



Melike Bal

Date of birth: 24/01/2004

Nationality: Turkish

CONTACT

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ABOUT ME

I am Melike Bal. I am from Türkiye and I have Cerebral Palsy. I am currently studying undergraduate law at Social Sciences University of Ankara. I am proud member to ENIL & ENIL Youth also, a national disability organization (a longstanding partner to ENIL) called Association of Women with Disabilities (ENG-KAD). I feel proud to be a part of civil society because I know that these organizations and activists online helped me discover and embrace my disabled identity. I want to be a part of the amazing work being done and help other disabled people in discovering themselves and fight the good fight with us. I published a poetry book in 2017 and I enjoy watching TV dramas, especially medical and legal, in my free time.

WORK EXPERIENCE

03/06/2023 – CURRENT Ankara, Türkiye

Disability Inclusion Trainer Association of Women with Disabilities

I deliver disability inclusion training sessions to the personnel of UN Türkiye agencies, humanitarian workers (in collaboration with UNFPA), as well as staff and volunteers from various civil society organizations in Türkiye. My approach involves delivering engaging training through the use of narratives and analogies. The training curriculum spans a diverse range of topics, covering disability rights, models of disability, disability history, UN CRPD, disability-inclusive communications, national disability laws, and social benefits available to individuals with disabilities. Proficient in presenting in both English and Turkish, I strive to enhance awareness and understanding of disability inclusion among diverse audiences.

Address Atatürk Blv. No:105, Sanlı İş Merkezi K:5 No:515 Kızılay, Çankaya, 06200, Ankara, Türkiye | **Email** engellikadindernegi@gmail.com | **Website** <http://engkad.org/>

12/11/2022 – CURRENT Brussels, Belgium

Board member European Network of Independent Living Youth Network

I was elected as a board member by ENIL Youth Members in November 2022. As a board member, I represent ENIL at international events, provide assistance with maintaining contact with partner organizations, support the board's efforts of organizing events, and help with inter-organizational communications. Additionally, I highlight the importance of disability and youth activism's intersectionality when I represent ENIL at the events.

Address Mundo J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000, Brussels, Belgium | **Email** secretariat@enil.eu | **Website** <https://enil.eu/>

01/10/2023 – 31/01/2024 Ankara, Türkiye

Communication manager (Volunteer Staff) Association of Women with Disabilities

As the Communications Manager at the Association of Women with Disabilities, my role encompassed a wide array of responsibilities. I oversaw the organization's social media presence by efficiently managing DMs, engaging with followers, and implementing strategic content plans. Utilizing graphic design tools like Adobe Express, I created visually appealing social media posts and captions, ensuring alignment with our messaging. Additionally, I leveraged my proficiency in English to nurture international partnerships, including effective communication, collaboration, and the preparation of written materials. My data-driven approach helped optimize our social media strategies for maximum impact.

Business or Sector Human health and social work activities | **Address** Atatürk Blv. No: 105, Sanlı İş Merkezi K:5 No:515 Kızılay, Çankaya, 06200, Ankara, Türkiye | **Email** engellikadindernegi@gmail.com | **Website** <http://engkad.org/>

10/05/2019 – 15/09/2021 Elazığ, Türkiye

Project coordinator Neurofeedback Turkey Campaign-Self Employment

I started the Neurofeedback Turkey Campaign to increase access to the method in Turkey. Neurofeedback is a computer-based therapy method that could potentially improve the health and life quality of disabled people. My medical traumas make me more passionate about it. Because, I made attended many painful, but not as helpful, physical therapy sessions throughout my childhood. Also, my medical team convinced my parents to a

very excruciating orthopedic surgery to make me "more like my friends." When I found out about it, which is pain-free, I felt amazed. The method does not aim to make someone nondisabled but offers them support and help to adapt to the world. So, I wanted disabled people in the country to have access to edge-cutting technology while getting to choose what is best for them. To impact decision makers and get the method under national insurance coverage: I prepared a report and presented it to members of our parliament, met with NGO representatives, and interviewed by local news channels about the campaign.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

