

# ISTANBUL VISIT TO SOFT LAUNCH TECH TÜRKİYE ADVOCATES **MAY 2024**

I spent two days at the end of May travelling to Istanbul to prepare for a soft launch of the new Tech Türkiye Advocates group. Ata Arguder, one of the co-leads of the new group, organised a packed agenda to meet with a variety of tech leaders, entrepreneurs and investors to learn about the tech ecosystem in Türkiye.

On 28th May, Ata and I met with a delegation of leaders from the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality: <https://avnodel.net/bursa/>. Bursa is the fourth largest city in Türkiye spanning a variety of industrial sectors including automotive and agritech. The group from Bursa wanted to learn more about Global Tech Advocates, how they can support Tech Türkiye Advocates and understand more about London Tech Week and how it works. Later in the evening Ata and I met with the leaders of Metis Ventures, an Istanbul-based VC that is looking to invest in startups wishing to expand from Türkiye and the broader region to the UK and the US: <https://metisventures.com>.

On 29th May, we spent the day at YTU Yıldız Teknopark in Istanbul, which is the largest technology park of its kind across Türkiye: <https://www.yildizteknopark.com.tr>. We toured the 'Startup House' and 'Innovation Hub', which includes development work for autonomous vehicles and then had a tour of the rest of the university campus. This was then followed by a 'soft launch' event to introduce Tech Türkiye Advocates with a formal launch scheduled for later in the year. During the launch I met with a number of new Advocates who are part of a London Tech Week delegation being led by YTU Yıldız Teknopark. We finished the day by meeting the General Manager of the Teknopark and the leadership team.

Tech Türkiye Advocates is going to be a fantastic addition to GTA and help all of us better understand the innovation and entrepreneurship growing across Türkiye.

