

**Aksa, Akkim and DowAksa Launch a New Project for an Equal Future: ‘Chemistry of Equality’**  
**Aksa, Akkim and DowAksa, 3 major chemical companies which have opened up to the world from Yalova, have taken a significant step in terms of gender equality by collaborating for ‘Chemistry of Equality’ project. Having initiated the first phase of the project by launching “Vital Encounters” program in collaboration with AÇEV in Yalova, the three companies aim to empower women and enhance girls’ access to education.**

Aksa Akrilik and Akkim Kimya, group companies of Akkök Holding both of which operate in chemical industry, and DowAksa, a 50/50 joint venture held by Dow Inc. and Aksa Akrilik San. A.Ş., have added a new women’s support program to their portfolio of sustainability projects. In that respect, the companies have taken a robust initiative about gender equality by launching the ‘Chemistry of Equality’ project. With a view to enhancing empowerment of women and girls’ access to education, Akkim, Aksa and DowAksa have started the first phase of the project by means of ‘Vital Encounters’ undertaken in collaboration with Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV) in Yalova. As part of the project, women from 19 to 50 years of age are provided with training on literacy, mathematics and life skills, among others. The ‘Young Vital Encounters’ program, on the other hand, is intended to help girls aged between 14 and 18 continue with their education and improve their life skills. Both programs are conducted face to face based on an egalitarian approach in an environment characterized with active participation and open sharing principles for 8 weeks.

**“We aim to create a substantial impact throughout Türkiye”**

Cengiz Taş, General Manager of Aksa Akrilik, Onur Kipri, General Manager of Akkim Kimya, Massimo Rebolini, Chief Executive Officer of DowAksa, and Senem Başyurt, General Manager of AÇEV, referred to the importance of ensuring ‘women and girls who are not in employment or education’ can become active in life for the society in the statements they made during the launch of the project.

Cengiz Taş, General Manager of Aksa Akrilik, said “Through the ‘Vital Encounters’ program that is launched as part of our Chemistry of Equality project, we aim to provide a better future to women and girls by touching their lives. The main goal of the project is to promote equal opportunities for individuals from all walks of life and create a substantial impact first in Yalova and then throughout Türkiye”.

Onur Kipri, General Manager of Akkim Kimya, noted that Akkim undertakes a number of activities to empower women in business and social life under Akkim Gender Equality program for long years and added, “The fact that the chemical companies of the group are joining their forces to achieve this goal is quite remarkable. We sincerely hope that this important collaboration will set an example throughout Türkiye, including specifically our region. We will keep endeavoring to empower women based on our awareness that the foundations of society are laid in childhood and this makes mothers indispensable for society”.

Massimo Rebolini, Chief Executive Officer of DowAksa, said “At DowAksa, we continue to actively engage in empowerment of women as well as equality in professional life. And we want to extend this approach beyond the limits of our company and ensure that it will be shared by all our stakeholders. The Chemistry of Equality project is not only a social responsibility initiative but also a valuable investment in the future. Empowerment of women and girls is indispensable for progress

of societies”.

Focusing on empowerment of women for promoting equality in the society, we have been organizing the Vital Encounters program for women who are not in employment or education since 2016. And now, we are happy to offer the Vital Encounters program to women in Yalova in collaboration with Akkim Kimya, Aksa Akrilik and DowAksa, subsidiaries of Akk k Holding, as the first stakeholder of the ‘Chemistry of Equality’ project. We believe that every woman who is empowered through education will make progress to a brighter future in terms of achievement of our goal to build an equal society”.

#### **Adding value to the region**

In addition to the Chemistry of Equality, Akkim Kimya, Aksa Akrilik and DowAksa have undertaken a number of social responsibility projects for especially the youth and women in Yalova for many years. Those three companies are known to organize several training support programs, environmental aids and public training sessions for young people and families as well as making long-standing service infrastructure donations made for the good of the locality such as RDKM, President’s Office Building of Yalova University and Aksa Vocational High School.