



### 100th Anniversary Of Our Republic



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Cover design: Our graduate Büşra Kuşçu's design "Dream Catcher" won 3rd place in the "Carpet Vista" awards.

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023 RECTOR'S FOREWORD

As an educational institution, Istanbul Okan University is cognisant of the pressing environmental challenges that the world is currently encountering. We acknowledge our obligation to make a meaningful contribution to the resolution of these issues. The environmental threats that humanity and the biodiversity we share this planet with are at unprecedented levels, and it is imperative that we take action promptly to address these dangers. Communities worldwide, including our own, are already experiencing the effects of climate change. One of the objectives of our institution is "to uphold the values of human dignity, social responsibility, gender equality, and environmental consciousness in our work, and to develop projects in these areas". We must now implement this mission with even greater passion in order to safeguard and improve our environment and avert uncontrolled climate change.

#### Our Mission and Our Dedication to Sustainability

This strategy delineates the actions that Istanbul Okan University will take to reduce its carbon footprint, promote sustainability in teaching, learning, research, and innovation, and assist our community in transitioning to a more sustainable society. Our strategy delineates explicit procedures for safeguarding and improving our environment. Our dedication to transparency is demonstrated through our reporting of our progress towards our sustainability objectives. We endeavour to collaborate and conduct a thorough examination of the necessary changes in areas where the solutions are more intricate or where broader societal changes are required.

#### Collaborating to Promote Environmental Sustainability

This approach is the outcome of numerous consultations with our students, academic staff, and professional services personnel. It is imperative that we all work together to accomplish our objectives. We recognise the interdependence of health, economic justice, and climate change. The most vulnerable populations will be disproportionately affected by the consequences of environmental degradation. These other priorities will also be unmet if we do not address climate change.



Prof. Dr. Güliz MUĞAN Rector

In order to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work, it is imperative that environmental sustainability be incorporated into the physical and cultural fabric of our university. Istanbul Okan University has already initiated this endeavour and achieved substantial advancements. We have shifted our investment strategies away from fossil fuels and reduced our operational carbon footprint. Our research in sustainability-related fields is gradually acquiring international recognition, in accordance with global benchmarks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Future Actions**

Nevertheless, we recognise that numerous components of our daily operations and activities present substantial environmental challenges. The climate and ecological crises necessitate a global response that is transformational, not just from us. Our commitments described in this strategy will be periodically reviewed and reassessed in light of the rapid pace of innovation and the development of new technologies.

Istanbul Okan University is collectively accountable for the development of a more sustainable future. In order to ensure that future generations inherit a healthy and prosperous planet, it is imperative that we take immediate and decisive action.

## Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as Global Goals, are a set of 17 integrated and interrelated goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that humanity enjoys peace and prosperity by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals address a wide range of social, economic, and environmental issues, aiming to create a more sustainable and equitable world. The progress towards achieving these goals is crucial for universities for several reasons:

#### 1. Global Citizenship and Social Responsibility:

 Universities play a key role in shaping the future leaders and citizens of the world. By incorporating SDGs into their curriculum and activities, they contribute to fostering a sense of global citizenship and social responsibility among students.

#### 2. Education and Awareness:

• Universities have the potential to raise awareness about the SDGs and their significance. Through education and research, universities can inform and empower students to address global challenges, encouraging them to become agents of positive change.

#### 3. Research and Innovation:

• Universities are hubs for research and innovation. By aligning their research agendas with the SDGs, institutions can contribute valuable insights and solutions to address complex global issues, such as poverty, climate change, and inequality.

#### 4. Partnerships and Collaboration:

 Achieving the SDGs requires collaboration across sectors and disciplines. Universities can serve as catalysts for partnerships between academia, government, industry, and civil society, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to solving global challenges.

#### 5. Sustainable Campus Practices:

 Universities can lead by example by adopting sustainable practices on their campuses. This includes energy-efficient buildings, waste reduction, sustainable transportation, and ethical sourcing. Implementing such practices contributes directly to achieving specific SDGs related to environmental sustainability.

#### 6. Inclusive and Equitable Education:

• SDG 4 focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education. Universities can contribute by promoting diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all students, irrespective of gender, race, or socio-economic background.

#### 7. Measuring and Reporting Impact:

 Universities can use the SDGs as a framework to measure and report their impact on sustainable development. By regularly assessing their progress, institutions can demonstrate their commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

#### 8. Preparation for Future Workforce:

 Integrating sustainability and SDGs into the curriculum helps prepare students for a future workforce that values sustainability. Graduates with an understanding of global challenges and sustainable practices are more likely to contribute positively to society.

As **Istanbul Okan University**, the importance of SDG progress for us lies in **our role** as educators, researchers, administrative staff and students. By embracing the SDGs, **we can contribute significantly to building a sustainable and inclusive future for the global community.** 

## **Priority SDGs**



There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets in total. While they are all important and interrelated, some are prior to us.

Istanbul Okan University aspires to be a leading institution committed to fostering sustainable development, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to address global challenges, and actively contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.



Recognizing that access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food is fundamental to human wellbeing and is crucial for the overall development of individuals and communities.



Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all, with a focus on lifelong learning opportunities. We aim to provide access to quality education that is inclusive, and transformative, empowering individuals to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.



### Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. We aim to address the challenges of energy poverty, promote the transition to clean and renewable energy sources, and enhance energy efficiency.

### Good Health and Well-being

Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. We aim to address a wide range of health issues, reduce the global burden of diseases, and ensure universal access to essential healthcare services.



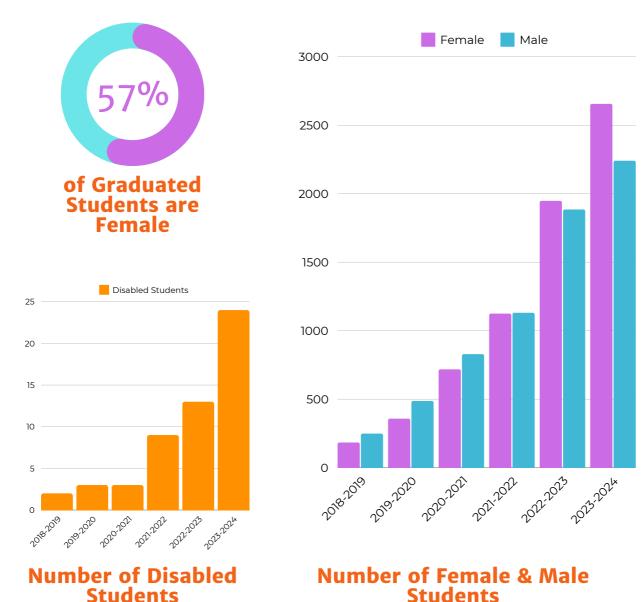
## End Poverty in All Forms Everywhere



#### SDG 1.3.1. Bottom financial quintile admission target

Istanbul Okan University is committed to promoting equal access to education, and we actively work towards admitting students from the bottom 20% of household income groups. While we continuously monitor our progress, we are dedicated to ensuring that our student body reflects a diverse range of socioeconomic backgrounds and that no talented individual is denied the opportunity to study with us due to financial constraints.

The admission of women, disadvantaged groups, and low-income students is continuously monitored by Istanbul Okan University, which analyses statistics and implements the requisite measures to eliminate inequalities. The university is dedicated to the integration of the principles of equal opportunity for all staff and students into its policies, procedures, decisions, and operations. Equal opportunity does not entail considering all individuals equally; rather, it necessitates the implementation of unique measures to enhance the employment and educational prospects of specific groups in order to mitigate their historical disadvantages. Among these categories are low-income individuals, women, individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with disabilities.





#### SDG 1.3.2. Bottom financial quintile student success

Istanbul Okan University is committed to the success and completion of students from the bottom 20% of household income groups. We have established specific targets and support systems to ensure these students not only enrol but also successfully graduate. Our initiatives include tailored academic support, mentoring programs, and career guidance to address the unique challenges faced by these students. By providing comprehensive resources and monitoring their progress closely, we aim to enhance their academic experience and ensure a higher graduation rate for students from lower-income backgrounds.

#### Part-Time Working Student Program

#### SDG 1.3.3. Low-income student support

Istanbul Okan University is dedicated to providing comprehensive support for students from lowincome families to help them successfully complete their studies. We offer a range of services including financial assistance for housing, food, and transportation to alleviate economic burdens. Additionally, we provide access to legal services and other essential resources to ensure that all students have the support they need to focus on their education. Our commitment is to create a supportive environment that enables every student to thrive academically and personally.



