



Dear participants and guests,

I am a Youth Member of the Cochlear Implant Association Türkiye.

My name is Nehir Özdemir, I am 16 years old and I am both CI and ABI user.

Cochlear implantation changed my world.

My early years were filled with intensive education, rehabilitation, and of course my family's support.



I am 10th grade student. I attend a mainstream school.

I go to Bahçeşehir College Science High School and because of my success I have a scholarship.

- Good listening conditions,
- daily CI technology(fm system),
- individual education programs supported by specialist teachers, rehabilitation services, and also the valuable support of audiologists help me for my education life.
- And the best support from my family is very important and valuable for me.

I always studied very hard and it goes on.

I never give up.

I regularly review what I have learned. I can hardly hear for my daily life but with fm system at school I hear my teachers more clearly and also at noisy places such as park,outside,shopping mall when I use this technology.

Sometimes I have some difficulties for listening activities but with the help of captioning I can get over it.



In April 2025, at the opening of the EURO-CIU Symposium in Istanbul, I introduced myself in three languages and gave a short piano performance.

That moment was not only a stage experience for me, but also an opportunity to say to the world:

"I am here too."



I am currently learning three languages: Turkish, English, and German.

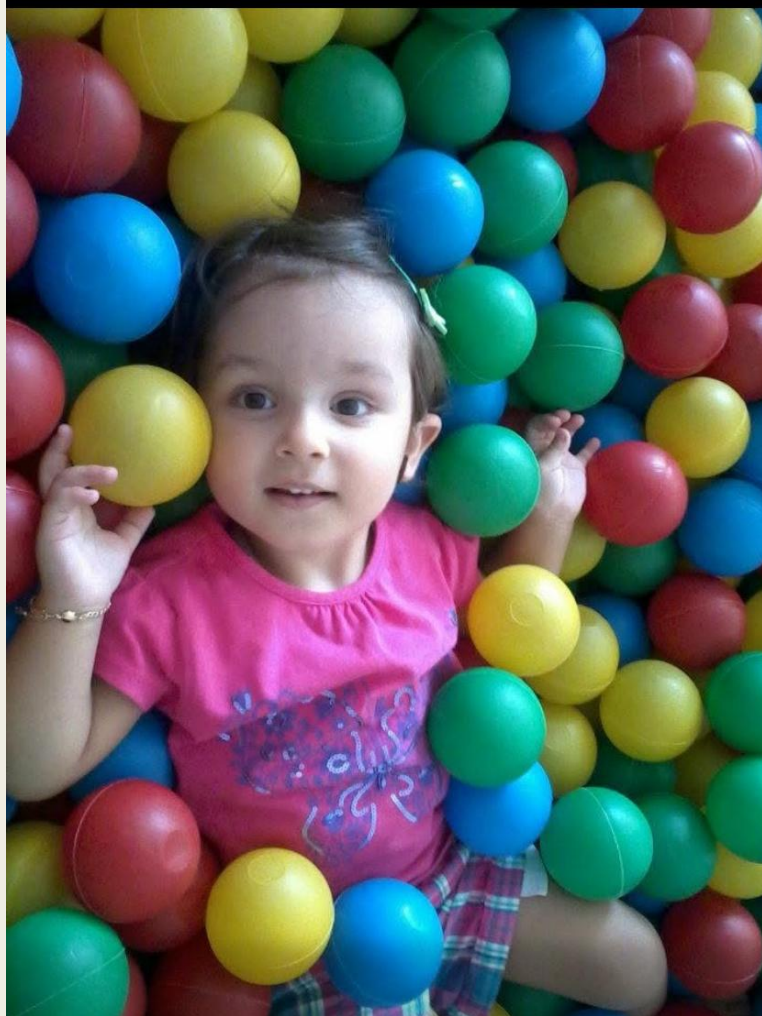
I love music, I sometimes play the piano, I play tennis,

I like painting and

I enjoy discovering new cultures and countries.

My implants have given me not only hearing, but also the courage to *pursue my dreams*.





The most important message I would like to share with you today is this:

As young people with hearing differences, we are not only overcoming our own limits, but also building bridges between worlds.

Thank you for listening 😊