



**2025**

E - B U L L E T I N

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## **NECMEDDİN BİLAL ERDOĞAN MET WITH YOUTHS**

**On January 6, World Ethnosport Union President Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdođan met with youths at the “From Tradition to the Future” talk organized by Arnavutköy Municipality.**

Moderated by Arnavutköy Mayor Mr. Mustafa Candaroğlu, the event addressed the issues of preserving traditional values in the modern world and making them compatible with technology. Attended by around 750 high school students, the talk emphasized the importance of preserving cultural heritage and increasing awareness of social responsibility.

The students, who'd experienced traditional sports and game areas before the event, had the opportunity to get to know cultural values up close.



## CHAMPIONS WERE AWARDED IN THE CW ENERGY TÜRKİYE OIL WRESTLING LEAGUE

The award ceremony for the 2024 season of the CW Energy Türkiye Oil Wrestling League occurred at the Hilton Mall of Istanbul, in which the World Ethnosport Union President Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan participated.

Mr. Bilal Erdoğan awarded golden belt champion Enes Doğan at the ceremony. The event emphasized the preservation and promotion of traditional sports. The World Ethnosport Union maintains its work of keeping traditional sports alive.



## **ABDULHADI TURUS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH TRADITIONAL SPORTS FEDERATION**

**The 6th Ordinary General Assembly of the Turkish Traditional Sports Federation saw World Ethnosport Union Board Member Abdulhadi Turus elected president.**

Having been elected president by receiving 92 votes at the general assembly in Ankara, Turus stated that he will work to preserve traditional sports and pass them on to future generations. He also stated that they'd declared 2025 the "Year of Promoting Traditional Games".



## WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION'S 3RD ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD

The 3rd Ordinary General Assembly of the World Ethnosport Union was held in Istanbul. Founding Chairman Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan was unanimously reelected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

President Erdoğan emphasized their determination to popularize traditional sports and stated that they will continue empowering the vision of ethnosports. He stated that they currently are a growing family with 39 members in 26 countries. Some changes were made to the statute at the general assembly, with the name World Ethnosport Union being changed to the World Ethnosport Union, in accordance with its primary name. The new management team was also identified.



## THE ETHNO-TRUCK AND RAMADAN EVENTS

Events for traditional sports and games were held in various districts of Istanbul during the month of Ramadan. Events were held over 30 days with 6 tents at the Güngören Merter Event Area. Events were also held in Arnavutköy City Park and the Hadımköy Event Area throughout the 30 days.

Beginning in Adana on April 5, the Ethno-Sport Culture Road Project will organize traditional sports and cultural activities in 20 different cities between April and November of 2025.



## WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION REACHES 41 CORPORATE MEMBERS

The World Ethnosports Union has maintained its international works for the revival and popularization of traditional sports. It currently continues its journey with **41 corporate members in 26 member countries**.

The Union includes such countries as Kazakhstan, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Mongolia, Argentina, Türkiye, Tunisia, Poland, Pakistan Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russia, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Hungary, and Uzbekistan.

Finally, with the involvement of the MONGOLIAN KOKPAR AUDARYSPAKH TENGE ILU SPORT FEDERATION and QAZAQ KURES ASSOCIATION, the number of institutional members has reached 41. The World Ethnosport Union maintains its international work promoting traditional sports with its new members.

**HIGH - LEVEL MINISTERIAL PANEL**

 **H.E. Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan**  
 President of the World Ethnosport Union

 **H.E. Dr. Michael Degtyarev**  
 Minister of Sports of the Russian Federation

 **H.E. Dr. Osman Aşkın Bak**  
 Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye

 **H.E. Mr. Yerbol Myrzabosynov**  
 Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan

 **H.E. Mr. Sergey Kovalchuk**  
 Minister of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus



## THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ETHNOSPORT FORUM WILL BE HELD IN ST. PETERSBURG

The 7th Ethnosport Forum, organized by the World Ethnosport Union, was held on April 19-20 in St. Petersburg, Russia, under the theme **“Revival of Traditional Sports”**. The forum brought together around **200 participants from 40 countries**, discussing the future of traditional sports through various panels and sessions.

The event was attended by **Russian Minister of Sports Mikhail Degtyarev**, **Turkish Minister of Youth and Sports Osman Aşkın Bak**, **Kazakh Minister of Sports and Tourism Yerbol Myrzabosynov**, **Belarusian Minister of Sports and Tourism Sergey Kovalchuk**, as well as many other high-level representatives.

