**2nd Meeting of the ITU Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence Native for Telecommunication Networks (FG-AINN)**

**Istanbul, Türkiye**

**14-15 April 2025**

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

* Top of Form**Istanbul is a cultural and economic hub, connecting two continents with its unique blend of tradition and modernity**

Istanbul, a city that bridges continents, has been a center of innovation, commerce, and cultural exchange for centuries. With its unique blend of tradition and modernity, Istanbul continues to be a global hub where ideas, technologies, and industries converge. Hosting the ITU-T Focus Group on AI-Native Networks (FG-AINN) in this vibrant metropolis underscores the importance of fostering international collaboration in shaping the future of AI-driven telecommunications.

AINN initiative represents a paradigm shift in the evolution of next-generation networks, integrating AI at their core to enhance efficiency, adaptability, and automation. This meeting in Istanbul provides a unique opportunity to bring together global experts, industry leaders, and policymakers to drive discussions on AI-native architectures, standardization efforts, and the transformative potential of AI in telecommunications. We look forward to engaging discussions and innovative insights in this historic and dynamic setting.

We are thrilled to welcome you to Istanbul, a mega hub at the intersection of Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East and we look forward to sharing with you the unique experience.

**Welcome!**

* **CLIMATE – April**

The weather in April is typically warm and sunny, temperature averaging around 18 – 20 degrees Celsius.

* **TRAVEL LOGISTICS**

ITU- FG-AINN meeting will be held at the **Turkcell Kucukyali Office** at Maltepe, İstanbul:

* **Venue : Turkcell Kücükyali Office**
* **Website**: <https://www.turkcell.com.tr/>
* [**Address**](https://www.google.com/search?sa=X&sca_esv=579903341&rlz=1C1VDKB_enUS1071US1071&biw=1920&bih=923&sxsrf=AM9HkKmb15k2WDMwstFxDKYcWqzy51XJxw:1699303794035&q=quer%C3%A9taro+intercontinental+airport+address&ludocid=14181973708888978883&ved=2ahUKEwjx5Yj4n7CCAxUbhIkEHSYoANYQ6BN6BAheEAI)**:**Turkcell Küçükyalı Plaza (Genel Müdürlük). Aydınevler Mahallesi İnönü Caddesi No:20 Küçükyalı Ofispark B Blok - Maltepe / Istanbul

**Info on how to get to the venue**:Shuttle services will be available from designated subway stations based on the event’s start and end times. Participants who wish to arrive independently can use the subway options detailed below and take a taxi for the final leg of their journey if needed. For those using the **M4 Metro Line**, the **Küçükyalı Metro Station** is the nearest stop to the event venue. From there, the venue is within a **6 – 7 minute walking distance**.

**From Istanbul Airport (IST) to Küçükyalı**

1. **By Metro** (Recommended for Convenience & Affordability)
	* Take the **M11 Metro Line** from **Istanbul Airport** to **Kağıthane Station**.
	* Transfer to the **M7 Metro Line** at Kağıthane and travel to **Mecidiyeköy Station**.
	* At Mecidiyeköy, transfer to the **M2 Metro Line** (towards Yenikapı) and go to **Yenikapı Station**.
	* From Yenikapı, take the **Marmaray Line** in the direction of **Gebze** and get off at **Küçükyalı Station**.
2. **By Havaist Airport Shuttle + Marmaray**
	* Take the **Havaist Airport Shuttle** to **Yenikapı İDO** (ferries terminal).
	* Walk to **Yenikapı Marmaray Station** and take the **Marmaray Line** in the direction of
	 **Gebze**.
	* Get off at **Küçükyalı Station**.

**From Sabiha Gökçen Airport (SAW) to Küçükyalı**

1. **By Metro (Fastest & Easiest Option)**
	* Take the **M4 Kadıköy-Sabiha Gökçen Metro Line** from **Sabiha Gökçen Airport** to **Ayrılık Çeşmesi Station**.
	* Transfer to the **Marmaray Line** (towards Halkalı) and get off at **Küçükyalı Station**.
2. **By Bus + Marmaray**
	* Take the **E-10 Bus** from **Sabiha Gökçen Airport** to **Ayrılık Çeşmesi**.
	* Transfer to the **Marmaray Line** (towards Halkalı) and get off at **Küçükyalı Station**.

**Additional Notes:**

* **Marmaray Trains** run frequently (every 5-10 minutes during peak hours).
* **Istanbulkart** (public transport card) can be used for subway, Marmaray, and buses. It is available for purchase at airport kiosks and subway stations.
* **Taxis & Ride-Sharing**: Both airports have licensed taxis and **İstanbul Havalimanı Airport Taxi** or **SAW Taxi** services. Ride-hailing apps like BiTaksi and Uber are also available.
* **VISA REQUIREMENTS**

## Participants are strongly advised to check all entry and visa requirements from here <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/general-information-about-turkish-visas.en.mfa>.

* The following countries need a visa to travel to **Türkiye**: <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>.
* Additional information is available here: <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/default.en.mfa>
* Focal point for visa related questions/letter of invitation: Buse Bilgin, (buse.bilgin@turkcell.com.tr) and Gülçin Karaman (gulcin.karaman@turkcell.com.tr)
* **MEETING VENUE**

**INTERNET ACCESS AND WIRELESS COVERAGE**

* The venue has free WIFI coverage for participants during the meeting.

