TÜSEB TAÇESE
TÜRKİYE MATERNITY, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH INSTITUTE

Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop

WORKSHOP REPORT

May 12, 2025

TÜSEB
Koşuyolu Campus
Istanbul

tacese.tuseb.gov.tr

Message from the President

Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) leads innovative studies systematically conducted in the field of health sciences and technologies, providing scientific, technical, and financial support to practitioners and researchers. In this context, it acts with the mission of a domestic and national Türkiye in the healthcare sector and the vision of being an international leader organization focused on R&D. With the motto "Science and Technology for Human Health," it aims to bring new momentum and energy to the healthcare sector. It supports all kinds of scientific and technological studies that have the potential to add value to our country and humanity in order to increase and sustain Türkiye's competitiveness.

Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE) is one of the nine institutes established under TÜSEB. With the motto "Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, Healthy Generations," our Institute's objectives include "to ensure the production, use, and benefit of techniques and methods for determining the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases related to maternal, child, and adolescent health; to make collaborations and partnerships with relevant institutions and organizations in the private, foundation, or public sector for this purpose; and to support entrepreneurship in these areas."

Childhood and adolescence periods, which fall within our field of activity, are known as the periods when individuals' physical, mental, and social development is fastest. Adequate healthcare services and supportive environments provided at early ages help children and youth maximize their developmental potential. In this context, to achieve a healthy society, it is essential to develop and implement appropriate health policies for these specific life periods.

We have organized this workshop to enable the discussion of specific problems related to the subject. At the workshop, our Institute brought together a Ministry of Health representative, universities, child associations, non-governmental organizations, and experts in their fields from the private sector. In the workshop organized with the mission of contributing to health sciences and technologies based on our country's localization and nationalization goals, participants were informed about the institution, project proposals that could be collaborated on with our stakeholders were evaluated, and the scenarios and results of the projects that would contribute to the health ecosystem were discussed. The views and suggestions put forward within the scope of the workshop have been systematically reported and submitted to the evaluation of relevant universities and professional organizations.

Hoping the outcome will be beneficial to our country...

Prof. Dr. Şirin Güven

President of the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop

TÜSEB - Koşuyolu Campus

MAY 12, 2025 • ISTANBUL

Committees

PRESIDENT

Prof. Dr. Şirin Güven
Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

ORGANIZING AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Dağ
Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

Prof. Dr. Aysu Türkmen Karaağaç
Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aylin Yetim Şahin
Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Özaydın
Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

RAPPORTEUR

Özlem Köksal
Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute

PARTICIPANTS

Prof. Dr. Şirin Güven
President of TAÇESE

Fatih KARADEMİR
TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department

Batuhan YEŞİLYURT
TÜSEB Head of Project Management and Support Department

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aylin YETİM ŞAHİN
TAÇESE Presidency - Academician

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüseyin DAĞ
TAÇESE Presidency - Academician

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aysu TÜRKMEN KARAAĞAÇ
TAÇESE Presidency - Academician

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Özaydın
TAÇESE R&D Specialist

Özlem Köksal
TAÇESE Statistician

Prof. Dr. Zeynep İnce
Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Dr. Özlem Tekşam
Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Dept. of Pediatrics

Prof. Dr. Gülbin Gökçay
Istanbul University Child Health Institute Directorate

Prof. Dr. Ömer Faruk Beşer
Istanbul U. Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine, Dept. of Pediatrics

Prof. Dr. Bülent Karadağ
Marmara Faculty of Medicine, Pediatric Pulmonology

Prof. Dr. Ali Bülbül
Şişli Hamidiye Etfal Hospital Sarıyer Campus

Prof. Dr. Ozan Özkaya
İstinye University Faculty of Medicine, Dept. of Pediatrics

Prof. Dr. Semra Çetinkaya
Dr. Sami Ulus Maternity and Children's Health and Diseases Health Application and Research Center

Prof. Dr. Z. Ülker Altıner
Istanbul University Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Prof. Dr. Sinem Akgül
Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Division of Adolescent Health

