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Press release

First anniversary of the earthquake in Turkey: Allianz Foundation and partners launch solidarity fund

On the first anniversary of the earthquake in Turkey in 2023 with more than 50,000 deaths, the Allianz Foundation, together with its cooperation partner Postane in Istanbul, is launching the "Earthquake Solidarity Fund". The €150,000 solidarity fund supports projects in the earthquake regions in south-east Turkey that aim to promote long-term reconstruction, incorporate cultural aspects and support women and future generations. The fund is open to the participation of other donors.

The first €100,000 of the fund came from the Allianz Foundation. The European Cultural Foundation (ECF) was the first European partner organization to contribute a further €50,000. The cooperation partner in Istanbul, Postane, a member of the Allianz Foundation Hubs network, has been active in the affected regions since the earthquake and is responsible for implementing the fund. The first selected projects will be supported from March.

Esra Küçük, CEO of the Allianz Foundation: *"Today marks the anniversary of the great earthquake in Turkey. We realize that international solidarity was great at the time of the disaster. This has since waned considerably. But emergency aid must not be the end of the story. In addition to the reconstruction of infrastructure and housing, cultural heritage must also be safeguarded and civil society spaces rebuilt. We have set ourselves the goal of supporting people in the longer term with local projects to rebuild civil society and culture, and we look forward to growing the solidarity fund with the support of other partners."*

Yaşar Adnan Adanalı, Founding Director of Postane: *"Although one year has passed since the earthquake, the wounds of the people affected have not yet healed, nor is there a healthy flow of information about the current problems in the region. I hope that this solidarity fund will provide not only modest support to those struggling for the recovery of the region but also contribute to the flow of up-to-date information on very important social problems."*

André Wilkens, Director European Cultural Foundation: *"Solidarity is an attitude, not a quick fix. That is why the solidarity fund supports decentralized local actions based on needs analyses and cooperation with local networks. The fund will offer project funding, contributing to reinforce European solidarity and the idea of Europe as a shared public space."*

The fund will offer project funding, collaboration and transportation support as well as support for communication and outreach work. The funding projects are identified together with Postane to respond specifically to local needs.

Cooperation with Postane:

Postane is a center for civil society, culture and ecological issues in the heart of Istanbul. Since 2023, Postane has been part of the Allianz Foundation Hubs, a European network of regional platforms from culture, civil society and climate protection that work on solutions to the pressing issues of our time.

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*The **Allianz Foundation** is a non-profit, private foundation under civil law with offices in Berlin. It is an operational and grant-making foundation and supports projects in the areas of civil society, the environment, and arts and culture. It is active in Europe and the Mediterranean. For more information, visit allianzfoundation.org*