

Ms. Didem Altop is currently the Cofounder and Managing Partner of 2C Project House in Istanbul, Turkey – a venture studio working on innovative growth opportunities, turning good ideas into great companies, projects, or non-profit organizations. She describes herself as a serial community builder and agenda setter, addressing a diverse range of business, social and economic development issues working at the intersection of private, public, and civil society sectors.

Between 2006-18, Didem is best known for her role as the Cofounder and Managing Director of Endeavor Turkey, developing and leading the first, and most competitive, growth acceleration program in the country for selected high impact entrepreneurs. In collaboration with a local network of 150+ and global network of 3,000+ C-level and subject matter expert mentors and investors across 30+ countries, the Endeavor Turkey team recruited and trained 1.000+ local community leaders to pioneer the establishment of numerous angel investor networks and early-stage VC funds. Endeavor Turkey's 50+ active portfolio companies achieved a valuation over \$6.0b with exports or expansion to 80+ countries. This portfolio includes some of the region's most significant investment rounds and acquisitions such as: Peak Games-Zynga (\$1.8b), Yemeksepeti-Delivery Hero (\$580m) and iyzico-PayU (\$165m).

In affiliation with Endeavor Turkey, Didem served as the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) Country Coordinator (with 300+ partners across the nation) and spearheaded the Endeavor CaseCampus Entrepreneurship Program (engaging a nationwide community of 100+ university faculty members and 800+ aspiring student entrepreneurs). In cooperation with Turkey's most prominent semi-governmental organizations and thought leaders, Didem acted as the Executive Director for the Global Entrepreneurship Congress, hosting the President of Turkey, 70+ Ministers & Ministerial Advisors from as many countries, and 3,000+ ecosystem builders from 170+ countries in Istanbul on April 15-19th 2018.

Didem is herself an entrepreneur and innovator at heart. Throughout her time in Turkey, Didem has played various academic and civil society leadership roles related to: Encouraging digital transformation through new technologies; Rethinking youth education; Fostering corporate volunteerism; Advocating for nonprofit capacity building and civic engagement; Championing corporate social responsibility and sustainability; Promoting angel, venture, and impact investing; Supporting high potential women professionals in the workplace. She has served as an adjunct professor on entrepreneurship at Ozyegin University and continues to serve on various executive and advisory boards.

Based in Istanbul over the past two decades, Didem is a first generation Turkish-American. Born and raised in the United States, she studied International Relations and Development Economics at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and completed an MSIA/MBA from Carnegie Mellon University in her hometown of Pittsburgh, PA. Before relocating to Turkey, Didem worked as a strategy and business development consultant and project manager for leading multinational organizations, such as: The World Bank, Electronic Data Systems (EDS), IBM Credit Corporation, Shared Medical Services, MCI, and Lockheed Martin Mission Systems (LMMS). Her first projects in Turkey include: The privatization of Agriculture Water User's Cooperatives which became a best practice of The World Bank, and the coordination of the Turkish Air Force Information Systems Project consortium which is notable as the first major internet integration initiative in the Turkish Armed Forces.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2C Project House - Istanbul, TK

Cofounder & Managing Partner | Venture Studio | 2018-Present

- Clients include leading family investment offices, software development houses & startups.
- Serving as formal Turkish liaison office for Malta Enterprise.

Endeavor Turkey - Istanbul, TK

Cofounder & Managing Director | High Impact Entrepreneurship | 2006-2018

- Recruited 20-member executive board & 150+ C level local mentor & investor network.
- Annually coordinated intensive entrepreneur search, selection & service programs with a 14-person full time staff, managing an annual pipeline of 300+ Country Candidates
- Supported a portfolio of 50+ Endeavor Entrepreneur Fellows achieving a portfolio valuation over \$6.0b with exports or expansion to over 80 countries.
- Annually coordinated ecosystem development & outreach programs including training 1,000+ potential angel & VC fund investors.
- Annually led or supported 300+ ecosystem partner activities & events.
- Actively supported Endeavor's expansion into EMENA.
- <https://endeavor.org/> | <http://endeavor.org.tr/>

ECOM Consulting & Project Finance - Istanbul, TK

Cofounder & Managing Partner | 2000-2006

- Launched Turkey's first corporate social responsibility & civil society capacity building boutique consulting agency which was acquired by the DDB Medina Turgul ad agency in 2004.
- Worked directly with C-level executives of Turkey's leading holding companies, where a majority of ECOM's clients ultimately became the original founding board & network members of Endeavor Turkey in 2006.

Altay Corporation - Ankara, TK (Aerospace, Defense & Technology Rep Agency)

Director of Business Development | 1997-2000

- Recruited & coordinated consortium members from Lockheed Martin Mission Systems, Oracle & Formtek to submit the winning bid for the \$60m Turkish Air Force Information Systems Project; Served as the initial Country Liaison Office Director for 40+ families who relocated from USA to Ankara for the 5-year project. Worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, the Turkish Air Force & Havelsan.
- Developed & managed strategic partnerships with MCI & Shared Medical Services valued over \$20m in local contracts.
- Recruited & managed an internal team of 10+ local project managers & software engineers for project design, localization & systems integration support.