Scholarships & Discounts

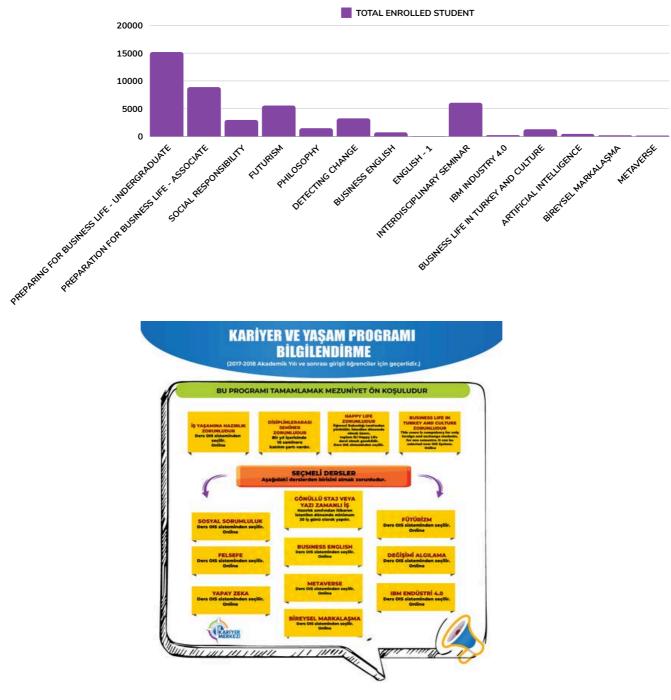


8381 Students with Scholarship



### SDG 1.3.4. Bottom financial quintile student support

Istanbul Okan university has dedicated programs and initiatives specifically designed to assist students from the bottom 20% of household income groups in successfully completing their studies. We offer a range of support services, including targeted academic advising, personalized mentoring and career development resources. Our programs are tailored to address the unique challenges faced by these students, providing them with the tools and support needed to excel in their studies and achieve their academic goals. We are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed and complete their education with confidence.





### SDG 1.3.5: Low or lower-middle income countries student support

Istanbul Okan University offers several schemes to support students from low or lower-middle income countries. Our goal is to make higher education accessible and equitable for students from all backgrounds, regardless of their financial situation.

Students from low income and lower middle income according to World Bank

AFGHANISTAN	BANGLADESH	CUBITI	ERITREA	EGYPT	MAURITANIA	UZBEKISTAN	PAKISTAN
BURKINA FASO		ΕΤΗΙΟΡΙΑ		NIGER		RWANDA	
BURUNDI	CHAD	MOROCCO	IVORY	NIGERIA	NICARAGUA	SENEGAL	SOMALIA
PALESTINE	GAMBIA	KENYA	KYRGYZSTAN	SRI LANKA	SUDAN	TUNISIA	UGANDA
GHANA		COMOROS		SYRIA		JORDAN	
SOUTH SUDAN	CAMEROON	LEBANON	MALI	TAJIKISTAN	TANZANIA	YEMEN	ZIMBABWE



#### SDG 1.4.1. Local start-up assistance

Istanbul Okan University is actively involved in supporting the local community by fostering the start-up of financially and socially sustainable businesses. We offer a range of resources including mentorship programs, training workshops, and access to university facilities. Our initiatives are designed to provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and support needed to launch and grow their businesses effectively. By leveraging our expertise and facilities, we aim to empower local entrepreneurs and contribute to the economic and social development of the community.



#### **ARPROGED**

#### SDG. 1.4.2. Local start-up financial assistance

Our university also provides financial assistance to support the start-up of financially and socially sustainable businesses within the local community. Our goal is to enable local entrepreneurs to bring their innovative ideas to life and create lasting economic and social impact. By investing in these businesses, we support the growth and development of a vibrant local economy.





### SDG 1.4.3. Programmes for services access

Istanbul Okan University organizes training and programs specifically designed to improve access to basic services for all members of the community. These initiatives focus on enhancing access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and social support. By providing workshops, seminars, and collaborative projects, we aim to address gaps in service accessibility and ensure that individuals from all backgrounds can benefit from these vital resources. Our commitment is to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive society through these programs.





### SDG 1.4.4. Policy addressing poverty

Our university actively participates in policy-making at local, regional, national, and global levels to help implement programs and policies aimed at ending poverty in all its dimensions. We collaborate with governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and international bodies to contribute our research, expertise, and insights into effective poverty alleviation strategies. Our involvement in these policy discussions helps shape and promote initiatives that address the root causes of poverty and support sustainable development efforts. We are dedicated to using our academic and community resources to drive meaningful change and contribute to the global fight against poverty.

> <u>TÜBİTAK Project Support</u> <u>TÜBİTAK Scholarships</u> <u>Turquality</u>



End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture



### SDG 2.2.1. Campus food waste tracking

Istanbul Okan University actively measures the amount of food waste generated from food served within the campus. We have implemented tracking systems to monitor food waste, even when food provision is outsourced, ensuring that our partners also collect and report this data. This initiative is part of our broader commitment to sustainability, as we continuously strive to reduce food waste and promote more efficient use of resources across the university.

#### Waste Management Directive

#### SDG 2.3.1. Student food insecurity and hunger

Istanbul Okan University has a comprehensive program in place to address student food insecurity and hunger. We collaborate with local organizations to offer support and raise awareness about food insecurity, ensuring that all students have access to nutritious meals, allowing them to focus on their academic success.



### SDG 2.3.2. Students hunger interventions

Istanbul Okan University provides a range of interventions to prevent and alleviate hunger among students. These efforts are part of our commitment to ensuring that all students have the necessary resources to focus on their education without the burden of hunger.

#### Meal Scholarships

#### SDG 2.3.3. Sustainable food choices on campus

Istanbul Okan University is committed to providing sustainable food choices for everyone on campus, including a variety of vegetarian and vegan options. We prioritize offering meals that are both nutritious and environmentally friendly, sourcing ingredients locally whenever possible. By promoting plant-based diets and sustainable food practices, we aim to support the health of our students and staff while contributing to environmental sustainability.



### SDG 2.3.4. Healthy and affordable food choices

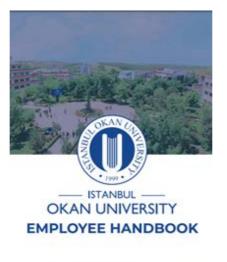
Istanbul Okan University ensures that healthy and affordable food choices are available for everyone on campus. We offer a wide variety of nutritious meals and snacks at reasonable prices, catering to diverse dietary needs and preferences. Our commitment to promoting health and well-being includes sourcing fresh, wholesome ingredients and providing options that support balanced eating, making it easier for students and staff to access healthy food without financial strain.



**Restaurants and Cafeterias** 

#### SDG 2.3.5. Staff hunger interventions

Istanbul Okan University provides free food interventions to prevent and alleviate hunger among staff. We offer access to food courts on campus, ensuring that staff members facing food insecurity have access to nutritious food.





### SDG 2.5.1. Access to food security knowledge

Istanbul Okan University provides local farmers and food producers with access to knowledge, skills, and technology related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and aquaculture. We offer workshops, training sessions, and research collaborations aimed at promoting sustainable farming practices and improving food production efficiency. Through these initiatives, we help local communities adopt environmentally responsible techniques and ensure long-term food security.



#### Field to Table

#### SDG 2.5.2. Events for local farmers and food producers

Istanbul Okan University organizes events for local farmers and food producers to connect and exchange knowledge. These events include workshops, seminars, and networking opportunities where participants can share best practices, innovative techniques, and sustainable methods in agriculture and food production. By fostering collaboration, we aim to support the growth of local food systems and promote sustainable development in the community.





#### SDG 2.5.3. University access to local farmers and food producers

We offer resources and support to help improve agricultural methods, conduct research, and implement innovative solutions. By sharing our expertise and facilities, we aim to support the advancement of sustainable agriculture and contribute to the success of local farming communities.



### SDG 2.5.4. Sustainable food purchases

Istanbul Okan University prioritizes purchasing products from local, sustainable sources. We are committed to supporting local businesses and reducing our environmental impact by selecting suppliers who adhere to sustainable practices. This approach not only contributes to the local economy but also aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible sourcing.