During the forum, a joint declaration was signed with the aim of preserving, promoting, and fostering international cooperation in traditional sports. Led by **World Ethnosport Union President Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan**, the signing ceremony demonstrated a shared commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage.

On the first day, the **Ministers Panel** featured discussions on the current state and future of traditional sports. On the second day, a **Communication Panel** focused on communication strategies for promoting traditional sports. The panel included discussions on successful practices, audience engagement, and integrated communication approaches.



## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> TRADITIONAL SPORTS AWARDS HAVE FOUND THEIR OWNERS

Organized to honor individuals, institutions, and organizations contributing to traditional sports and games, the 6th Traditional Sports Awards were presented as part of the **7th Ethnosport Forum held in St. Petersburg**. The awards, presented by the **World Ethnosport Union**, recognized those who support the preservation, promotion, and transmission of traditional sports to future generations.

This year, the **Leadership Award** was presented to **Dr. Michael Degtyarev, Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation**, on behalf of **President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin**. The award was presented by **WEU President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan**. The **Junior Traditional Sports Player Award** was given to **Farangiz Abdunabieva** from Uzbekistan. The award was presented by **WEU Board Member Ali Khatem Mohammad Al-Mehshadi**. The **Senior Traditional Sports Player Award** was received by **Aysegül Demirbağ Çalışkan**. The award was presented by **WEU Vice President Hakan Kazancı**. The **Traditional Sports Organization Award** went to the **Equestrian Federation** of the Republic of Azerbaijan. WEU Board Member **Zeynep Safiye Baki Nalcioğlu** presented the award. The **Communication Award**, given to institutions contributing to the field of communication, was awarded to **Qazastan TV**. The award was presented by **WEU Board Member Mustafa Erögüt**. The **Academician Award** was presented to **Prof. Dr. Zinaida Kuznetsova** in recognition of her contributions to the field of traditional sports. The award was handed over by **WEU Board Member Ana Claudia Collado Garcia**.



## THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ETHNOSPORT CULTURE FESTIVAL HOSTED 1.83 MILLION VISITORS

Organized by the World Ethnosport Union, the 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival was held at Istanbul Ataturk Airport from May 22 to 25, 2025. The festival attracted 1.83 million visitors over four days, marking a major success. With strong participation across all age groups, the event transformed into a unique meeting point where traditional sports, handicrafts, stage performances, and culinary experiences brought cultural heritage to life and supported intergenerational transmission. International participation further strengthened the festival's role as a powerful bridge **“from tradition to the future”**.

The 7th edition of the festival welcomed athletes and cultural ambassadors from more than **40 countries**. Participants from regions ranging from Central Asia to Africa, the Balkans, and the Middle East shared their cultural values directly with visitors. Each country contributed to the festival's universal identity by presenting its traditional games, handicrafts, and cuisine.

On May 24, 2025, the third day of the festival, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and First Lady Emine Erdoğan visited the event at Ataturk Airport. Welcomed with great interest by the attendees, President Erdoğan watched the Karabakh Horse Show performed by the Azerbaijani delegation. The moment when Turkish and Azerbaijani flags waved together received a standing ovation — including from the President.



President Erdoğan also toured the “**Family Pavilion**”, one of the highlights of the festival and newly established this year. In this special area, created within the scope of the “**2025 Year of the Family**”, he emphasized the significance of the family institution in preserving cultural values and stated that protecting family unity is key to sustaining heritage. The President expressed his appreciation for children and parents participating together in traditional games and ancestral sports at the pavilion.

Throughout the festival, visitors had the opportunity to try a variety of traditional sports such as archery, horse riding, wrestling, mounted archery, and mangala — all offered free of charge. These experiences were presented in a safe and educational environment under the guidance of professional trainers and athletes. In addition to sports, traditional art workshops featuring weaving, tile art, and marbling provided participants with hands-on access to Türkiye’s rich artisanal legacy.

In line with this year’s theme, “**Tradition Begins in the Family**”, the Family Pavilion was introduced for the first time. This dedicated area highlighted the importance of the family in society, where parents and children played traditional games together, creating shared memories. The space also hosted talks, workshops, and interactive sessions focused on child development and intra-family communication.



Offering a vibrant atmosphere filled with traditional sports, games, and cultural encounters, the 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival captivated audiences with a wide range of shows. The Karabakh Horses impressed spectators with their graceful and skilled acrobatic equestrian performances, which were also featured during the opening ceremony. The Galkynysh National Equestrian Team from Turkmenistan became a highlight of the festival with their displays featuring Akhal-Teke horses, known for their beauty, resilience, and elegance. Other performances such as horseback acrobatics, martial arts, and mounted archery drew significant attention. Participants from Kazakhstan also contributed with traditional wrestling demonstrations, enriching the festival's cultural dimension. All these events vividly reflected the festival's mission to preserve and pass on cultural heritage to future generations.

