

Galatasaray University and Institut du Bosphore Celebrated the First Edition of the Galatasaray University–Bosphorus Prize Ahead of Europe Day

Ahead of the Europe Day, Galatasaray University and Institut du Bosphore marked the first edition of the Galatasaray University–Bosphorus Prize. Organized jointly by Galatasaray University’s CREDE (European Research and Documentation Center), and Institut du Bosphore, the Prize aims to foster academic reflection and policy-oriented debate among students on the future of Türkiye–France–EU relations, with a particular focus on their political, economic, strategic, and business dimensions.

For this first edition, students were invited to reflect and to formulate concrete policy recommendations strengthening cooperation and identifying areas of mutual benefit around the theme : *“The Türkiye, France, EU equation amid new regional security risks, growing great power rivalry, recent technological transformations, and shifting global supply chains: perspectives for cooperation, complementarity, or competition.”*

Following a selection procedure led by a joint Galatasaray University–Institut du Bosphore jury, based on the quality of research, the quality of writing, and the feasibility of the policy recommendations, the 2026 First Prize was awarded to **Jean-Baptiste Laborde**, a graduate student in the Master’s Program in International Relations, and the Second Prize to **Bilal Atar**, a fourth-year undergraduate student in International Relations. The winning research papers can be accessed via the link below:

- bit.ly/IB-1stPrize-JeanBaptisteLaborde
- bit.ly/IB-2ndPrize-BilalAtar

The award ceremony took place on 6 May 2026 at Galatasaray University’s campus, with the participation of **Bahadır Kaleağası**, President of Institut du Bosphore, **Livio Manzini**, Vice President of Institut du Bosphore, **Emeritus Professor Füsün Türkmen**, former Chair of the Department of International Relations at Galatasaray University, Honorary President of the International Network of Senghor Chairs for Francophony, Scientific Committee Member of Institut du Bosphore and **Ambassador (ret.) Ayşe Sezgin**, Lecturer at Galatasaray University, in the presence of Deputy Rector **Prof. Dr. Murat Yıldızoğlu** and the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, **Prof. Dr. Halil Tunalı**.

Mr. Kaleağası presented the awards to the laureates and reaffirmed the importance of young leaders in strengthening Türkiye–France–EU relations. Special thanks were also extended to **Professor Beyza Çağatay Tekin**, Head of the Department of International Relations and Director of CREDE at Galatasaray University, as well as to all jury members, including members of the Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee, the distinguished journalist **Kadri Gürsel**, who was also present at the ceremony, and **Serap Atan Vandercruyssen**, Head of Research Funding and Valorization at Paris School of Business.

Held just days before the 9th of May Europe Day, the ceremony underlined the importance of continued dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation between Türkiye, France, and the European Union at a time of profound geopolitical and geoeconomic transformation. This evolving context is shaping discussions across multiple domains from security and technology to economic relations and value chains highlighting the need for inclusive and forward-looking approaches to cooperation. In this respect, ongoing debates on Europe’s competitiveness and industrial policy, as well as the modernization of the EU–Türkiye Customs Union, form part of a broader agenda requiring sustained dialogue and engagement.

Through this initiative, Galatasaray University and Institut du Bosphore reaffirm their shared commitment to promoting academic excellence, constructive debate, and the engagement of young generations in shaping the future of Türkiye–France–EU relations.

INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE

Institut du Bosphore, the first think tank entirely dedicated to the Franco-Turkish bilateral relationship, created in 2009 in Paris at the initiative of TÜSİAD (Turkish Industry & Business Association) and French companies, aims to renew and strengthen the dialogue between Türkiye and its European partners.

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