#### Safe and Sustainable Food Policy





Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for all at all Ages



### SDG 3.3.1. Current collaborations with health institutions

Istanbul Okan University has active collaborations with various local, national, and global health institutions to enhance health and well-being outcomes. Through partnerships with hospitals, healthcare organizations, and research institutions, the university engages in initiatives that promote public health, support community well-being, and contribute to healthcare advancements.

**Collaborations in the Health Sector** 

### SDG 3.3.2. Health outreach programmes

Istanbul Okan University actively delivers outreach programs and projects in the local community to promote health and well-being. These include student volunteering programs focused on topics such as hygiene, nutrition, family planning, sports, exercise, and healthy aging. The university's initiatives aim to raise awareness, educate the community, and support a healthier lifestyle through interactive workshops, seminars, and health campaigns.



### SDG 3.3.3. Shared sports facilities

Istanbul Okan University shares its sports facilities with the local community, including local schools and the general public. The university's sports complex is accessible for community use, supporting activities such as sports events, training sessions, and recreational programs, fostering a healthy and active lifestyle for both students and local residents.





### SDG 3.3.4. Sexual and reproductive health care services for students

Istanbul Okan University provides students with access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including information and education services. The university offers counselling, workshops, and seminars on topics such as sexual health, family planning, and safe practices, ensuring that students have the necessary support and resources to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.



**Gender Equality Seminars** 



#### SDG 3.3.5. Mental health support for students

Istanbul Okan University provides students with access to comprehensive mental health support. The university offers counselling services, psychological support, and mental health workshops to promote students' emotional well-being. Through these resources, students can seek help, receive guidance, and develop strategies to manage stress and maintain a healthy mental state during their academic journey.



#### **OPDEM**

#### SDG 3.3.6. Smoke-free policy

Istanbul Okan University has a "smoke-free" policy in place. The policy prohibits smoking in indoor areas to promote a healthier environment for students, staff, and visitors, supporting overall well-being on campus.

#### Smoke Free Campus Policy

#### SDG 3.3.7. Mental health support for staff

Istanbul Okan University provides staff with access to mental health support. The university offers counselling services, mental health resources, and workshops aimed at promoting the psychological well-being of its staff, ensuring they have the support needed to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

**Employee Handbook** 



## **SDG 4: Quality Education**

### Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

#### SDG 4.3.1. Public resources

Istanbul Okan University provides free access to educational resources for those not studying at the university. These resources include access to the seminars, and workshops, as well as opportunities to attend certain lectures. By offering these resources to the wider community, the university aims to support lifelong learning and contribute to the educational development of individuals beyond its student body.

OKSEM (Okan University Continuing Education Centre) is a dedicated unit of Istanbul Okan University that provides a range of educational and professional development programs for individuals and organizations. OKSEM's mission is to promote lifelong learning by offering courses, workshops, and certificate programs that are accessible to both students and the broader community.

The centre focuses on enhancing skills, supporting career advancement, and meeting the educational needs of various sectors. OKSEM's programs cover a diverse range of topics, including leadership, management, language learning, technology, and vocational training. These courses are designed for professionals seeking to upskill, individuals exploring new career paths, and organizations looking for tailored training solutions.

By collaborating with industry experts and leveraging the university's academic resources, OKSEM aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical skills, contributing to the personal and professional growth of its participants. Through its wide array of educational offerings, OKSEM plays a vital role in extending the university's impact beyond its campus and fostering community engagement and development.



### SDG 4.3.2. Public events

Istanbul Okan University hosts events that are open to the general public, such as public lectures, community educational events, and workshops. These events aim to engage the wider community, share knowledge, and foster a culture of learning and dialogue on various topics. The university is committed to serving as a hub for education and community interaction.



Public Events

### SDG 4.3.3. Vocational training events

Istanbul Okan University hosts educational events that are open to the general public, including executive education programs and vocational training courses. These short courses are designed for individuals who are not enrolled at the university and aim to enhance professional skills, support career development, and provide practical training in various fields. By offering these programs, the university contributes to lifelong learning and professional development within the community.





### **Training of Educators Faculty Support Program**

The most important component of quality indicators in higher education is enhancing the teaching competence of academic staff and understanding the needs of both faculty members and university students in the learning process. By analysing these needs, the Training of Educators Faculty Support Program has been implemented at Istanbul Okan University as a program spanning an academic year to support faculty members in developing teaching competence and acquiring teaching leadership skills, potentially serving as a model for all universities.

This Faculty Support Program has been developed by Prof. Dr. Aytaç Göğüş, an expert in Instructional Design, Development, and Assessment, and is conducted under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Mithat Kıyak, the Chair of the University Quality Commission and Vice Rector, with the support of all faculties.

The goal of the Training of Educators Faculty Support Program is to establish a learning committee with faculty members from different disciplines to enable academics to carry out their teaching and learning processes more effectively.

The key outcomes of the program include:

- Sharing common principles for enhancing the quality of education and teaching processes.
- Transferring knowledge and experiences on learning and teaching themes.
- Sharing different interdisciplinary approaches.
- Reviewing current educational research and practical studies in the field.
- Generating interdisciplinary educational research ideas within the group.
- Discussing issues and expectations related to learning and teaching topics.
- Evaluating the most appropriate solutions to the problems identified.

#### Who Can Participate and How Is the Program Conducted?

The program is conducted over an academic year with a fixed group of voluntary faculty members, meeting twice a month for a total of 16 sessions. Additionally, all sessions, materials, and resources used in the program are shared on the O'Learn learning platform, accessible to participants. In the program's design phase, a needs analysis survey was conducted with the participation of voluntary faculty members to assess the support required for teaching competency. Furthermore, group discussions, meetings with quality commission members, and deans were held to identify and address the gaps between current and desired conditions.

The design of the program, revision of the content based on the needs analysis, implementation, and post-implementation evaluation processes were carried out by Prof. Dr. Aytaç Göğüş. The program was implemented as a one-year initiative in the academic year and is being re-implemented with different group members in subsequent academic years. Faculty members who actively participated in the majority of the program sessions earned a participation certificate at the end of the program. It is planned that this program will continue with different groups of faculty members in future years. From each faculty, at least one voluntary representative will be selected as a "teaching leader," who will be a permanent participant in the program for one year and is expected to lead the improvement of teaching environments within their respective faculties or departments.



# **SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 4: USE CONTRACT CONTRAC**



### 7th UZGÖRÜ Workshop

The "Foresight Workshop," which we held at Antalya Club Marco Polo from October 20 to 22, 2023, was completed with the participation of our faculty members and administrative staff. Organized under the main theme "The 25th Anniversary of Istanbul Okan University in the 100th Year of Our Republic," 280 Istanbul Okan University employees brainstormed in group table discussions about the university's internationalization strategies.

At the opening of the workshop, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bekir Okan, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Işıl Okan Gülen, Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Güliz Muğan, and General Manager of Okan Health Group, Asst. Prof. Dr. Ercan Özgül, delivered speeches.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bekir Okan, stated that the project is a first among universities in Turkey and said, "We are presenting one of the best examples of teamwork here. I believe this is a very important initiative for the future of our university, and it will help elevate it even further."

Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Güliz Muğan also noted, "We have made this workshop a tradition. This year, we are holding the 7th edition. The ideas of our academic and administrative staff will contribute to the growth of our university."

The suggestions put forward by our employees at the Foresight Workshop will be compiled into a report and submitted to the university administration. The management will evaluate these suggestions to guide the decisions regarding the university's strategies.







### SDG 4.3.4. Education outreach activities beyond campus

Istanbul Okan University undertakes educational outreach activities beyond campus, including tailored lectures, demonstrations, and workshops in local schools and the community. The university also supports voluntary student-run schemes that aim to share knowledge and promote learning outside the university. These initiatives are part of the university's commitment to contributing to the educational development of the broader community.

As an example, our faculty members from the Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Merve YILDIRAK and Dr. Elif YAZAN, met with the students of Tuzla Dünya'nın Neşesi Kindergarten as part of Oral and Dental Health Week activities. During the event, our instructors explained why and how to brush teeth using dental models, educational cartoons, and songs in an interactive manner, aiming to raise awareness of oral health at an early age. This activity, which the preschool students watched with interest and actively participated in by asking questions, highlighted the importance of the topic. The students gained knowledge while having fun and listening to songs.