Universal flavors and world cultures came together at the 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival. Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB)'s "**World of Coffee**" stand gave visitors the chance to sample coffee varieties from around the globe. Kıl tents introducing various regions of Türkiye, reenactments of nomadic life, and handicraft workshops offered attendees a rich cultural journey. The 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival — featuring local cultural displays, artistic performances, and international participation — concluded with a magnificent concert by Semicenk.



## ETNOTRUCK PROJECT CARRIES TRADITION TO THE STREETS OF TÜRKİYE

World Ethnosport Union not only promotes traditional values through sports, but also contributes to cultural preservation through innovative projects. Among these, the EtnoTruck Project stands out as a comprehensive cultural platform that bridges tradition and the future.

As one of Türkiye's largest cultural events, the **Culture Route Festival** continues this year with millions of visitors, uniting traditional and cultural values across the country. As a key component of the festival, EtnoTruck—spearheaded by the Ethnosport Union—travels across cities to reconnect communities with their cultural heritage.

In 2025, the EtnoTruck has already completed visits in **Adana**, **Manisa**, and **Samsun**, and is now on its way to **Trabzon** in July. The project will continue its journey with various events throughout different cities in Türkiye over the course of the year.

**At each stop, EtnoTruck offers a rich program including traditional sports demonstrations, children's workshops, handicrafts, and mind games, creating an interactive space where cultural diversity meets the public.** These events offer both educational and hands-on experiences, particularly providing younger generations to engage with traditional values.

The efforts carried out as part of the Culture Route Festival aim to pass on Türkiye's cultural heritage to future generations and to foster social cohesion. With each destination, EtnoTruck touches a different layer of cultural depth and provides an unforgettable experience.



## THE WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION REACHES 43 INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

The World Ethnosport Union (WEU) continues to expand its global influence with the vision of reviving traditional sports and passing them on to future generations. As of 2025, the Union brings together **43 institutional member federations from 28 countries**, representing a broader and more inclusive international structure.

Founded on universal values such as peace, respect, solidarity, and tradition, the World Ethnosport Union works to preserve traditional sports and promote cultural diversity. This commitment has evolved into a dynamic and multinational cooperation network that now spans five continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and South America.

The Union is not only active in the field of sports but is also emerging as a model in areas such as cultural diplomacy, youth engagement, and social communication. By bringing institutions from various geographies under one umbrella, the Union fosters intercultural dialogue and contributes to the spread of shared human values.

In 2025, the Union welcomed two new member federations: **the Belarusian Federation of Gorodki Sport and the International Kusbegilik Federation**. Gorodki is a traditional precision sport with deep cultural roots in Belarus, while Kusbegilik represents an ancient hunting tradition practiced with birds of prey across Central Asia.

Through forums, workshops, and festivals organized under its umbrella, the World Ethnosport Union gives traditional sports a global voice. With members from five continents, the Union plays a key role in sustaining intangible cultural heritage and uniting communities through the power of tradition.



## THE BEST SHOTS HONORED AT THE ETHNOSPORT CULTURE FESTIVAL

The results of the photography contest for the 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival, which took place at Atatürk Airport between May 22-25, 2025, have been announced. The most captivating images captured during the festival were selected by a jury of experts across various categories.

The World Ethnosport Union, continuing its mission with the theme of reviving traditional sports and games, hosted the 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival from May 22 to 25 with the participation of over 1.83 million visitors. Held at Atatürk Airport, the festival featured a rich program of traditional sports, games, arts, and gastronomy. Visitors had the opportunity to explore and experience many facets of traditional culture. A special photography contest was also organized as part of the festival—considered one of the most comprehensive cultural events in the world. The participants who captured the most powerful and evocative images of the festival's atmosphere and activities were honored with awards.

The jury of the 7th Ethnosport Culture Festival photography contest convened to evaluate submissions and select the best photographs. Entries were judged in the categories of **Equestrian Sports and Horse Shows, Festival Concept, Cultural Activities and Traditional Children's Games, and Archery, Wrestling, and Other Traditional Sports.**



## TRADITIONAL SPORTS' GLOBAL JOURNEY CONTINUES

The World Ethnosport Union continues its activities on an international scale with the aim of reviving traditional sports and transferring them to future generations. As of today, the Union has achieved a more inclusive, stronger structure at the global level, having attained 44 member federations representing 30 countries from 5 continents.

