

ENGLISH

SU SESLERİ – VOICES OF WATER

International Open Call for Students and Young Professionals 2026

A project by the Goethe-Institut Izmir within the framework of SUYUMUZ – Water Days Izmir

Open Call

Background

In the lead-up to the UN Climate Conference (COP 2026) in Antalya, water is increasingly coming into focus as a key resource, a site of conflict, and a fundamental basis of life. Yet in the Mediterranean region, water is no longer an abstract question of the future—it is a lived reality. Heatwaves, declining groundwater levels, shifting coastlines, and rising consumption are shaping everyday life. In Izmir, these changes are directly tangible: in the summer heat, in urban development, and in ongoing debates about infrastructure, access, and distribution.

Building on the long-standing official city partnership between Izmir and Bremen, this project brings together two very different water realities. Both port cities represent contrasting experiences—on the one hand increasing scarcity, on the other a continuous engagement with water in abundance, shaped by rivers, tides, and flood management. Between the Mediterranean and the North Sea, a space of tension emerges in which new questions can be asked: How do we live with water? Who does it belong to? And how does it shape our cities, our memories, and our future?

The Goethe-Institut Izmir invites students from Bremen and Izmir to explore these questions through artistic practice. We are looking for projects that approach water as an aesthetic, social, and political space—as a resource, a site of memory, a force of connection, or a source of threat. What images, sounds, stories, and forms can emerge from this exploration?

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for artistic works that do not merely show water but question it. Works that take a position. That raise a question, create tension, open up a new perspective.

Possible thematic areas:

- Water as a social question: Who has access – and who does not?
- Water as a site of memory: How does water shape places and people?
- Water as infrastructure: Making the invisible visible
- Water and climate change: Drought, flooding, transformation
- Water as public space: Encounter, conflict, community

Who Can Apply?

The call is open to students and graduates (up to two years after graduation) from all universities in Bremen and Izmir, across the following disciplines:

- Fine Arts & Photography

- Architecture & Urban Planning
- Design & Media Arts
- Film, Sound & Performance
- Literature & Creative Writing

Individual and team submissions are welcome. International applications are strongly encouraged.

Submission Formats

All artistic and design-based formats are accepted, including:

- Photographic series and visual essays
- Installation concepts (suitable for public outdoor spaces)
- Short films and video works (max. 15 min.)
- Sound works and audio essays
- Architectural and urban design proposals
- Literary texts: short prose, poetry, essays (max. 5 pages)
- Intermedial and transdisciplinary projects

What Selected Participants Receive

The exhibition “*Su Sesleri – Voices of Water*” is part of the Goethe-Institut’s accompanying programme for the UN Climate Conference (COP 2026) in Antalya. Against this backdrop, the most compelling projects will be selected by an international jury. The selected works will receive:

- **A material cost allowance** of up to €100 for the realisation of the project (if required)
- **Presentation** as part of the public exhibition “*Su İzleri – Traces of Water*” in the urban space of Izmir (Oktober–November 2026)
- **Invitation to the exhibition opening** in Izmir
- **Digital publication** on the Goethe-Institut’s project platform
- **Certificate of participation** from the Goethe-Institut

A parallel open call will also be launched in Ankara, allowing—depending on available resources—the selected projects to be brought together in a joint exhibition.

Application Materials

Applications should include:

- Project description (max. 500 words, German or English)
- Visual material or concept sketches (PDF, max. 10 pages)
- Short CV / study profile (max. 1 page)
- Name of university and field of study
- For team applications: short profile of all members

Timeline

Open Call Launch: April 10, 2026

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2026

Jury Selection: Mid June 2026

Notification of Selected Participants: End of June 2026

Production Phase: July – October 2026

Exhibition Opening: End of October 2026

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted digitally to:

suyumuz-izmir@goethe.de

Subject line: Su Sesi Open Call 2026 – [Name / Team]

All submitted materials will be treated confidentially. Submitted materials cannot be returned.

Questions & Contact

For questions about the open call, please contact: suyumuz-izmir@goethe.de

Further information about the SUYUMUZ project: www.goethe.de/izmir