**Okan News** 

### Kurtdoğmus İlkokulu Visit

The Istanbul Okan University Gastronomy Community and the Social Responsibility Community collaborated to organise a collaborative event. The event involved the collection of children's books from Istanbul Pendik Kurtdoğmuş Primary School and their placement in the school's vacant bookcases. With the proceeds from the charity bazaar, which included cookies that the Gastronomy Community had prepared, we provided the students with clothing and gifts. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with the children.

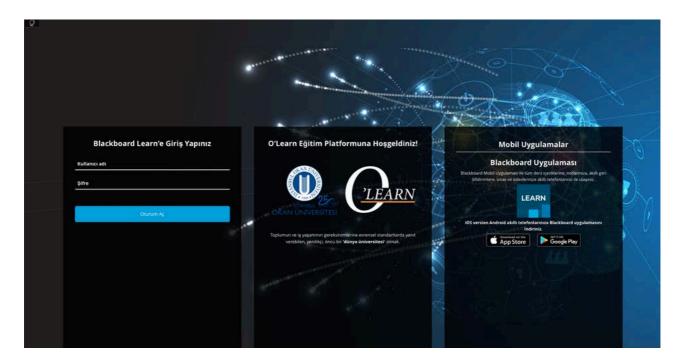


Kurtdoğmuş İlkokulu Visit



### **O'Learn**

Istanbul Okan University leads hybrid education transformation with 360° process design in the fields of academic, career, physiological, social and intellectual development within Learning Management System and virtual classroom collab module. The platform has aided, integration of educational technology tools, online supported education application via LTI/RestApi, including taking care of retention center, using analytics, allowing for continuous/incremental development of the courses, adaptation for different elements in the online learning structure such as AI or more advanced learning algorithms to democratize the learning more.



### O'Learn

### TogetHER - GDSC Solution Challenge 2024

The purpose of this project is to address one of the fundamental challenges faced by women in the technology industry: the feeling of professional isolation. The TogetHER platform aims to mitigate this sense of isolation by providing guidance and support through experienced mentors. The application seeks to create a network of support and collaboration, ensuring women do not feel alone in their professional journeys. Developed using Firebase, Google Cloud, and Flutter technologies, this mobile application offers a cross-platform experience accessible on both iOS and Android devices. TogetHER aims to enhance gender equality in the tech industry, thereby fostering innovation and creativity.





### SDG 4.3.5. Lifelong learning access policy

Istanbul Okan University has a policy that ensures access to its activities is open to all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. The university is committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity, ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities to participate in educational and community initiatives. This policy reflects the university's dedication to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone.

Istanbul Okan University Continuing Education Centre (OKSEM) Regulation



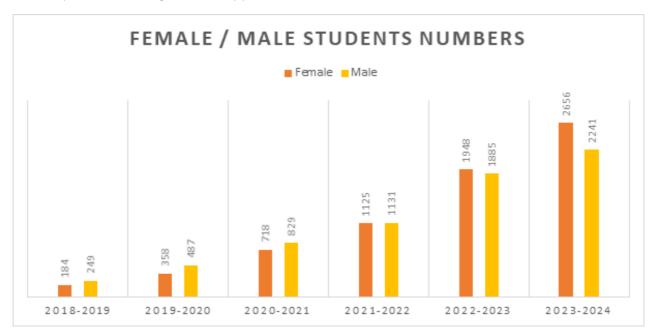


## SDG 5: Gender Equality Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



#### SDG 5.3.1. Tracking access measures

Istanbul Okan University systematically measures and tracks the application rates and acceptance rates of women. The university is committed to promoting gender equality and ensures that it analyses data related to female applicants to identify trends, assess performance, and implement strategies that support women's access to education.



#### SDG 5.3.2. Policy for women applications and entry

Istanbul Okan University has Gender Equality Plan that addresses women's applications, acceptance, entry, and participation at the university. This policy aims to promote gender equality and ensure that women have equal opportunities to access higher education. The university is committed to implementing strategies and initiatives that support female students throughout their educational journey.

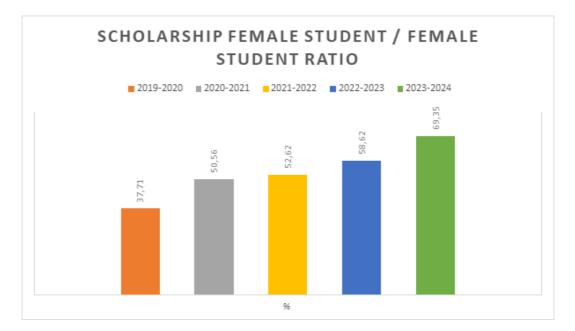
#### **Gender Equality Plan**





#### SDG 5.3.3. Women's access schemes

Istanbul Okan University provides various access schemes for women, including mentoring programs, scholarships, and other supportive provisions. These initiatives are designed to empower female students, enhance their educational experience, and promote gender equality within the university community. The university is dedicated to ensuring that women have the necessary resources and support to succeed academically.



### SDG 5.3.4. Women's application in underrepresented subjects

Istanbul Okan University actively encourages applications from women in subjects where they are underrepresented. The university implements targeted outreach initiatives and support programs to promote female participation in these fields, aiming to create a more balanced and inclusive academic environment.

Within the scope of CTÖD, Gender Equality Seminars were held open to everyone. <u>Click here</u> to watch





### TogetHER - GDSC Solution Challenge 2024

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#### **TogetHER**



### SDG 5.6.1. Policy of non-discrimination against women

Istanbul Okan University has a policy of non-discrimination against women. The university is committed to promoting gender equality and ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender, have equal opportunities in education, employment, and participation within the university community.

<u>Commission on Prevention and Support Activities Against Sexual Harassment</u> <u>Sustainability Policies</u>

### SDG 5.6.2. Non-discrimination policies for transgender

Istanbul Okan University has a policy of non-discrimination for transgender individuals. The university is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all students and staff, ensuring that everyone, regardless of gender identity, has equal opportunities and rights within the university community.

**Gender Equality Plan** 

Commission on Prevention and Support Activities Against Sexual Harassment



### SDG 5.6.3. Maternity policy

Istanbul Okan University has a maternity policy that supports women's participation. The university is committed to providing a conducive environment for female students and staff, offering resources and accommodations to help them balance their academic or professional responsibilities with maternity.

All maternity and paternity rights are specified in <u>Article 24 of the Administrative Staff</u> <u>Directive.</u>

### SDG 5.6.4. Childcare facilities for students

Istanbul Okan University has accessible childcare facilities, allowing recent mothers to attend university courses. These facilities are designed to support parents by providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children, enabling them to pursue their education while balancing family responsibilities.

#### <u>Okan Koleji</u>

#### SDG 5.6.5. Childcare facilities for staff and faculty members

Istanbul Okan University has childcare facilities for staff and faculty. These facilities are designed to provide a supportive environment for employees with children, helping them to balance their professional responsibilities with their family needs.



<u>Okan Koleji</u>



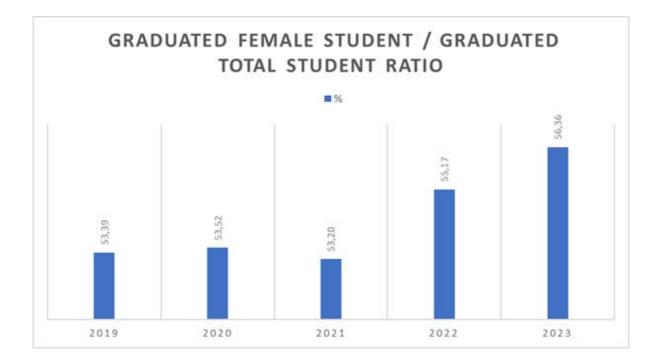
#### SDG 5.6.6. Women's mentoring schemes

Istanbul Okan University has women's mentoring schemes in which at least 10% of female students participate. These programs are designed to provide guidance, support, and networking opportunities for female students, helping them to achieve their academic and professional goals.

#### <u>CTÖD</u>

#### SDG 5.6.7. Track women's graduation rate

Istanbul Okan University measures and tracks the likelihood of women's graduation compared to men's. The university is committed to identifying any gaps and has implemented schemes to close these gaps, ensuring that all students have the necessary support and resources to successfully complete their studies.