### Global Network of Collaboration

Based on such common values as peace, respect, solidarity, and tradition, the World Ethnosport Union brings to life its works supporting cultural diversity on four continents. This understanding constitutes an example not only in the field of sports but also in cultural diplomacy, youth work, and social communication.

### New Members

As of 2025, the Belarusian Federation of Gorodki Sport, Qazak Kuresi Association and International Qusbegilik Federation have joined the World Ethnosport Union.

- Gorodki is a goal-oriented sport with a deep-rooted history in Belarus.
- Qusbegi represents a classical hunting tradition conducted with birds of prey in Central Asia.

These new memberships strengthen the Union's cultural representation and contribute to disseminating cultural values.



## Growing Role and Influence

The forums, workshops, and cultural events organized under the umbrella of the World Ethnosport Union are helping traditional sports gain a universal identity through the contributions of representatives from different geographies. The Union is currently continuing its leading role in protecting and preserving cultural heritage alongside its members from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and North America.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL HIGHLAND FESTIVAL HELD IN AZERBAIJAN

**Promoting the Wealth of Nomadic Culture With International Participation**

Held August 15-17, 2025 at the Khan Yurdu campus in the Göygöl district of Azerbaijan, the 4th National Highland Festival concluded with intense involvement and great enthusiasm. Aiming to preserve and promote the highland nomadic culture, the festival offered three days of unforgettable cultural experiences to local and international visitors.

### High-Level Participation

Supported by the World Ethnosport Union, the event was attended by Union President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, Azerbaijani Youth and Sports Minister Farid Gayibov, Azerbaijani Agriculture Minister Majnun Mammadov, Göygöl Governor Elvin Pashayev, and high-level representatives from various countries. In this regard, the festival was not just a cultural meeting point but also a platform for international interaction and collaboration.

### Cultural Experiences

During the festival, visitors had the opportunity to become closely acquainted with cultural heritage through traditional highland games, handcrafts, art workshops, and folklore demonstrations. Showcasing the unique elements of life on the highlands, the events contributed to how younger generations meet with tradition.



## A Powerful Example of Cultural Continuity

Held this year for the fourth time, the National Highland Festival through its rich schedule has once again demonstrated its status as an important cultural platform, both locally and internationally. Realized through the support of the World Ethnosport Union, the festival has become a powerful example of how to preserve nomadic culture and strengthen cultural continuity.



## THE ETHNO-TRUCK MET WITH ANATOLIA OVER THE SUMMER

Conducted by the World Ethnosport Union to promote traditional sports and cultural heritage, the Ethno-Truck Project was successfully realized in four different cities during the summer of 2025.

The event calendar was implemented as follows:

- **July 29-31, 2025 – Yapraklı / Çankırı**
- **August 2-10, 2025 – Nevşehir**
- **August 16-24, 2025 – Erzurum (Within the scope of the Erzurum Culture Route Festival)**
- **September 6-14, 2025 – Kayseri**

The Etno-Truck areas that were established in each province involved traditional sports (archery, arrow wars, mangala, mas wrestling), traditional children's games (pottery game, castle game, hoop, swing), and culture and art workshops (traditional marbling, linden print cloth bags).

These events aimed to promote traditional sports, establish practical play areas for children and young people, provide handcraft experiences to visitors, and enable different segments of society to interact with cultural values.

The Ethno-Truck project encountered great interest from both city residents and festival visitors during this time, with successful events having been carried out in collaboration with local governments and relevant stakeholders.



## CORPORATE VISITS

### Visit of the Bangladesh Youth & Sports Hon. Adviser (Minister) – 4 July 2025

**Mr. Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Hon. Adviser (Minister) of Youth and Sports of Bangladesh**, met with the **WEU President Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan** to discuss cooperation on Rohingya refugee camps, traditional sports federations of Bangladesh, and joint initiatives. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalize collaboration between the Ministry and WEU.

### Visit of the General Consul of Georgia in Istanbul – 7 August 2025

**The Georgian Consul General, Mr. Aleksandre Jishkariani**, met with **Mr. M. Abdulhalim Aksu, WEU Secretary-General**, to discuss promoting Georgian traditional sports in Türkiye and participation of Georgia in the 2026 Ethnosport Culture Festival. Cooperation could include traditional sports demonstrations, academic research, and elements of Georgian gastronomy, with potential expansion of TSG festivals throughout the country.