ACADEMIC & OUTREACH PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Istanbul

Founding Executive Director | Istanbul Organizing Committee | April 15-19th 2018

- Hosted 3.000+ participants from 170 countries with 300+ expert speakers & 100+ partners. Coordinated 7 concurrent conferences & 20+ social events.
- Hosted the President of the Republic of Turkey plus Economic Development Ministers & Advisors from 70+ countries, senior executives of the OECD & The World Bank for the Startup Nations Summit.
- Worked in collaboration with executive leadership from the Kauffman Foundation, Global Entrepreneurship Network, Habitat for Youth, Turkish Exporters' Assembly (TIM) & Union of Chambers & Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

CaseCampus Entrepreneurship Program & Society for Entrepreneurship Educators

Founding Program Director | Endeavor Turkey Initiative | 2014-2018

- Recruited 100+ university faculty as part of a nationwide Society of Entrepreneurship Educators.
- Engaged 300+ full program fellows & 500+ bootcamp program fellows.
- Worked in collaboration with 6 prominent University Academic Advisory Board Members plus program sponsors Akbank & JPMorgan Global Philanthropy.
- Authored & produced library of 12 written & video based high impact entrepreneurship local hero case studies.
- Designed & hosted 4 terms of 10-week blended learning programs, 12 meetups & 3 intensive bootcamp programs.

Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Istanbul

Consortium Partner | Istanbul Organizing Committee | December 3-6th 2011

- Worked in collaboration with the President Obama Administration, US State Department, President Erdogan Administration & The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV).

IyiYatirim (GoodInvestment), IyiGirisim (GoodInitiative) & Endeavor Investor Trek Series

Founding Program Director | Endeavor Turkey Initiative | 2010-2018

- Hosted annual summits & workshops reaching 300+ entrepreneurs & 100+ angel investors per year in collaboration with the Endeavor Investor Network, Angel Resource Institute, Turkish Treasury, Turkish Industry & Business Association (TUSIAD) local development agencies, sponsors & partners.
- Actively enabled the launch of 5 related angel networks and 4 VC funds.

Gelecegi Gorenler (Visionaries) Weekly TV Show with CNBCe

Executive Producer & Director | Endeavor Turkey Initiative | 2010

- Designed & curated 42 episodes of Turkey's first weekly TV talk show on high impact entrepreneurship, angel and venture capital investing.
- Recruited & briefed 125+ guest speakers for the hour-long business prime time program hosted by Artunc Kocabalkan.

Ozyegin University - Istanbul, TK

Adjunct Professor, Entrepreneurship | 2009-2015

- Designed & led 3 semesters of Intro to Entrepreneurship undergraduate core curriculum course with average class size of 90 students.
- Designed & led 5 semesters of Intro to Business Planning adult education course for the Ozyegin University partnership with the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Initiative with an average class size of 60 students.

Global Entrepreneurship Week Turkey - Istanbul, TK

Country Coordinator | Endeavor Turkey Initiative | 2008-2018

- Annually coordinated 300+ Turkish ecosystem partners in a nationwide awareness building, activities & events campaign on entrepreneurial thinking & career paths for youth & local communities reaching 50,000+ participants each year.
- Worked in consortium with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (a subsidiary of the Kauffman Foundation), Habitat for Youth & TOBB Entrepreneurship Councils.

Advisory, Executive & Audit Board Memberships

- Altinyaldiz Space Frame Construction Company | 2021 – Present
- Global Entrepreneurship Network Turkey | 2021 – Present
- Turkish Philanthropy Fund | 2021 - Present
- EBRD Women's Entrepreneurship Program | 2020 - Present
- YenidenBiz (Returnship Opportunities for Career Women) | 2015 - Present
- Bosphorus University Entrepreneurship Center | 2015 - 22
- Ashoka Turkey (Social Entrepreneurship) | 2012 - Present
- Junior Achievement Turkey (Youth Entrepreneurship) | 2004 - 10
- Corporate Volunteer Council | 2002 - 08
- Third Sector Foundation of Turkey | 2001 - 05
- Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey | 1999 - 2000

EDUCATION

- Stanford-Endeavor Executive Education Fellow – Innovation & Growth Program
- Carnegie Mellon University MSIA/MBA – Competitive Strategy & Entrepreneurship
- The Johns Hopkins University BA – International Relations & Development Economics

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- American & Turkish Dual Citizenship
- Native English, Fluent Turkish, Basic French Language Skills
- Active public speaker including 200+ TV & print interviews, 2,000+ local & regional conferences & panels including World Economic Forum, World Bank, UNDP, EBRD, TEDx & others
- Directly raised over \$60m in cash and in-kind contributions in NGO fundraising efforts in Turkey