### SDG 5.6.8. Policies protecting those reporting discrimination

Istanbul Okan University has a policy that protects individuals reporting discrimination from any educational or employment disadvantage. The university is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment where all members of the community can report discrimination without fear of negative consequences.

#### **Reporting Sexual Harassment and Recourse**

Prevention and Support Principles Document Against Sexual Harassment



### SDG 5.6.9. Paternity policy

Istanbul Okan University has a paternity policy that supports women's participation by ensuring that non-gestational parents can actively participate in childcare duties. This policy promotes shared parenting responsibilities and aims to create a supportive environment for all families within the university community.

All maternity and paternity rights are specified in <u>Article 24 of the Administrative Staff</u> <u>Directive</u>.



# Ensure access to water and sanitation for all



# SDG 6.3.1. Wastewater treatment

Istanbul Okan University has a water purification system to prevent the entry of dirty and waste water. Domestic waste is treated with 5 biological treatment systems (purification) with a capacity of 200 m<sup>3</sup>/day.



## SDG 6.3.2. Preventing water system pollution

Istanbul Okan University has established processes and systems in place to prevent polluted water from entering the water system. The university actively monitors and manages its water resources through regular inspections, maintenance, and safety protocols to address potential pollution risks, including those caused by accidents or incidents. These measures ensure that any contaminants are promptly identified and mitigated to protect the water system and uphold environmental safety standards.





# SDG 6.3.3. Free drinking water provided

Drinking water fountains in common areas throughout the university can be used by everyone free of charge.



# SDG 6.3.4. Water-conscious building standards

The university has a water pump line system with photocell pluming mechanism in campus buildings. All waste water system is controlled automatically by photocell batteries to minimise water usage.

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# SDG 6.3.5. Water-conscious planting

The rain-water and waste-water collected in the treatment facilities located on the campus is transformed and used in landscape irrigation. The drought-tolerant plants are partially planted throughout the campus gardens.

Rainwater and wastewater collected in the treatment facilities on campus are recycled and used for landscape irrigation. Drought-tolerant plants have been partially planted in campus gardens. Although the university makes extensive use of water-waste and rain harvesting, overall approximately 70% of wastewater is reused in horticulture and artificial lakes.



### SDG 6.4.1. Water reuse policy

Istanbul Okan University has a policy in place to maximize water reuse across the campus. The university is committed to sustainable water management and implements strategies such as rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling to reduce water consumption and promote efficient water use. These initiatives are part of the university's broader sustainability goals to minimize environmental impact and support long-term water conservation efforts.

#### Sustainable Water Policy

### SDG 6.4.2. Water reuse measurement

Although the university uses waste-water and rain collection extensively, there is no measurement per se. In general, approximately 70% of the waste-water is reused in gardening and artificial lakes.





## SDG 6.5.1. Water management educational opportunities

Istanbul Okan University provides educational opportunities for local communities to learn about good water management. Through workshops, seminars, and community outreach programs, the university promotes awareness and knowledge on sustainable water practices. These initiatives are designed to empower the community with the skills and understanding needed to contribute to effective water management and conservation efforts.

#### Course Contents

#### SDG 6.5.2. Off-campus water conservation support

Istanbul Okan University supports water conservation efforts off campus. The university engages in outreach programs, partnerships, and community initiatives that promote water-saving practices and raise awareness about the importance of sustainable water use. Through research, educational activities, and collaboration with external stakeholders, the university contributes to water conservation beyond its campus.

**Company Collaborations** 



## SDG 6.5.3. Sustainable water extraction on campus

Istanbul Okan University utilizes sustainable water extraction technologies on associated university grounds both on and off campus. The university is committed to minimizing environmental impact by employing advanced methods such as groundwater management systems and sustainable extraction techniques that ensure water resources are used responsibly and efficiently. This approach supports the university's broader sustainability goals and helps protect local water ecosystems.

An environmental SWOT analysis was carried out in our strategic plan, and savings in the use of all natural resources were supported.

#### Strategic Plan

### SDG 6.5.4. Cooperation on water security

Istanbul Okan University actively cooperates with local, regional, and national governments on water security initiatives. The university collaborates on research projects, policy development, and awareness programs aimed at promoting sustainable water management and addressing water security challenges. These partnerships are part of the university's commitment to contributing to environmental sustainability and supporting community resilience.





### SDG 6.5.5. Promoting conscious water usage on campus

Istanbul Okan University actively promotes conscious water usage on campus. The university implements various awareness campaigns, water-saving initiatives, and educational programs to encourage students, staff, and faculty to use water responsibly. Additionally, water conservation signage and guidelines are visible across the campus to remind everyone of the importance of sustainable water use with its sustainable water policy.

#### Sustainable Water Policy

### SDG 6.5.6. Promoting conscious water usage in the wider community

Istanbul Okan University actively promotes conscious water usage in the wider community. Through public awareness campaigns, educational workshops, and collaborations with local organizations, the university encourages responsible water consumption and sustainable practices beyond its campus. These efforts aim to foster a culture of water conservation and environmental stewardship within the broader community with its sustainable water policy.





Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy



# SDG 7.2.1. Energy-efficient renovation and building

Istanbul Okan University has a policy in place to ensure that all renovations and new buildings adhere to energy efficiency standards. The university is committed to sustainability and has implemented guidelines that align with national and international energy efficiency regulations, such as ISO 50001:2018 certification standards. This policy ensures that all construction projects are designed and executed with energy conservation in mind, contributing to the overall goal of reducing the university's carbon footprint and promoting sustainable practices on campus.



ISO 50001 Quality Standard

**Energy Management Unit Directive** 

Istanbul Okan University GES-1

Istanbul Okan University GES-2



# SDG 7.2.2. Upgrade buildings to higher energy efficiency

Istanbul Okan University has plans to upgrade existing buildings to enhance energy efficiency. The university is committed to implementing energy-saving measures and technologies across its facilities. This includes retrofitting buildings with modern insulation, energy-efficient lighting systems, and advanced solar energy systems. These upgrades are part of the university's broader sustainability initiatives aimed at reducing energy consumption, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and creating a more sustainable campus environment.

#### <u>The electricity for our campus is supplied from sustainable natural energy</u> <u>Istanbul Okan University GES-1</u> <u>Istanbul Okan University GES-2</u>

# SDG 7.2.3. Carbon reduction and emission reduction process

Istanbul Okan University has established a comprehensive process for carbon management aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The university actively monitors and assesses its carbon footprint through regular audits and reporting mechanisms. It has implemented various strategies to minimize emissions, including the use of renewable energy sources, energyefficient technologies, and sustainable transportation options. Additionally, the university promotes awareness and engagement among students and staff regarding carbon reduction initiatives, contributing to its overall commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action.

The purpose of the procedure is to define a method for monitoring, reporting, and establishing energy performance indicators for energy produced and consumed within the scope of the Energy Management System at Istanbul Okan University campuses. The procedure covers the monitoring and reporting of all energy sources affecting the energy management system and energy performance of all buildings and facilities on Istanbul Okan University campuses.

<u>ÇatıGES</u> <u>Istanbul Okan University GES-1</u> <u>Istanbul Okan University GES-2</u>





# SDG 7.2.4. Plan to reduce energy consumption

Istanbul Okan University has an energy efficiency plan in place to reduce overall energy consumption. This plan outlines specific strategies and initiatives aimed at optimizing energy use across campus facilities. The university is committed to implementing energy-saving technologies, conducting energy audits, and promoting awareness among students and staff about responsible energy usage. Through these efforts, Istanbul Okan University strives to minimize its energy consumption and enhance its sustainability practices. More details can be found in Strategic plan page 53.

<u>Strategic Plan</u> <u>ÇatıGES</u> <u>Istanbul Okan University GES-1</u> <u>Istanbul Okan University GES-2</u>

### SDG 7.2.5. Energy wastage identification

Istanbul Okan University conducts regular energy reviews to identify areas with the highest energy wastage. The university utilizes detailed energy audits and monitoring systems to assess energy consumption patterns across campus buildings and facilities. These reviews help pinpoint inefficiencies and guide the implementation of targeted energy-saving measures, contributing to the university's ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability and reduce its environmental impact.