### Visit of the Kurash and Traditional Wrestling Italian Federation – 22 August 2025

At the WEU Headquarters, **Mr. Vittorio Giorgi, President of the Kurash and Traditional Wrestling Italian Federation**, discussed promoting traditional wrestling in Italy and plans for the first local tournament in 2026. He highlighted challenges in legal recognition, shared local wrestling styles, and presented the revival project of medieval “**Lucta Italica**.” Collaboration opportunities for exhibitions, Ethnosports 2027, and WEU events were explored, recommending a more inclusive approach for wrestling disciplines.

## Visit of the Uzbekistan Belbogli Kurash Federation - 1 September 2025

**Mr. Ravshan Dastirov, President of the Uzbekistan Belbogli Kurash Federation**, met WEU to discuss upcoming international tournaments and cooperation for Ethnosports 2027. Topics included standardizing rules, uniforms, and refereeing, as well as supporting the inclusion of Belbogli Kurash in the WNG.

## Visit of the Consul General of Bangladesh in Istanbul - 8 September 2025

**Mr. Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, Consul General of Bangladesh** in Istanbul, met with WEU to discuss cooperation on youth and community initiatives, including support for refugee programs and traditional sports federations. The meeting focused on strengthening partnership opportunities between Bangladesh and WEU.

## Visit of the International Centre for Sport Security - 26 September 2025

A meeting was held with **Massimiliano Montanari, CEO of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**, to discuss potential cooperation between the World Ethnosport Union (WEU) and ICSS. The discussion focused on the promotion of collaboration in the field of volunteering, with an emphasis on the development of a sustainable young volunteers program within the organizations.



## NECMEDDIN BILAL ERDOGAN PARTICIPATES IN THE 16TH EL JADIDA HORSE FAIR

Necmeddin Bilal Erdogan, President of the World Ethnosport Union, attended the 16th El Jadida Horse Fair held in El Jadida, Morocco, under the High Patronage of King Mohammed VI, where he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan. During the visit, evaluations were made on traditional sports, equestrian heritage, and international cooperation.

Held from September 30 to October 5 under the theme “Horse Welfare: A Bond Connecting Equestrian Practices”, the fair featured exhibitions, competitions, panels, and traditional tbourida performances, making it one of the most prestigious events in the equestrian world.

The World Ethnosport Union conducts international efforts to increase the recognition and promotion of traditional sports and games. With 44 member federations from 30 countries, the Union functions as a systematic umbrella organization. Through organized events, major competitions, cultural festivals, and digital projects, it contributes to transmitting this ancient heritage to younger generations.

Participation in the El Jadida Horse Fair, which has become an international meeting point over the years under the High Patronage of King Mohammed VI, represents a significant contribution to the World Ethnosport Union’s work in promoting traditional sports globally and preserving cultural diversity for future generations. This participation also enhances the Union’s international visibility and opens avenues for new partnerships.



## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION AND MOROCCO

The **World Ethnosport Union** participated in the **16th El Jadida Horse Fair** held in **El Jadida, Morocco**, from September 30 to October 5. The fair, under the theme **“Horse Welfare: A Bond Connecting Equestrian Practices”**, featured exhibitions, competitions, panels, and traditional tbourida performances, making it one of the most prestigious events in the equestrian world.

Within this framework, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **World Ethnosport Union** and the **Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports of the Kingdom of Morocco**. The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation for the promotion and dissemination of traditional sports and to foster the development of new projects in this field.

The El Jadida Horse Fair provides a significant platform for promoting traditional sports at an international level. Through this agreement and the related promotional activities, the World Ethnosport Union has enhanced its relations with North African countries and aims to develop new collaborations in the field of traditional sports and games.



## TRADITIONAL TURKISH ARCHERY INTRODUCED IN TUNISIA

Traditional Turkish archery was showcased in a special event at the **Maarif International Schools in Tunis**, organized by the **Tunisian Association for the Protection of Games and Heritage Sports**, a member of the **World Ethnosport Union**, in collaboration with the **Yunus Emre Institute**.

**Izzeddin Buzid, President of the Tunisia Ethnosport Association**, emphasized that the event strengthened cultural and sporting relations between Türkiye and Tunisia. “**This initiative is not just a sports activity but a bridge for intergenerational cultural transmission. Our goal is to promote traditional archery in schools and cultural centers across Tunisia**,” he stated.