26/09/2022 – CURRENT Ankara, Türkiye

Bachelor of Laws - LLB Social Sciences University of Ankara

Foundational areas of Turkish law like Civil Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Obligations and Contracts Law, Administrative Law, Property Law, Trade Law, Employment Law, Tax Law, and Bankruptcy Law have been taught by professors during a four-year program. Aside from these fundamental courses, global topics like International Public Law, International Civil Law, Human rights Law and EU Law also are parts of this program. Additionally, the teaching language of the program is 30% English. Students who complete this program can work as lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and notaries across Turkey.

Address Hükümet Meydanı No: 2 Ulus, Altındağ, 06050, Ankara, Türkiye | **Website** <https://hf.asbu.edu.tr/en/> |

Field of study Law | **Level in EQF** EQF level 6 | **National classification** Lisans Diploması | **Type of credits** ECTS |

Number of credits 240

02/10/2023 – CURRENT Ankara, Türkiye

Minor in International Relations Social Sciences University of Ankara

This program provides students with a comprehensive understanding of global dynamics, integrating courses such as Introduction to International Relations, Research Methods, Foreign Policy Analysis, Theories of International Relations, International Political Economy, Current Issues in Turkish Foreign Policy, and History of Diplomacy. Through this interdisciplinary approach, students acquire valuable skills in research, critical thinking, effective communication, and global awareness, ensuring they are well-prepared to navigate the intricacies of international law and diplomacy in their future careers.

Website <https://www.asbu.edu.tr/en> | **Field of study** Political sciences and civics | **Level in EQF** EQF level 6 |

Type of credits ECTS | **Number of credits** 35

01/10/2023 – CURRENT Eskişehir, Türkiye

Associate Degree Anadolu Univeristy

The objective of Program in Securities and Capital Markets is to train human resources equipped with knowledge of capital markets and securities. This knowledge will enable students to gain self-confidence required to work in financial intermediaries and organizational stock exchange markets. The Program in Securities and Capital Markets aims to enable students to enhance their knowledge of mathematical, managerial, legal and economic aspects of capital markets and securities, functions of financial institutions, and current topics about today's global market.

Website <https://www.anadolu.edu.tr/en/open-education/programs-in-turkey/associate-degree-programs-in-the-faculty-of-open-education/securities-and-capital-markets> | **Field of study** Finance, banking and insurance | **Level in EQF** EQF level 5 |

Type of credits ECTS | **Number of credits** 120

17/09/2018 – 17/06/2022 Elazığ, Türkiye

High School Degree Elazığ Bahçeşehir Science High School

Sciences, math, Turkish literature lessons given by the school, preparing for nationwide university exam students who wish to get into a bachelor degree take called YKS.

Address Ataşehir Mahallesi Malatya Caddesi No: 45 / 1A - 1B, 23040, Elazığ, Türkiye | **Field of study** Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics | **Final grade** 99/100 | **Level in EQF** EQF level 4 | **National classification** Lise Diploması

LANGUAGE SKILLS

MOTHER TONGUE(S): Turkish

Other language(s):

English

Listening C1

Reading C1

Writing C1

Spoken production C1

Spoken interaction C1

French

Listening A1

Reading A1

Writing A1

Spoken production A1

Spoken interaction A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

DIGITAL SKILLS

PRDODUCTIVITY

Google Workspace (Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, Google Forms) | Microsoft Office | Microsoft Word | Microsoft Powerpoint | Zoom

DATA ANALYSIS

IBM Statistical package for Sciences (SPSS) | Microsoft Excel

SOCIAL MEDIA

Adobe Express | Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Licenses & Certifications

13/10/2023

Civil Society School STOK 200 "Plan Lover Organizations"

Issued by Civil Society Development Center.

