

World Health Organization defines behavioral addictions as a complex public health issue that negatively affects individuals' psychological, social, and cognitive functioning, leading to societal and economic changes and harm. New forms with addictive potential—such as digital gaming, social media, online gambling, problematic pornography use, and compulsive shopping—are becoming increasingly widespread and form an invisible risk area due to the rapid pace of technological transformation. This dynamic structure necessitates multidisciplinary analyses, comprehensive prevention efforts, and universal intervention strategies.

As Turkish Green Crescent Society, empowered by our 105-year legacy, we not only continue our prevention and awareness activities, but also develop a holistic approach to addressing the issue that includes early diagnosis, intervention, and rehabilitation stages. Enhancing psychosocial resilience, systematically analyzing addiction risks, and strengthening society through evidence-based practices are among our core priorities. We have organized numerous symposiums, congresses, and scientific meetings at both national and international levels in the field of behavioral addictions since 2010, conducted various academic studies and contributed to scientific publications. One of the most remarkable events organized by Turkish Green Crescent Society is the International Congress on Technology Addiction. The first congress was held in 2012, followed by the second in 2013, the third in 2016, and the fourth in 2017. Most recently, the 6th Global Congress on Behavioral Addictions, which we organized as a continuation of the 5th International Congress on Technology Addiction, will address both national and global developments in this field.

The conceptual framework of our congress holds particular significance. Topics such as the prevention of behavioral addictions, the neurobiological and psychological dimensions of digital addictions, their societal impacts, and the development of healthy digitalization policies are not only crucial for academic knowledge production, but also serve as a guiding resource for policymakers and practitioners.

Developing an effective global strategy to combat addiction requires not only the advancement of scientific knowledge but also its dissemination on an international level and its transformation into joint action plans. For this reason, we believe that our congress will not only serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, but also as a foundation where interdisciplinary collaborations are strengthened, and innovative solutions are cultivated through collective insight.

As Turkish Green Crescent Society, we are firmly committed to deepening the scientific knowledge in the field of addiction, strengthening international collaborations, and promoting a culture of well-being by organizing symposiums, contributing to academic meetings and conferences, developing original projects, and enhancing public awareness through high-quality publications. I sincerely hope that the 6th Global Congress on Behavioral Addictions will contribute to the development of novel approaches and strategies in tackling addictions, and that its outcomes will foster a highly impactful exchange of ideas enriched by scientific, social, and ethical dimensions.

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