#### **Energy Management Unit Directive**

### SDG 7.2.6. Divestment policy

Istanbul Okan University has a policy in place for divesting investments from carbon-intensive energy industries, particularly coal and oil. The university is committed to promoting sustainable financial practices by aligning its investment strategies with environmental sustainability goals. This policy prioritizes investments in renewable energy and low-carbon technologies, supporting global efforts to mitigate climate change and reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

#### Energy Management System Policy





# SDG 7.4.1. Local community outreach for energy efficiency

Istanbul Okan University offers programs for the local community to learn about the importance of energy efficiency and clean energy. Through workshops, seminars, and community outreach initiatives, the university provides educational opportunities that promote awareness of sustainable energy practices. These programs are designed to empower the community with knowledge on reducing energy consumption and adopting clean energy solutions, supporting the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility.



**Digital Cleaning Day** 

### Power Electronics and Clean Energy Systems

## SDG 7.4.2. 100% renewable energy pledge

Istanbul Okan University actively promotes a public pledge toward 100% renewable energy through various initiatives beyond the university. The university organizes petitions, meetings, discussions, and events to raise awareness about the importance of transitioning to renewable energy sources. By collaborating with external organizations and engaging the wider community, Istanbul Okan University advocates for sustainable energy solutions and supports efforts to achieve a future powered by 100% renewable energy.

While the solar power plant efficiency was 7% in 2022, this rate reached 45% in 2023.

## SDG 7.4.3. Energy efficiency services for industry

Istanbul Okan University provides direct services to local industry aimed at improving energy efficiency and promoting clean energy. The university offers energy efficiency assessments, conducts workshops, and collaborates on research projects focused on renewable energy options. These services are designed to support local businesses in adopting sustainable practices, reducing energy consumption, and transitioning to cleaner energy sources, in line with the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement.









### SDG 7.4.4. Policy development for clean energy technology

Istanbul Okan University informs and supports the government in the development of clean energy and energy-efficient technology policies. Through research collaborations, expert consultations, and policy recommendations, the university actively contributes to shaping energy strategies at the local, regional, and national levels. By leveraging its academic expertise and resources, Istanbul Okan University plays a vital role in promoting sustainable energy policies and advancing energy efficiency initiatives.

#### **Energy Management System Policy**

### SDG 7.4.5. Assistance to low-carbon innovation

Istanbul Okan University provides assistance for start-ups that foster and support a low-carbon economy and technology. The university offers mentorship, incubation programs, and funding opportunities for entrepreneurial ventures focused on sustainable solutions. By providing resources and guidance, Istanbul Okan University actively supports start-ups in developing innovative low-carbon technologies, contributing to a greener and more sustainable economy.

**Bigg Green Development Call Application** 



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy



## SDG 8.2.1. Employment practice living wage

Istanbul Okan University employs its personnel in accordance with <u>Labour Law No. 4857</u> which is the primary legislation governing the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees in Turkey. It regulates various aspects of employment, including working hours, wages, leave entitlements, health and safety, employment contracts, and the termination of employment. The law aims to ensure fair and equitable working conditions, protect employee rights, and promote harmonious employer-employee relationships in the workplace. Additionally, it addresses specific provisions for different types of employment, such as part-time and temporary work, and establishes guidelines for resolving labour disputes. and ensures that all staff and faculty receive compensation that meets the living wage standards as stipulated by <u>Higher Education</u> Law No. 2548.

The compensation for all employees and administrative staff is established in accordance with national fiscal policy. All employees have the right to receive the compensation outlined in their employment agreements. All employees qualify for that wage, which is disbursed on a monthly basis. The salary account for an academic staff member is presented below, categorised by working class, pay grade, job title, wage step, and level of education. Istanbul Okan University compensates all its employees above the minimum wage standard.

#### Academic Staff Directive

#### Administrative Staff Directive

### SDG 8.2.2. Employment practice unions

Istanbul Okan University recognizes unions for all staff, including women and international employees. The university is committed to promoting an inclusive and equitable work environment where the rights of all employees are respected. By supporting union representation, Istanbul Okan University ensures that all staff members have a voice in workplace matters and can advocate for their rights and interests.





University upholds the recognition of unions and labor rights for all individuals, including women, international staff, and marginalized groups, without any form of discrimination. The table and chart below display the affiliation of Istanbul Okan University staff with different labor unions. In Turkey, civil servants are legally permitted to join trade unions, and <u>Turkish Labor Laws</u> safeguard this right, allowing all employees at Istanbul Okan University to engage in union activities and advocate for their rights.

### SDG 8.2.3. Employment policy on discrimination

Istanbul Okan University is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment that promotes diversity and prohibits discrimination in the workplace. The university upholds policies that actively prevent discrimination based on religion, sexuality, gender, age, or any other personal characteristic. These policies are aligned with both national and international human rights standards, ensuring that all staff and faculty are treated fairly and respectfully. The university continually reviews and updates these policies to create a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for all members of its community.



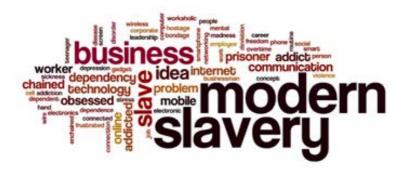
## SDG 8.2.4. Employment policy modern slavery

According to <u>Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey</u>, which specifies that "No one shall be forced to work," Istanbul Okan University behaves in accordance with this provision. There is a prohibition on forced labour.

Child labour is described as the practice of employing children in work that interferes with their capacity to take pleasure in their youth, decreases their potential and dignity, and has a negative impact on their physical and mental development of the kid. Istanbul Okan institution, which is a public institution, abides by the Turkish law regulating child labour, which is outlined in <u>Article 71 of the Labour Law</u>. Additionally, the university is in agreement with the International Labour Organization's Program on the <u>Elimination of Child Labour in Turkey (2021-2025)</u>.



In this context, the "MoLSS" project was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security Directorate General of Labour with the goal of eliminating the most severe types of child labour. In accordance with International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182, contributions were received from all relevant institutions and organisations towards the implementation of this initiative.



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#### **Türkiye on Trafficking in Human Beings**

### SDG 8.2.5. Employment practice equivalent rights outsourcing

Istanbul Okan University has a policy that guarantees equivalent rights of workers when outsourcing activities to third parties. The university is committed to ensuring that all external partners adhere to the same standards of equality and equity as those upheld within the university. This policy aims to protect the rights of all workers involved, ensuring they are treated fairly and without discrimination, regardless of their employment status or the nature of their work.

#### **Employee Handbook**

### SDG 8.2.6. Employment policy pay scale equity

Istanbul Okan University employs its employees according to <u>Labour Law No: 4857</u>, as well as pays all staff and faculty, which guarantees the payment of living wage for all staff members with <u>Higher Education Law No.2547</u>. Every employee is entitled to the pay that is specified in their employment contract regardless of gender with reference to <u>Article 5 of Labour Law No. 4857</u>.



# SDG 8.2.7. Tracking pay scale for gender equity

Istanbul Okan University does not discriminate against staff based on their gender. Every employee is entitled to the pay that is specified in their employment contract regardless of gender with reference to <u>Article 5 of Labour Law No. 4857</u> and <u>Higher Education Law</u> <u>No.2547</u>.

### SDG 8.2.8. Employment practice appeal process

Istanbul Okan University has a procedure in place for employees to appeal their rights and/or compensation. In accordance with the regulations imposed on public institutions by the Turkish Higher Education Council, Ministry of Higher Education, and Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Istanbul Okan University implements procedures for employees to appeal their rights and/or compensation. The Istanbul Okan University enforces the relevant statutes regarding the *right to petition*.

Employees of Istanbul Okan University may utilise the printed documents to request their rights and/or compensation through <u>the Electronic Information Management System EBYS</u>. The Electronic Document Management System that facilitates the archiving and administration of all forms of documentation generated by organisations during their operations, from production to final liquidation. Istanbul Okan University provides each employer with an EBYS account that may be utilised for formal procedures.

Istanbul Okan University's Human Resources department conducts in-service training sessions for its employees regarding their rights with an *orientation training*.

### SDG 8.2.9. Employment practice labour rights

Istanbul Okan University recognizes labor rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, for all employees, encompassing women and international staff. The university is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable work environment where the rights of all employees are respected and upheld according to <u>Article 5 of Labour Law No. 4857</u> and <u>Higher Education Law No.2547</u>.