Eyüp Coşkun
Istanbul University Child Protection Center

Dr. Sevilcan Başak Ünal
UNICEF Representative

Table of Contents

Message from the President	**1**
Committees	**3**
1.1 Objective of the Workshop	**7**
1.2 Summary	**7**
1.3 Workshop Program	**8**
1.4 Workshop Implementation and Analysis Method	**9-13**
2. Scope Assessment	**14-15**
3. Evaluation and Conclusion	**16**

Tables

Table 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop Program **8**

Table 2. Prominent Topics in Child and Adolescent Health Fields **14-15**

Figures

Figure 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop A) Invitation; B) Program **8**

Figure 2. TÜSEB Health Models **10**

Figure 3. TÜSEB Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE) Personnel **10**

1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop

1.1 Objective of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop held on Monday, May 12, 2025, within the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE), is the planning and development of effective projects and health policies for these age groups in order to lay the foundations of a healthy society by supporting the physical, mental, and social development of individuals during childhood and adolescence.

1.2 Summary

The Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop, organized by the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE), was carried out by a working group consisting of universities, associations, civil society and public employees, and academicians. Within the scope of TÜSEB's mission, vision, and triple helix model, the topics to be included in the fields of activity were brought to the agenda. In the workshop, the activities carried out by TAÇESE, human resource capacity, current projects, and the areas it needs to achieve its strategic goals were evaluated; technology-based solution proposals for problems and the effects of these solutions on the clinical, family, and society dimensions were discussed.

The necessary studies to achieve our goal in line with our motto "Healthy mother, healthy child, healthy generations" were evaluated. During the discussions held in this context, the associations planned to conduct scope analyses with their members to identify innovative projects aligned with needs.

Finally, the strategies that need to be followed to achieve the targets were also analyzed by the workshop participants. They contributed by expressing their opinions on strategies and strategy policies regarding the path TAÇESE should follow. Coordinated efforts with public institutions that have international project experience will contribute to the transformation of the workshop outputs into health policies and implementation guidelines. The strategy that emerged as a result of the workshop was concluded by presenting the roadmap to be followed in implementation for the TÜSEB TAÇESE Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop.

1.3 Workshop Program

The aim of the workshop program and the invitation of the participants held on Monday, May 12, 2025, within the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE); is the development and implementation of effective projects and health policies for these age groups in order to lay the foundations of a healthy society by supporting the physical, mental, and social development of individuals during childhood and adolescence (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop
A) Invitation; B) Program

Table 1. Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop Program

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
09.00 - 09.30	Registration	-
09.30 - 10.00	Opening Speeches	Prof. Dr. Şirin GÜVEN – President of the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat SARĞIN – Vice President of TÜSEB
10.00 - 10.15	Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute Activities	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem ÖZAYDIN – TAÇESE R&D Specialist
10.15 - 10.30	TÜSEB Project Supports	Batuhan YEŞİLYURT – TÜSEB Head of Project Management and Support Department
10.30 - 10.45	International Innovative Collaborations in Health	Fatih KARADEMİR – TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department
10.45 - 11.00	Break	-
11.00 - 12.30	Group Work	-
12.30 - 13.00	Discussion and Closing	-

1.4 Workshop Implementation and Analysis Method

Various participants consisting of universities, associations, civil society and public employees, and academicians contributed to the Current Problems and Solution Proposals in Child and Adolescent Health Workshop organized by the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE). The workshop was held in a hybrid format (with face-to-face and online participation), and in such studies where participants openly express their common views, it is anticipated that targets can be reached more effectively by benefiting from the experiences of umbrella and sub-field associations, and that the outputs can yield more efficient results at the implementation level. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the participants was carried out, and the report was written according to the obtained results.

The opening of the workshop was made by TAÇESE President Prof. Dr. Şirin Güven. It continued with the introduction of the participants. Afterwards, the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB) were introduced, and the mission, vision, and motto of TAÇESE were stated.

