lend their support to it as “Project Volunteers.

Turkcell CEO **Süreyya Ciliv** said, “*We at Turkcell are proud to be supporting the Bridge of Hearts between our children in the many provinces of Turkey. We want our children to travel outside the towns where they live in order both to experience sharing at different levels and to expand their knowledge and experience. As they build up experience, their faith in the future and their hopes will get stronger and their dreams will become more colorful. Therefore, we love this project and we support it heartily. We are happy to contribute to our children growing up as individuals with initiative who can make their own decisions. We are confident that the bonds in our country will grow stronger and the distances between our minds will get shorter via the Bridge of Hearts.*”

Minister of National Education Dr. Huseyin Celik and Turkcell CEO Sureyya Ciliv joined the children in their excitement on board the first buses that left Diyarbakır for İstanbul after the ceremony.

**Turkcell CEO Ciliv and Minister Çelik to serve as guides**

Volunteer guide families will accompany the children on the last two days of their trip, introducing the local and cultural values of their province. Turkcell CEO Ciliv and Minister Celik will be among the volunteer guides.

### **100,000 students from 81 provinces to tour Turkey for eight weeks**

The “**Bridge of Hearts**” Project aims to have 100,000 selected students from 81 provinces tour various other provinces in order to get to know Turkey better, to build experience, and to make friends to keep a lifetime. 7th and 8th grade students in primary education and 1st and 2nd grade students in secondary education will take part in cultural activities and make new friends in the provinces they will visit on five-day trips. During their tour, the students on each bus will be accompanied by a headmaster and two teachers assigned by the Provincial Directorate of National Education in the province being visited. Three days of the trip will be planned by the Provincial Directorate of National Education and two days by the guide family responsible for each student. Accommodation will be provided at the local student hostels. The trips will be completed by the beginning of August.

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