- Proficient in conducting comprehensive situation analysis, stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, and setting strategic goals for effective decision-making.
- Skilled in developing well-structured strategies, devising activity plans, and proficiently managing budgets and resource allocation.
- Strong grasp of the interplay between fundamental analysis and strategic planning, demonstrating advanced planning capabilities.
- Competent in all aspects of project management, encompassing project initiation, planning, execution, monitoring, and successful completion.
- Proficient in defining, implementing, and evaluating monitoring and evaluation processes at various levels, showcasing a strong grasp of performance assessment and improvement strategies.

08/2023

Certificate of Completion - General English C1

29/04/2023

Monitoring Freedom of Association Project "Right to Participation Training"

Issued by Civil Society Development Center

- Acquired an in-depth understanding of the legal frameworks surrounding freedom of association at both national and international levels.
- Proficient in advocacy strategies, encompassing campaigning, effective lobbying techniques, and the art of persuasive communication.
- Mastered the skills of information gathering and utilizing evidence-based advocacy and research techniques to support compelling arguments.
- Gained expertise in facilitating Civil Society Organization (CSO) involvement in legislative drafting processes, ensuring meaningful contributions.
- Adept in local and central administration participation mechanisms, empowering active engagement in decision-making at multiple levels.

22/12/2019

Certificate of Achievement - General English B2

Skills

Disability Awareness Training

UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Disability Advocacy

Human Rights Activism

Legal English

Academic Writing

Law

Disability Law

Constitutional Law

Civil Law

Family Law

Public International Law

Criminal Law

Administrative Law

Nonprofit Organizations

Conferences and seminars

07/12/2023 – 29/12/2023 Ankara

UNFPA Service Providers' Disability Inclusion Training Series I have conducted a series of disability training sessions for UNFPA's partner field service providers in collaboration with UNFPA Türkiye and the Association of Women with Disabilities. Our organization brought together a team of experts, including myself, to cover a diverse range of topics. During my sessions, I specifically addressed models of disability and provided insights on the preparation of accessible documents.

04/12/2023 Ankara

UN Women Türkiye Staff Disability Inclusion Training I facilitated a training session on disability inclusion with the UN Women Türkiye office staff. It was my privilege to co-deliver this training alongside Elif Emir Öksüz, Assistant Professor, and Gamze Cudal.

18/07/2023 UN Türkiye Office, Ankara

Inclusive and Accessible Communications Training with UNCG Staff I co-facilitated a training on inclusive and accessible communication with Bahar Yavuz and Heba Kholif, together with the UN Communication Group staff at the United Nations Türkiye Ankara office. The training was organized by Arianna Sica, the United Nations Türkiye Disability Inclusion Focal Point.

03/06/2023 Izmir

Minority Rights Group Europe Disability Training for MARC Project I co-facilitated a disability inclusion training with Turkish-French disability activist Güler Koca. The first session conducted by Güler Koca covered the definition of disability, disability models, and barriers to inclusion. The second session I facilitated covered national and international disability law. I also assisted Ms. Koca with the Turkish translation of the disability terminology she used during her session.

17/03/2023 – 19/03/2023 Ankara

"Who are Disabled Women?" Project Workshop "Who are Disabled Women" workshop initiated within the Strong Civic Space for Gender Equality project which is initiated by UN Women Turkey and funded by EU Delegation to Turkey. Participants discussed the problems and needs of disabled women in six different working groups for three days.

09/03/2023 Online

GADRA Emergency Operations Center Activates to Türkiye and Syria Webinar I spoke on this webinar about activities of Association of Women with Disabilities after February 6 earthquakes.

15/12/2022 Online

Age and Disability: A Blindspot in Policy Making? The aim of this webinar, organised by the European Network on Independent Living, is to raise awareness on the topic of the intersectionality of disability and age. I spoke on this webinar about intersectionality of being young and being disabled.

Link <https://enil.eu/event/age-and-disability-a-blindspot-in-policy-making/>

22/10/2022 – 23/10/2022 Ankara

International Access to Justice Conference The Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER) hosted the International Access to Justice Conference on October 22-23, 2022, in Ankara as part of the project on "Strengthening Access to Justice for Disadvantaged Groups". The conference was hosted in partnership with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations and Atılım University.