Mission

To be a leading institution in our country that develops national and international multi-stakeholder, evidence-based advanced research and projects aimed at defining, preventing, and treating problems in the field of maternal, child, and adolescent health.

Vision

To be a globally leading institution that will contribute to the formation of applicable, developable highest physical and mental health standards for every mother, child, and adolescent.

Motto

Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, Healthy Generations

During the introduction of TÜSEB, the producing health triple helix model and the importance of progressing the planned projects based on this model were emphasized (Figure 2).

Figure 2. TÜSEB Health Models A) Producing Health Model; B) Triple Helix Model

In the continuation of the workshop, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Özaydın provided the participants with brief information about the activities and studies of the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute.

Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE) personnel consist of academicians working full-time and part-time (Figure 3).

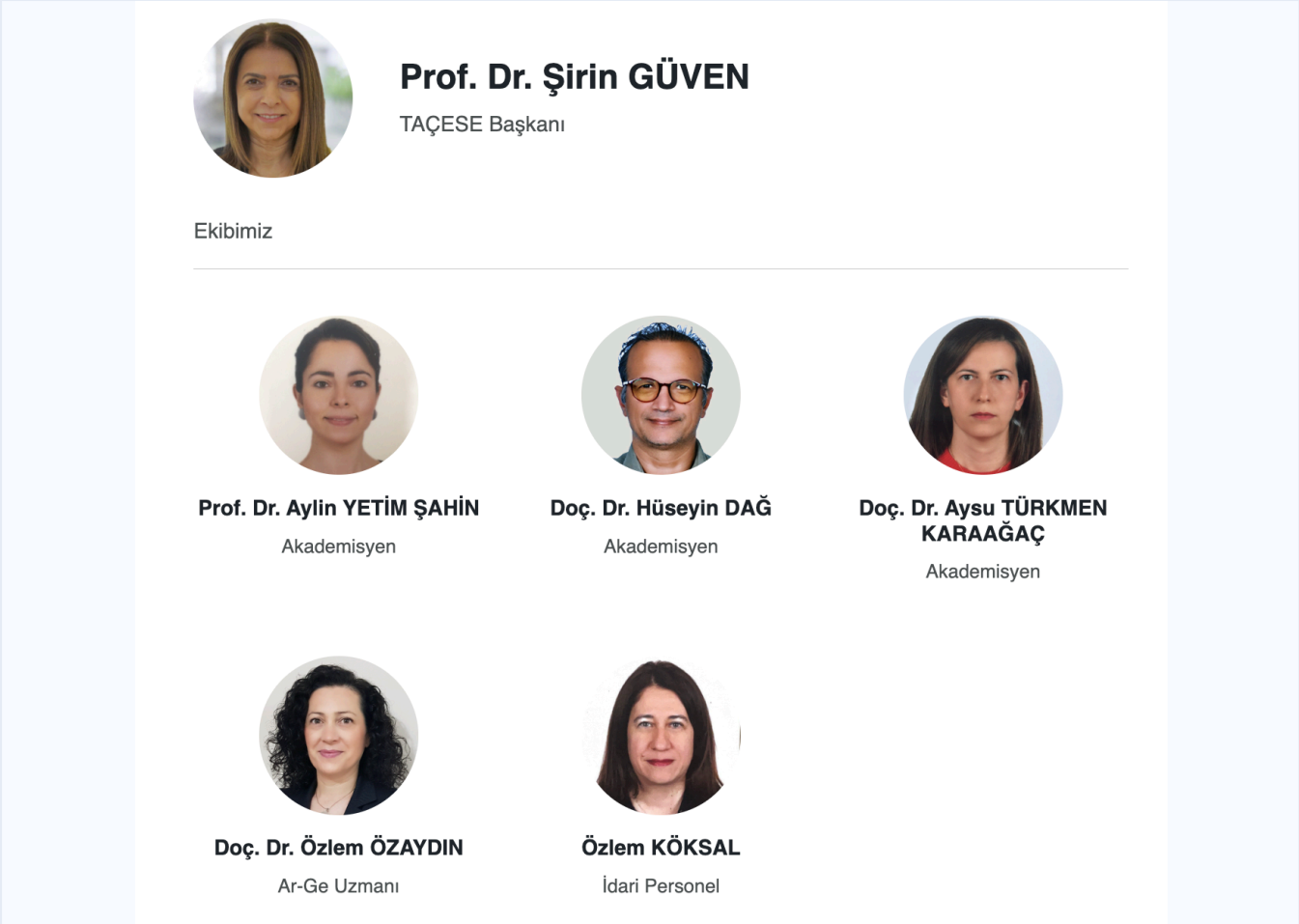

Figure 3. TÜSEB Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute (TAÇESE) Personnel

Batuhan Yeşilyurt, TÜSEB Head of Project Management and Support Department, briefly summarized his unit, the unit's position within TÜSEB, and its activities;

TÜSEB is a strategic research and project support institution established by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye in 2014 with special privileges, focusing on technology production and transfer specific to the health field. The main objectives of TÜSEB, which was structured by taking prestigious institutions like Robert Koch as an example, are;

- To improve the domestic production capacity in the healthcare industries in Türkiye,
- To produce high value-added health technologies,
- To commercialize projects by creating financial and structural support policies.

The Project Management and Support Department is structured on two main axes:

- Academic Research Supports: Aimed at assistant professors, associate professors, and professors; supporting basic scientific research, budgeting for publication and laboratory studies
- Producing Health Supports (2024 Vision)

With this structure, TÜSEB acts with its triple vision that protects, develops, and produces. When financial support policies are examined, the scope and amount of the support offered by TÜSEB have reached levels unprecedented in Türkiye. For example; undergraduate students can receive support up to 50,000 TL, master's / doctoral students up to 200,000 TL, and new associate professors and clinical researchers up to 3,000,000 TL. Strategic project groups can benefit from project support up to 90 - 100 Million TL.

