

## EOQ Press Release

### Dr. Ömer Özkan, winner of the 2025 EOQ European Quality Leader Award



The European Organization for Quality (EOQ) celebrated on June 12, 2025, the winner of the European Quality Leader Award 2025.

The European Quality Leader (EQL) Award is granted annually by EOQ. EOQ 'Quality Leaders' are individuals who have succeeded in guiding their organizations to success for the different stakeholders through their leadership and through the change and quality improvement processes, in the broadest sense, which they have implemented directly through their teams.

The European Organization for Quality (EOQ) is proud to announce **Dr. Ömer Özkan** as the recipient of the prestigious **2025 European Quality Leader Award**. This distinguished recognition highlights Dr.

Özkan's exceptional contributions to quality management systems and innovation leadership across Europe's energy sector.

Dr. Özkan holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Katip Çelebi University (2020), a master's in business administration from 9 Eylül University (2013), and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Süleyman Demirel University (2003). His academic credentials are complemented by numerous professional certifications, including EFQM 2025 Assessor, IRCA Certified Lead Auditor for multiple ISO standards, and executive education from Harvard Business School in Strategy Execution and Design Thinking & Innovation.

As a lecturer, he teaches "quality management systems", "Innovation strategies" and "entrepreneurship" lessons at Yaşar University and Beykoz University. He has published 3 books on business world called "Paradigm Shifters" series and he is a member of the Turkish Quality Association ( KalDer) Award Executive Board.

Dr. Özkan represented Türkiye in ISO (International Organization for Standardization) at 56000 Innovation Management Standard series preparation technical committees and he is the chairman of the circular economy standard preparation mirror committee, which is carried out under the Turkish Standards Institute.(TSE)

Currently serving as Corporate Quality Management Group Manager at **SOCAR Türkiye**, Dr. Özkan has established himself as a pioneer in quality management and process improvement throughout his career. Beginning as a Quality Manager in the automotive sector, he has progressively advanced through leadership roles in quality systems implementation across multiple industries before joining SOCAR Türkiye in 2009.

Under Dr. Özkan's leadership, SOCAR Türkiye has achieved several industry firsts that factored significantly in his EOQ award selection:

- In 2022, SOCAR Türkiye became the first company in Europe's energy sector to receive ISO 56002 Innovation Management System certification

- In 2024, the company achieved Europe's first ISO 56001 Innovation Management System certification, with some sources recognizing this as a global first for the industry
- SOCAR Türkiye became the first in its sector to receive ISO 37000 Corporate Governance standard certification in 2024
- Most recently, the company attained ISO 17483-1 certification for protection of critical infrastructure, another industry first

These achievements reflect Dr. Özkan's exceptional ability to integrate quality frameworks into strategic business operations while fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

Dr. Özkan has established himself as a thought leader in quality management through extensive academic publications. His research focuses on innovation management systems, strategic management processes, organizational culture, and performance optimization. He has authored seven peer-reviewed academic articles, four book chapters, and presented at multiple international conferences, including his recent work on "The Effect of Strategic Innovation Structure on Innovational System Leadership" at the 25th International Academic Symposium on Quality in Croatia.

The award also recognizes Dr. Özkan's comprehensive mastery of quality methodologies including Six Sigma, Kaizen, Lean practices, and process mining. His technical expertise spans FMEA, HAZOP, SPC, and integrated management systems implementation. Dr. Özkan has successfully led the integration of numerous ISO frameworks, including 9001, 14001, 45001, 50001, 10002, 22301, 56001, 55001, 31000, 27001, 17483-1 and 17025.

Dr. Özkan exemplifies the highest standards of quality leadership through his pioneering work in management systems integration and his commitment to advancing quality practices across Europe's energy sector," said [EOQ Representative Name], Chair of the European Quality Leader Award Committee. "His contributions have not only transformed SOCAR Türkiye's operations but have established new benchmarks for the entire industry."

The European Quality Leader Award recognizes outstanding individuals who devote their time, energy and knowledge by sharing their beliefs for the benefit of the European Society. The European Organization for Quality (EOQ) includes more than 70,000 members and 500,000 companies within its member and partner organizations in Europe and worldwide. EOQ is an interdisciplinary European organization that strives to promote effective improvement in the sphere of quality management as the coordinating body and catalyst of its Member Organizations, with the goal of improving European society by promoting quality in its broadest sense.

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