Istanbul Okan University Employee Handbook



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



# ARPROGED

Okan University Research Project Development Directorate (ARPROGED) offers the academic studies and new technologies developed at Okan University to the industry to meet the needs of various institutions and contribute to the national development of our country. Established to serve as the university-industry interface of Okan University, ARPROGED aims to connect "knowledge" with the industry and commercialize the resulting added value.

ARPROGED was established in 2011 to facilitate access to scientific and technological knowledge, produce technology-based information, lead the commercialization of the produced knowledge, and support technology transfer and entrepreneurship. It was evaluated within the scope of TÜBİTAK 1601 <u>"Support Program for Increasing Capacity in Innovation and Entrepreneurship"</u> in 2015-2016 as a TTO Support initiative and qualified for a second time for TTO Support in 2018-2019.

ARPROGED, defined as the "Technology Transfer Office" of Okan University, envisions increasing the capacity for producing scientific and technological knowledge on an international scale and commercializing the generated knowledge to benefit society.

Its mission is to enhance the capacity for scientific and technological knowledge production through university-industry cooperation and to present the resulting new technologies to the industry. Furthermore, it aims to secure resources for research through national and international funding, protect the generated knowledge, and create platforms suitable for entrepreneurs by transforming knowledge into value.

#### Research

Istanbul Okan University, with its vision of being an innovative and pioneering "world university" that can respond to the needs of society and business life at universal standards, is on its way to becoming a 4th generation university. The university aims to strengthen the culture of science, research, creativity, and innovation, not only by producing knowledge but also by transferring it and transforming it into commercial value. One of the main missions of the university is to lead in solving problems of societal concern through modern research conducted within the university. Committed to conducting research that benefits society and enhances quality of life, Istanbul Okan University encourages the discovery and production of new knowledge.





The university comprises 8 faculties, including the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Fine Arts, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Dentistry, which started its academic program in the 2014-2015 academic year. Additionally, it has 2 higher schools: the School of Health Sciences and the School of Applied Sciences; 2 vocational schools: the Vocational School and the Vocational School of Health Services; as well as a Conservatory and units affiliated to the Rectorate.

With 89 academic departments, 11 research and application centers, and numerous laboratories conducting unique research, the university aims to promote high-quality publications and new research projects, support multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, and build capacity in research areas that can create international impact.

#### <u>Transportation Technologies and Intelligent Auto</u> <u>e-HikeLink</u> <u>Innovative Design Center</u>

#### **ARPROGED's Main Strategies:**

- Identifying primary research areas focused on future topics and regional issues.

- Establishing relationships with global centers of excellence to reach a world-class level of knowledge (e.g., ERTICO in Smart Mobility, EGVIA for Green Vehicles).

- Through the Strategic Research Council, Okan University has identified priority strategic research areas and established centers of excellence in these areas to conduct high-level advanced technology research on a global scale. The goal is to integrate these centers with related sectors and organizations and to create clusters where research is conducted. The selected Centers of Excellence are in the fields of Smart and Green Vehicles and Geosynthetic Materials.





Istanbul Okan University's Technology Transfer Office (ARPROGED) operates directly under the Rectorate and provides support to researchers within its organizational structure. ARPROGED plays an active role in transferring innovative technologies produced by Istanbul Okan University academics to the industry and manages all university-industry collaboration activities on behalf of the university.

#### **Intellectual Property**

Through the "Invention Disclosure Form" available on the Okan University website and the ARPROGED portal, academicians, students, and other inventors can directly submit their inventions to ARPROGED. The invention disclosures submitted to ARPROGED are reviewed by the Intellectual Property Rights Committee, which is established under ARPROGED's coordination in accordance with the current directive. The committee, which includes members and relevant invited academicians, evaluates the innovation level of the invention, the investment needed for its development, its commercialization potential, and its possible added value. Patent research is conducted for the invention disclosures finalized by the TTO (Technology Transfer Office) in collaboration with contracted patent attorneys. Additionally, the continuation of existing patent applications through the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) process is assessed in conjunction with a contracted patent attorney.

As ARPROGED, we organize trainings for academicians and stakeholders to promote the culture of intellectual property, particularly focusing on patents, trademarks, copyrights, utility models, and designs. Various seminars and conferences are organized on intellectual property rights in collaboration with specialized patent offices, TTOs that are part of the USIMP (University-Industry Cooperation Centers Platform of Turkey) platform, and LES-Turkey (the Turkish branch of the international Licensing Executive Society). These seminars and conferences are open to participants both from within and outside the university.

#### Intech-Cub Kuluçka

Istanbul Okan University Innovative Technology Incubation Center (Intech-Cub) has been operating under Istanbul Okan University's Research and Project Development Directorate (ARPROGED) since 2014. It serves entrepreneurs at all stages, from Istanbul Okan University's academicians and students with technology-focused business ideas to startups seeking to scale up.

Intech-Cub provides education, mentorship, and infrastructure opportunities to transform these ideas into commercially viable products.





#### Facilities provided by the Intech-Cub Incubation Center

- Training on value proposition and business model development
- Business plan preparation
- Infrastructure for prototype development
- Academic and sectoral mentorship
- Office space
- Marketing and legal consultancy
- Information on intellectual and industrial property rights
- Networking opportunities with investors

#### <u>ARPROGED</u>

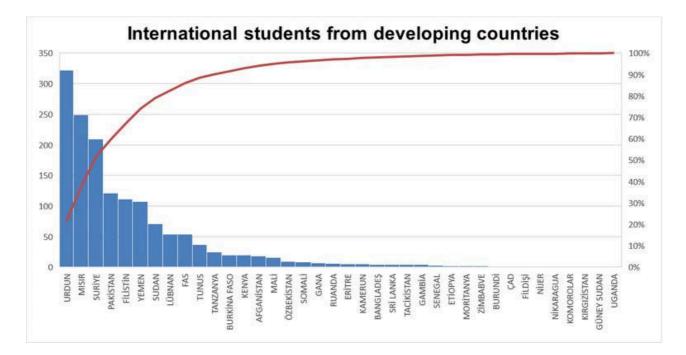
<u>News</u>



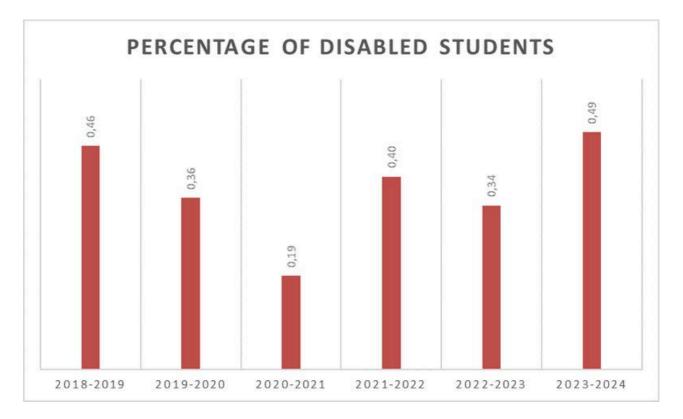
# Reduce inequality within and among countries



SDG 10.3. International students from developing countries



# SDG 10.4 Proportion of students with disabilities





# SDG 10.6.1. Non-discriminatory admissions policy

Istanbul Okan University strictly adheres to the public rules and regulations in all activities. The university adheres to Article 7 of the National Student Selection and Placement Centre Regulations, which guarantees impartiality, reliability, confidentiality, and equal opportunity for all.

To view, please click the National Student Selection and Placement Centre Regulation

<u>Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution</u> mandates that all Turkish laws and regulations must be applied without discrimination, in addition to the National Student Selection and Placement Centre Regulations. Regardless of language, race, colour, gender, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion, sect, or any other basis, all individuals are equal before the law.

#### **Disabled Student Unit**

The primary aim of the Disabled Student Unit is to provide equal opportunities for students with special needs to pursue their academic studies and education by offering solutions and practices suitable for their health and physical conditions, based on the principle of equal opportunities in education.

With the guidance of the Disabled Student Unit, students with disabilities receive all kinds of health, social, psychological, and academic support. The information and meetings of students who wish to benefit from these support services are conducted in accordance with the principle of confidentiality.

The Disabled Student Unit aims to improve the quality of life and education for students by making recommendations on organizing educational programs and environments, providing appropriate tools and equipment, preparing special course materials, and arranging physical conditions. It also strives to minimize the daily challenges encountered by students on campus.