The supports cover not only individual researches but also team studies, personnel salaries, scholarships, and material expenses.

While talking about prominent projects and their impacts, the Genome Project can be shown as an example. This project is a large-scale genetic research project with a budget of 428 Million TL.

TÜSEB Project Management and Support Department utilizes an active budget of 2.5 - 3 Billion TL with a total of more than 20 special projects. To date, more than 1,600 active projects and 40,000 ideas/project proposals have been examined. Over 1 billion TL of funds have been used in 6 years. An additional 1 billion TL is being invested this year.

Focus areas include drug development, artificial intelligence applications, biomaterials, diagnostic technologies, and medical devices.

Mr. Yeşilyurt continued his speech by explaining the structure of the project application process and evaluation system;

TÜSEB receives all applications through the TÜSEB Information Management System (TBYS). In this context, the process consists of the following steps: preliminary evaluation (strategic alignment analysis), project call (invitation to suitable idea owners), scientific evaluation (detailed review by expert referees), finalization and execution (determination of the grant amount, monitoring, and reporting), and final reporting (feedback, success analysis, and dissemination).

TÜSEB's "red apple" (ultimate goal) is to make a Türkiye-origin health product into a global brand. Projects such as the domestic heart-lung machine are pioneering examples of this vision.

In conclusion, TÜSEB provides direct and strong support to young researchers, academicians, and private sector stakeholders with the slogan "A Türkiye that Protects, Develops, and Produces," to reduce the country's foreign dependency and strengthen the domestic healthcare industry.

In the continuation of the program, Fatih Karademir, TÜSEB Head of Foreign Relations Department, briefly summarized his unit, the unit's position within TÜSEB, and its activities;

TÜSEB shared information about the institution's capacity for access strategies to international funding mechanisms and multilateral collaborations; and made suggestions

regarding the matching of the project ideas expressed within the scope of the workshop with international platforms such as the European Union, UNICEF, and WHO.

