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Co-chair
ATEE
RDC Professional Development of Teacher Educators

Former Co-chair
ATEE
RDC Teaching Modern Languages

Dear Members of ATEE General Assembly,

This is Dr. Onur Ergünay, and I work as an associate professor of curriculum and instruction at Izmir Democracy University, Faculty of Education, Turkey. I also hold an affiliate researcher position at George Mason University, College of Education and Human Development in Virginia, USA. Within our Association for Teacher Education in Europe, I am currently co-chairing our RDC Professional Development of Teacher Educators with my colleague Dr. Angela Maria Sugliano from Italy. I am writing to show my interest in one of the AC positions of our association.

After teaching in a variety of school levels in challenging public-school contexts in Turkey ten years between the years 2003 and 2013, I continued my career by teaching English for academic purposes (EAP) in a public university until 2022. While teaching EAP, I also undertake teacher education roles as a visiting lecturer at the faculties of education in two public universities. In 2022-2023 academic year, I was awarded Fulbright postdoctoral scholarship, and conducted my postdoctoral project on teacher education and teacher visioning at College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University, a public research university in Virginia, USA. I returned to my country in July 2023, and since September 2023, I have been working as a teacher educator at the Faculty of Education, Izmir Democracy University, Turkey.

I define myself as a teacher educator and teacher education scholar. My research background includes teacher education, teacher education programs, teacher visioning, curriculum development, and English for Academic Purposes. My professional vision is to collaborate with educational scholars and build research networks among various national contexts. So far, I have taken active roles in several research projects of educational sciences including COST EU actions, Erasmus+, and projects supported by different grant providers. I co-authored several book chapters and articles on education and teacher education, and present several papers in different scholarly events including our ATEE meetings.

As a member of our ATEE since 2020, I have been active in taking responsibilities in ATEE events, including our annual conferences and RDC meetings. I served as one of co-chairs in our RDC Teaching Modern Languages with my dear colleagues Dr. Agnieszka Szplit and Dr. Tatjana Bicjutko since 2020. We collaborated in building professional network around language teaching and achieved to organize a virtual online conference with more than 30 participants from around 20 countries in May 2021. In addition, I have taken responsibilities in recent ATEE events as member of scientific committees including our recent Riga and Budapest meetings. Beside co-chairing our RDC Teaching Modern Languages, I have also taken part in RDC Professional Development of Teacher Educators. During our recent ATEE Annual Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, we shared our ideas within our RDC members on the current and future projects of RDC Professional Development of Teacher Educators in several RDC meetings. With the confirmation by our AC, currently I have been co-chairing our RDC Professional Development for Teacher Educators with my colleague Dr. Angela Maria Sugliano. Beyond all these roles in our association – which I consider as a scholarly family – I feel highly privileged to be an active member of ATEE and to see its growing network in Europe and at global scale.

When I read the call for new AC members, I really felt superexcited. Following some conversations with my colleagues and friends in our association and in AC, I decided to apply for the position. My primary goal is to collaborate with my colleagues to promote our association at global scale and leverage my background and potential in teacher education to contribute to the activities of our association. Specifically, after twenty years of teaching and teacher education experience in my country and European context, my recent experience of teacher education research practice experience in the USA, and having recovered from my reverse culture shock following my return from the USA, currently I fully feel that I am ready to be part of the Administrative Council and contribute to the projects of our association.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood our Association's States and Rules and will adhere to them by doing my best to attend statutory meetings, to perform high standard in all assigned tasks, to respect the rules of interest, and to ensure academic integrity throughout my period. My resume including my background in teacher education is attached to this letter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Onur Ergünay'.

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