Buzid also highlighted the importance of traditional sports in developing balance, self-discipline, and identity awareness among children and youth. The event contributes to the **World Ethnosport Union** and its member federations’ mission of preserving, promoting, and transmitting traditional sports and games to future generations.



## **PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION ATTENDS THE MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL ARCHERY FESTIVAL**

**President of the World Ethnosport Union, Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan**, attended the **Malaysia International Traditional Archery Festival**, held from 9 to 12 October 2025 in Selangor, Malaysia. The festival was organized by the **Traditional Archery Association of Malaysia (TAAM)**, a member of the **World Ethnosport Union**.

Taking place in the **Kwasa Damansara** district, the festival highlighted traditional archery not merely as a sport, but as a cultural and social heritage. With the participation of nearly **2,000 archers** from **Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United States**, the event featured not only competitions but also cultural performances, food fairs, handicraft exhibitions, and workshops for youth.

The **World Ethnosport Union** continues to support the preservation and transmission of traditional sports on a global scale through the efforts of its member federations. The **Traditional Archery Association of Malaysia** stands out as a powerful example of this vision in action at the international level.



## ETNOPARK FESTIVAL HOSTED IN ÇEKMEKÖY

Etnopark in Çekmeköy, developed by the **World Ethnosport Union**, hosted the **Etnopark Festivals from 23-26 October**. The four-day event welcomed **65,000 participants and 200,000 visitors**.

The program included traditional sports, games, craft workshops, stage shows, and horseback riding activities, appealing to all age groups.

Etnopark continues to offer year-round events that promote cultural heritage and traditional sports.

The **World Ethnosport Union** remains dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional sports through its national and international efforts.



## **PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION ATTENDS THE CHIDAoba WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL IN TBILISI**

**Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, President of the World Ethnosport Union**, attended the final of the **Chidaoba World Championship** held in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. Known as Georgian wrestling, Chidaoba is one of the most significant traditional wrestling competitions worldwide, and this year marked the first time the championship was hosted by Georgia.

President Erdoğan participated in the opening ceremony and followed the final matches of the championship. The event was also attended by Georgia's Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Shalva Gogoladze. Athletes from 25 countries—including Türkiye, Georgia, and Azerbaijan—competed in the tournament, once again highlighting the unifying power of traditional sports in fostering intercultural exchange.

In his opening remarks, Minister Gogoladze expressed his pride in Georgia hosting the **Chidaoba World Championship** for the first time and extended his gratitude to **President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan** for his support.

President Erdoğan stated his pleasure at being in Tbilisi, emphasizing that **“Wrestling is not just a sport, but an integral part of Georgian culture.”** He underlined the crucial role traditional sports play in preserving cultural values and emphasized that such events strengthen friendship and cooperation among nations.



## **PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ETHNOSPORT UNION ATTENDS THE CHIDAOBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL IN TBILISI**

As part of his visit, President Erdoğan held a bilateral meeting with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze at the government headquarters in Tbilisi. The meeting addressed the friendly relations between Türkiye and Georgia, their strategic partnership, and collaboration in the field of sports.

President Erdoğan also met with Georgian President Mikheil Kvelashvili at the Presidential Palace. The discussion focused on enhancing the bond between the two countries, supporting traditional sports through joint initiatives, and fostering broader cultural cooperation.

The **World Ethnosport Union** continues to expand its global partnerships, aiming to preserve and promote the universal values of traditional sports and pass them on to future generations.



## WORLD KARAKUCAK WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN KAHRAMANMARAŞ

The **World Karakucak Wrestling Championship** took place at the Batıpark Earthquake Martyrs Arena in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye. Supported by the **World Ethnosport Union**, the championship brought together **107 athletes from 16 countries**, showcasing the deep-rooted heritage of traditional Turkish wrestling on the global stage. Over two days of competition, athletes from various nations demonstrated both technical skill and cultural dedication to the traditions of wrestling.

Matches were held across nine different weight categories. In the prestigious Başpehlivan (chief wrestler) bout, Türkiye's Feyzullah Aktürk defeated his Iranian opponent Mostafa Masoud Najafi Kalatehei to win the golden belt. In the team rankings, Türkiye placed first with **90 points**, followed by Iran with **47 points** and Azerbaijan with **46 points**.

The **Karakucak Wrestling World Championship** holds significant importance in preserving traditional wrestling, promoting it internationally, and ensuring its transmission to younger generations.

Through such events, the **World Ethnosport Union** continues to bring together traditional sports communities from around the world, reinforcing its mission of **“From Tradition to the Future.”**



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