TÜSEB is a public research institution that has both internal and external research and product development capacities in the field of health, and has a structure equivalent to esteemed institutions such as the National Institutes of Health (USA), Max Planck Institute (Germany), RIKEN (Japan), Medical Research Council (UK), and INSERM (France).

The Foreign Relations Department carries out studies to increase TÜSEB's visibility and impact capacity on a global scale; aiming to develop international collaborations in the field of health sciences and technologies, coordinate the maximum utilization of the European Union and international funding sources, and contribute to the training of qualified human resources. The Presidency is a unit that strengthens inter-institutional interactions, supports multi-stakeholder project development processes, and provides strategic contributions with its diplomatic-bureaucratic capability. The funding calls currently open or published periodically include Horizon Europe (e.g., Maternal & Child Health, Digital Health), UNICEF (newborn monitoring systems), UNFPA, and WHO programs. The involvement of public institutions in such projects is of critical importance in terms of providing political and structural assurance.

Considering that the aforementioned calls open and close in certain periods, regular monitoring is vital. TÜSEB Foreign Relations Department continuously monitors this process and proactively informs the relevant units. Especially within the scope of Horizon Europe, projects aimed at child and adolescent health are among the priority areas. UNICEF's newborn monitoring systems, campaigns to raise public awareness, and field-oriented social innovation tools provide supporting mechanisms in this context. Needs analyses to be conducted with non-governmental organizations and multi-stakeholder projects prioritizing social impact are evaluated primarily by international funders.

Partnerships to be established with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, local governments, associations, and private sector representatives in project applications; both increase the success of the application process and make the integration of project outputs into public services possible. Furthermore, the fact that the projects to be developed produce sustainable solutions that can find an equivalent not only on a national but also on a global scale increases the probability of being supported. In this context, consortium models to be developed among national research institutions, specialty associations, and public institutions will facilitate the transformation of problems coming from the field into scientific outputs.

For TÜSEB, solutions based on real needs in the field are a priority. Physicians, nurses, midwives, and other healthcare professionals who provide direct services in the healthcare field, and non-governmental organizations; as stakeholders who directly observe these problems, are in a position to make the most accurate needs assessments. Therefore, there is a wide range of scientific project development potential, from social solution models to medical devices and diagnostic kits. Developing domestic and applicable models in the field of child and women's

health is among the priority targets of TÜSEB. In this process, every suggestion coming from the field has the potential to be transformed into a scientific and fundable project.

2. Scope Assessment

Important points came to the fore in the interactive general evaluation section where the participants actively expressed their views. TÜSEB speakers stated that reaching out to the participating associations via e-mail would increase effectiveness. The participants, on the other hand, stated that university students and assistants show great interest in SRP (Scientific Research Projects) courses, and that participation would increase if more information was provided about TÜSEB projects. In addition, it was stated that special meetings could be organized regarding TÜSEB projects and that awareness would increase by sharing accepted sample projects at these meetings.

TAÇESE explained that, in line with the targets it has set for 2025, it plans to write projects regarding certain items, and they prioritize preventive health and policy development topics in particular. However, it was emphasized that there are many other important topics, such as school safety, identified by non-governmental organizations.

The participants noted that this workshop is an important start and stated that it would be appropriate for each association to develop project proposals internally. For example, a participant specialized in the field of pediatric pulmonology suggested that three possible project ideas could be brought out from each association. It was stated that it is important for associations with a general scope and associations with a more specialized structure to produce projects together that are compatible with and complementary to each other.

In Table 2, the problems articulated under the heading of clinical goals foreseen to be realized in the fields of child and adolescent health were presented to the participants, and the necessity of developing projects in these areas was emphasized. Furthermore, it was stated that it is more difficult, but equally important, for umbrella associations to produce projects designed in a broader and more inclusive structure. In this context, everyone was encouraged to propose a project topic, but it was reminded that Türkiye's priorities must be determined correctly.

The participants expressed that by conducting a strong brainstorming session, nearly 2,000 project ideas could be produced from all associations, and prioritization should be done among these ideas. Making these ideas innovative, applicable, and sustainable was seen as critical for TÜSEB support.