 **RESTAURANTS AND CAFES**

Breakfast, coffee, tea, and snacks will be available at the event venue.

For lunch and dinner, you can use the T.Lounge restaurant located on the ground floor of Block B in Küçükyalı Plaza.

There are also cafeterias on the -1 floor of the same building offering home-style meals, pide, and döner options.

Alternatively, within a 5-minute walking distance, you can find a variety of restaurants at Hilltown Shopping Mall.

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* **HOTEL –Recommended Hotel near the event Venue:**

We encourage all delegates to opt for these hotels during their stay.

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| **Hotels** | **Website** |
| Elite World Grand Istanbul Kucukyali | <https://www.eliteworldhotels.com.tr/oteller/elite-world-grand-istanbul-kucukyali>  |
| Days Hotel by Wyndham İstanbul, Maltepe | <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/istanbul-turkiye/days-hotel-istanbul-maltepe/overview>  |
| Park Dedeman Bostanci Hotel | <https://www.dedeman.com/en/hotels/park-dedeman-bostanci>  |
| Burgu Arjaan by Rotana Istanbul Asia | <https://www.rotana.com/arjaanhotelapartments/turkey/istanbul/burguarjaanbyrotana>  |

* **General information & Tourist information**

Istanbul, the cultural and economic heart of Türkiye, is a transcontinental metropolis uniquely positioned between Europe and Asia. With a rich history spanning over 2,500 years, it has served as the capital of great empires, including the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Today, Istanbul stands as a global hub for finance, technology, and innovation, while preserving its historical and architectural heritage.

As a thriving megacity, Istanbul seamlessly blends modernity with tradition, offering visitors a dynamic urban landscape filled with world-class business districts, cutting-edge research institutions, and a vibrant cultural scene. Its strategic location at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East makes it an ideal setting for international collaboration and innovation-driven discussions.

**Tourist Information**

Istanbul offers an unforgettable experience with its stunning landmarks, diverse culinary delights, and rich cultural heritage. Some must-visit sites include:

* **Hagia Sophia** – A symbol of Istanbul’s layered history, once a church, then a mosque, and now a museum-mosque.
* **Topkapı Palace** – The grand residence of Ottoman sultans, showcasing imperial treasures and breathtaking views of the Bosphorus.
* **Grand Bazaar & Spice Bazaar** – One of the world’s oldest and largest covered markets, perfect for traditional souvenirs and spices.
* **Bosphorus Cruise** – A scenic journey through the strait that separates Europe and Asia, offering spectacular views of palaces, mansions, and modern skyscrapers.
* **Taksim & Istiklal Street** – The heart of modern Istanbul, filled with shops, restaurants, and historic buildings.

For attendees interested in exploring more, the city boasts a rich culinary scene featuring delicacies like **Turkish kebabs, mezes, and world-famous baklava**. Istanbul is well-connected with extensive public transport, including metro, trams, and ferries, making it easy to navigate and explore its many wonders.

We hope you take the opportunity to experience Istanbul’s unique blend of history, culture, and innovation during your stay!

* **Safety**

Istanbul is a vibrant and dynamic city that welcomes millions of visitors every year. As one of the most popular destinations in the world, it prioritizes the safety and well-being of both residents and tourists. The city has a well-developed security infrastructure, with extensive surveillance, dedicated tourist police units, and a reliable emergency response system.

For a safe and enjoyable experience, we recommend the following precautions:

* **General Security**: Istanbul’s main districts, including business and tourist areas, are generally safe. However, as in any major city, it is advisable to stay vigilant, especially in crowded places and tourist hotspots.
* **Emergency Services**: In case of an emergency, you can reach police services by dialing **155**, medical emergencies at **112**, and the fire department at **110**. Most hotels and major venues have multilingual staff who can assist in case of need.
* **Transportation Safety**: Istanbul offers a variety of secure transportation options, including taxis, metro, trams, and ferries. It is recommended to use official taxis (yellow, turquoise, or black) or ride-hailing apps (BiTaksi, Uber) for added safety and convenience.
* **Health & Hygiene**: Istanbul has modern healthcare facilities, including international hospitals and pharmacies. Tap water is not generally safe for hygiene purposes, bottled water is recommended for drinking.
* **ELECTRICITY**

The power plug sockets are of type C and F. See pictures below:



* **CURRENCY**
* The Turkish Lira (TRY) is the official currency.
* Currency Exchange
	+ - 1 EURO/Dollar = 37.21/35.86 TL
		- For daily current exchange rates please visit <http://www.xe.com/>.
* **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
* **Time Zone: (**UTC+3)
* **Emergency:** 112
* **Fire:** 112
* **Opening hours: Banks, shops and etc.** 08:00 am
* **Tipping:** It typically ranges from 10% to 15% of the total service bill.
* **Language:** Turkish is the official language.

* **FOCAL POINTS**
* **ITU**

 ITU FG-AINN Secretariat: tsbfgainn@itu.int

* **HOST**

 For visa support letter, booking, transportation & technical Assistance, please contact:

* Name: Buse Bilgin and Gülçin Karaduman
* Tel: + 90-533-210-1500
* E-mail: buse.bilgin@turkcell.com.tr, gulcin.karaman@turkcell.com.tr

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