



e-Bulletin

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8th Ethnosport Forum Held in Antalya

Organized by the **World Ethnosport Union** with the mission of “**Reviving Traditional Sports,**” the **8th Ethnosport Forum** was held in **Antalya on April 3–5, 2026.**

Shaped around the principles of tradition, respect, solidarity and peace, the forum addressed the “**Ethnosports 2027**” vision, which aims to support the global development of traditional sports.

More than 100 high-level state officials, including over 15 ministers of sports and culture, international delegations, representatives of member federations, academics and athletes came together at the forum.

As part of the program, sessions were held under the themes of organization and governance, sports and competition systems, and marketing and communication. As one of the key outcomes of the forum, the **Ethnosports 2027 Forum Declaration** was announced within the framework of the “**Global Call for Tradition.**”



International Cooperation Steps Taken at the 8th Ethnosport Forum

As part of the **8th Ethnosport Forum**, **Memorandums of Understanding** were signed between the **World Ethnosport Union** and **Yemen, Mali and Libya**.

Through the signed memorandums, the aim is to promote traditional sports and games internationally, preserve cultural heritage and develop opportunities for cooperation between countries.

The **World Ethnosport Union** continues its international efforts to preserve traditional sports across different geographies and pass them on to future generations.

8. Ethnospor Kùltür Festivali

21-24
Mayıs

Atatürk
Havalimanı



8. Ethnospor Kùltür Festivali
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Press Launch of the 8th Ethnosport Culture Festival Held

The press launch of the **8th Ethnosport Culture Festival**, organized by the World Ethnosport Union, was held with the participation of **World Ethnosport Union President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan**, members of the press, artists, figures from the worlds of sports and gastronomy, and invited guests.

The program began with traditional music and dance performances from the Turkic world, highlighting the festival as a major cultural gathering that brings together traditional sports, arts, world cuisines and cultural experiences.

As part of the festival, competitions and demonstrations were held in many traditional sports, including **archery, oil wrestling, shalwar wrestling, aba wrestling, mas wrestling, mangala, horseback archery, kokboru and javelin on horseback.**

Organized with the participation of athletes, artists and cultural representatives from **24 different countries**, the festival contributed to the preservation of traditional sports and cultural heritage.



8th Ethnosport Culture Festival Concluded

Organized by the **World Ethnosport Union**, the **8th Ethnosport Culture Festival** was held at **Istanbul Atatürk Airport** between **May 21–24** with strong public participation.

Welcoming more than 1.5 million visitors over four days, the festival brought together traditional sports, cultural heritage, children's activities, world cuisines and stage performances in one venue.

With the participation of athletes, artists and cultural representatives from 24 different countries, many traditional branches such as **oil wrestling, aba wrestling, shalwar wrestling, horseback archery, javelin on horseback, kokboru and mangala** attracted great interest. Traditional sports demonstrations from **Azerbaijan, Lithuania and Russia** also met visitors at the festival.

Held under the motto **“The World Is Here,”** the **8th Ethnosport Culture Festival** brought different cultures and traditions together in the same arena and contributed to the preservation of cultural heritage.



Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan Met with Mikhail Degtyarev in St. Petersburg

President of the World Ethnosport Union Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan met with Russian Minister of Sports and President of the Russian Olympic Committee Mikhail Degtyarev during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

During the bilateral meeting, the global revival of traditional sports, the preservation of cultural heritage and potential strategic cooperation opportunities in this field were discussed in detail.



Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan Met with Turki Alalshikh in Istanbul

President of the World Ethnosport Union Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan met with Chairman of the General Entertainment Authority of Saudi Arabia Turki Alalshikh in Istanbul.

During the meeting, the global promotion of traditional sports and games, the preservation of cultural heritage and potential cooperation opportunities that could be implemented in the coming period were comprehensively evaluated.



Ethno Truck Continues Its Cultural Journey

Launched by the **World Ethnosport Union**, the **Ethno Truck Project** continues to bring traditional sports, games and cultural values together with participants in different cities across Türkiye throughout 2026. The program, which began in **March** and will continue until November, meets visitors in a wide range of venues, from universities and city squares to culture festivals and children's events.

As part of its event calendar, the **Ethno Truck** offers children, young people and families the opportunity to experience traditional sports through a total of **31 events in 22 different provinces**. Programs held in cities such as **Isparta, Burdur, Antalya, Ankara, Niğde, Bursa, Aydın, Denizli, Eskişehir, Sakarya, Kütahya, Sinop, Samsun, Tokat and Nevşehir** have been completed with strong participation.

Throughout the rest of the year, the **Ethno Truck** will continue to meet participants in **Konya, Malatya, Ordu, Kayseri, Ankara, Diyarbakır, İzmir and Adana**, particularly at stops of the Culture Route Festival. In this way, traditional sports and games will continue to be introduced through experience-oriented activities in different regions of Türkiye.



At the event area, visitors experience traditional sports and games such as **archery, horseback riding, arrow battles, kol kapama, mas wrestling, mangala, nine stones-three stones, pottery game, fortress game and hoop play.** They also have the opportunity to take part in workshops such as linden print tote bag making, face painting, marbling art and glasswork.

As one of the key projects of the **World Ethnosport Union's** vision to preserve traditional sports and cultural values, the **Ethno Truck** stands out as a mobile meeting point that carries culture from city to city.