The participants presented their suggestions that TÜSEB's priority areas should not be limited only to mother and child follow-up; but training projects involving training of trainers, collaborations with Turkic Republics, and countries requesting support should also be included. TÜSEB Foreign Relations Department expressed its readiness to provide guidance and support the matching processes to adapt the innovative project ideas expressed in the workshop to international funding calls (e.g., Horizon Europe, UNICEF, UNFPA). In this context, collaborations

aimed at actively including associations in the project preparation process and developing the necessary technical/bureaucratic capacity were suggested.

Additionally, it was emphasized that family medicine is crucial for raising healthy generations. It was stated that forming healthy children and a healthy society is possible through public education, the training of family physicians, and educational activities to be carried out in the field of pediatrics. It was expressed that an education mobilization could be structured as a project and wide audiences such as municipalities and kindergarten teachers could be reached within this scope.

Furthermore, it was emphasized that family medicine protocols need to be clarified and reference points where family physicians can direct patients should be determined. For instance, it should be clarified how a family physician will act in which situation, what the output to be obtained will be, and how much it will cost. The participants noted that innovative projects are of great importance in this context.

In addition, the participants stated that there is a need to announce TÜSEB - TAÇESE activities more widely in the field.

Table 2. Prominent Topics in Child and Adolescent Health Fields

TOPICS
With digitalization steps in health, expanding the use of telemedicine and e-health applications in the field of child and adolescent health, and revealing service opportunities such as diagnosis and treatment in a clinical sense
Planning studies aimed at easing the workload of child and adolescent physicians by fully integrating technological developments and artificial intelligence technologies into life
Planning studies aimed at increasing the success rate in chronic treatment with the development of sophisticated treatment systems for drugs
Planning studies aimed at the routine use of advanced technological applications, products, and devices in the health field, and increasing the scope and quality of services through the routine use of artificial intelligence, wearable, robotic, and automation technologies in the healthcare sector
Planning studies aimed at making high-tech products of clinical importance in health more accessible to patients as their costs decrease
Planning studies aimed at the creation of components of the health ecosystem in child and adolescent health
Applying the outputs of disciplines such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, and biomaterials science to the field of child and adolescent health, developing innovative diagnosis and treatment approaches for various diseases, and planning studies aimed at providing alternative and effective treatment opportunities

Increasing the awareness of family physicians, and providing reminder informative training on referral and control processes
Providing training aimed at increasing the interaction of the newborn with the mother
Providing training aimed at increasing mother-child and adolescent relations
Planning studies aimed at addictions (tobacco/digital addiction) in adolescents from a clinical perspective

3. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

The workshop on problems and solution proposals in child and adolescent health, organized by the Türkiye Maternity, Child and Adolescent Health Institute, was carried out with the participation of health and health-related public, private sector, and universities.

With the workshop, TÜSEB and our Institute were introduced to various stakeholders, specific problems regarding the subject were discussed, and evaluations were made on realistic solution proposals. In addition, a consensus was reached to develop forward-looking collaborations and carry out innovative projects with associations operating in the field of child health.

This report is expected to contribute to taking strategic steps that will facilitate project production within the framework of multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary collaborations by being evaluated by TÜSEB TAÇESE and relevant stakeholders.

It is believed that the obtained data will provide a valuable contribution to healthcare professionals, health-related public institutions and organizations, and international and Türkiye-focused literature on the point of "Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, Healthy Generations".

This report has been compiled to serve as a guide in order to achieve the expected/desired developments in the field of child and adolescent health in the future, and it is thought to contribute to shaping the future of the healthcare sector in this field by sharing TÜSEB and TAÇESE activities with umbrella associations and sub-branch associations in the pediatric field.

The workshop was concluded by presenting good wishes.

TÜSEB
HEALTH INSTITUTES OF TÜRKİYE

TÜSEB TAÇESE
TÜRKİYE MATERNITY, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH INSTITUTE