Link <https://www.adaleteerisim.org/tr/duyuru/uluslararasi-adalete-erisim-konferansi>

26/02/2022 – 27/02/2022 Ankara

Association of Women with Disabilities Roundtable Meeting for PAKT Project On 26-27 February 2022 Association of Women with Disabilities conducted a roundtable meeting with disabled people and their caregivers regarding the Personal Assistance as a Key Tool for Independent Living and Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities (PAKT) project. The majority of the participants were women. At the various sessions, participants discussed disability rights and the state of Independent Living (IL) and Personal Assistance (PA) in Turkey. Also, Kamil Goungor of ENIL and Klaudija Poropat from Slovenia shared their PA experiences. After discussions, we got together in a working group to draft a Personal Assistance Policy Model. I was invited to the meeting by the board member Dr. Ünal. The roundtable was a very educative and fun experience. Also, I met with prominent members of Turkey's disability community.

08/10/2020 – 09/10/2020 Online

5th Annual Cerebral Palsy Conference In 2020 I joined the New England Cerebral Palsy Conference (first organized by James Cavanaugh) and served as a conference ambassador. Through this spectacular conference, I met great people and established great professional relationships within the American CP community.

Links <https://cerebralpalsyconference.org> | <https://cerebralpalsyconference.org/conference-ambassadors>

06/10/2019 Elazığ Bahçeşehir Science High School

World Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day Conference On September 2019, I informed my high school's principal about World Cerebral Palsy. I demanded that the school's administration recognize its importance and give me the platform to inform&educate my peers about it. The principal accepted my demands. On October 6th, I gave a speech about being disabled and having Cerebral Palsy, supported by a slide show. To show solidarity, my teachers wore green clothes that day. It was the first time students engaged in that kind of activity. I believe it had a significant role in reversing the stigma I experienced in my local community as a disabled person.

Volunteering

12/02/2024 – CURRENT Türkiye

Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team Member Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team acts as a resource to the different coordination mechanisms and stakeholders to better mainstream the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons throughout the different humanitarian and development programming. I was elected as a member in February 2024, representing the Association of Women with Disabilities.

Creative works

20/02/2017

The City (Bu Şehir) "The City" (original title: Bu Şehir) is the first poetry book I published in February 2017 in 7th grade. There are poems about love, peace, and disability in the book.

Networks and memberships

24/01/2023 – CURRENT International

European Law Students' Association-ELSA The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit, non-governmental organisation run by and for law students. ELSA activities comprise a large variety of academic and professional events that are organised to fulfill the stated vision of ELSA.

Link <https://www.elsa.org>

16/03/2022 – CURRENT Brussels

European Network on Independent Living The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is a user-led network of disabled people, with members throughout Europe. ENIL is a forum for all disabled people, Independent Living organizations and their non-disabled allies on the issues of Independent Living. ENIL represents the disability movement for human rights and social inclusion based on solidarity, peer support, deinstitutionalization, democracy, self-representation, cross disability and self-determination. I am a full individual member and also a member of ENIL Youth.

Link <https://enil.eu/>

24/01/2022 – CURRENT Ankara

Association of Women with Disabilities The Association of Women with Disabilities (ENG-KAD) was founded by a group of disabled women in 2011. It aims to draw attention to the multi-dimensional discrimination disabled women face for being women and being disabled together. The association embraces a human rights-based approach in its work. I became aware of the association when I saw their announcement about a webinar. After a couple of months, I turned 18 and had the legal right to be their member and filed my membership application on my birthday.

Link <https://www.engkad.org>

Hobbies and interests

US TV Shows I started watching TV shows to improve my listening skills four years ago, and since then, I have been watching one or two episodes almost every day. It is an incredible tool for learning cultural aspects of a language and relaxing after a long day. I especially enjoy TV shows centering on a profession like medicine or law. My favorites are Grey's Anatomy, Suits and House.