Within the scope of this mission, the unit prepares informative documents for faculty members, explaining disabilities, the limitations they may impose, and the necessary adjustments to be made, thereby raising awareness and enhancing understanding. Additionally, it offers consultancy services and provides in-service training when necessary. Organizing seminars, conferences, congresses, and similar activities, as well as cooperating with other universities to conduct joint studies, are also part of the unit's efforts to increase awareness and knowledge.

The unit also provides guidance and information to ensure that disabled students can benefit from equal learning and assessment opportunities in education. It offers recommendations on exam arrangements, such as extra time, venue, materials, and assistants, to ensure fair examination conditions for students with disabilities.

**Disabled Student Unit Directive** 

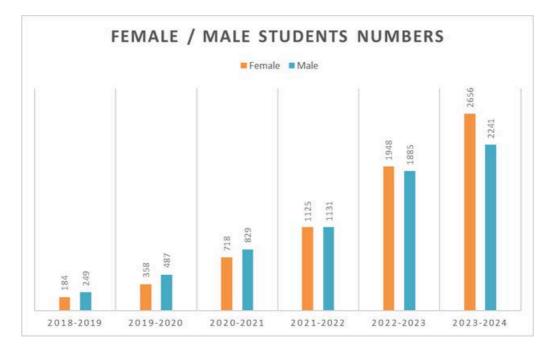
### Equal Opportunity Directive for Students with Special Needs

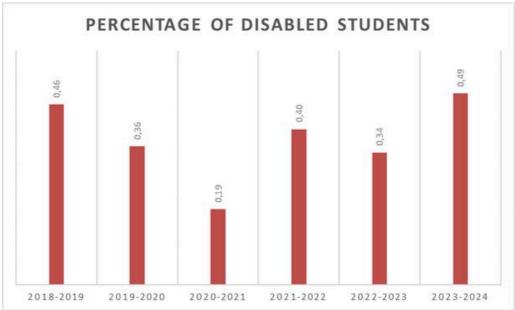
The Directive regulates and covers the procedures and principles aimed at eliminating the disadvantages faced by students with special needs registered at Istanbul Okan University and ensuring their equal participation in academic, social, and cultural environments within the University. To read the directive <u>click here</u>.



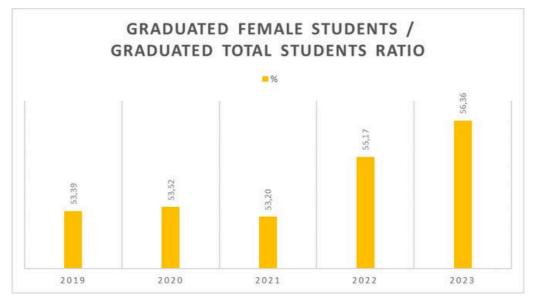
# SDG 10.6.2. Access to university track underrepresented groups applications

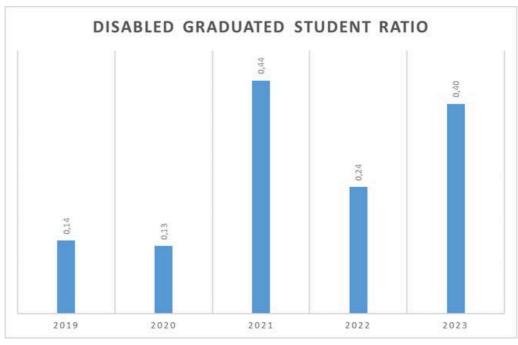
Istanbul Okan University is dedicated to the monitoring of under-represented groups within its student and staff populations. The university is able to implement targeted diversity and inclusion programs by utilising this exhaustive tracking system to identify and monitor a variety of under-represented individuals. The university is able to establish informed policies and initiatives that guarantee an equitable and inclusive environment for all individuals as a result of the insights obtained from this monitoring system. The tables below provide access to data regarding the under-represented categories that Istanbul Okan University monitors.











## SDG 10.6.3. Access to university underrepresented groups recruit

The recruitment of under-represented groups at Istanbul Okan University is governed by the following policies:

In accordance with <u>Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution</u>, employers are required to employ a minimum of 3% of individuals with disabilities and 2% of ex-convicts of the total number of employees. In addition, the university's Institutional Strategic Plan features initiatives that are designed to enhance the recruitment and engagement of under-represented groups, including international students and staff, women, and individuals with disabilities.



# SDG 10.6.4. Anti-discrimination policy

Istanbul Okan University has an anti-discrimination policy aimed at promoting equality and preventing discrimination based on various factors, including race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and religion. The university is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all students and staff, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities and is treated with respect.

#### **Gender Equality Plan**

#### Constitution of the Republic of Turkey:

Article 10: This article guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on any grounds, including race, gender, disability, and religion. It establishes the foundation for equality and non-discrimination principles that guide university policies.

#### Law on the Equality of Women and Men (No. 6284):

This law aims to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality in all areas of life, including education. It serves as a legal framework supporting the university's commitment to gender equality.

#### Law on Persons with Disabilities (No. 5378):

This legislation mandates the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities and requires public and private institutions, including universities, to ensure accessibility and prevent discrimination.

#### **Turkish Penal Code:**

Articles related to hate crimes and discrimination provide a legal basis for addressing and penalizing discriminatory practices and behaviors within educational institutions.

#### Higher Education Law (No. 2547):

This law outlines the principles of higher education in Turkey, emphasizing the importance of providing equal opportunities for all students regardless of their background.

#### **International Human Rights Instruments:**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 1 emphasizes the inherent dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family.

#### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):

Affirms the rights of women and the need for equality in education.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Highlights the necessity for equal opportunities and non-discrimination for individuals with disabilities.

## SDG 10.6.5 University diversity officer

Istanbul Okan University has a Diversity and Equality Committee that is responsible for advising the administration on policies, programs, and training related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and human rights on campus. This committee plays a key role in promoting an inclusive environment and ensuring that all members of the university community are treated with respect and dignity.

### CTÖD



# SDG 10.6.6. Support for underrepresented groups

Istanbul Okan University provides mentoring, counseling, and peer support programs aimed at supporting students, staff, and faculty from underrepresented groups. These programs are designed to promote inclusivity and offer resources and guidance to ensure that all members of the university community have access to the support they need to thrive academically and personally.

### <u>CTÖD</u>

#### **Disabled Unit**

### SDG 10.6.7. Accessible facilities

Istanbul Okan University provides accessible facilities for people with disabilities. The university is committed to ensuring that all students, staff, and visitors have access to its facilities and resources. This includes features such as ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges, as well as support services for students with disabilities to enhance their educational experience.



## SDG 10.6.8. Disability support services

Istanbul Okan University provides support services for people with disabilities, including personal assistants and interpreters. These services are designed to assist students with disabilities in navigating their academic and campus life, ensuring they have the necessary resources and support to succeed in their studies and fully participate in university activities. The university is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment for all students.

**Disabled Unit** 



### SDG 10.6.9. Disability access scheme

Istanbul Okan University has access schemes for people with disabilities. These schemes are designed to facilitate access to educational resources, campus facilities, and support services, ensuring that students with disabilities can fully participate in university life. The university aims to remove barriers and promote inclusivity for all members of the community.

#### **Disabled Unit Directive**

### SDG 10.6.10. Disability accommodation policy

Istanbul Okan University has a reasonable accommodation policy in place to support students with disabilities. This policy includes provisions for making necessary adjustments and accommodations to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access educational opportunities and campus facilities effectively. The university allocates adequate resources to implement this policy, ensuring that necessary support mechanisms are funded and available for those who require them. Check Article 6 of Scholarship Directive.

Disabled Unit Directive Scholarship Directive

### SDG 10.6.11. Anti-harassment policy

Istanbul Okan University has an anti-harassment policy aimed at preventing and addressing harassment within the university community. This policy is designed to protect students, staff, and faculty from all forms of harassment, promoting a safe and respectful environment for everyone. The university takes such matters seriously and provides mechanisms for reporting and addressing incidents of harassment.

#### **Gender Equality Plan**

#### **Constitution of the Republic of Turkey Article 10:**

This article guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination, forming a legal foundation for protecting individuals from harassment based on gender, race, religion, or other characteristics.

#### Law on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (No. 6284):

This law addresses violence and harassment against women, providing a framework for the protection of women's rights and promoting measures to prevent harassment in all environments, including educational institutions.

#### Labor Law (No. 4857):

This law includes provisions to protect employees from harassment in the workplace, applicable to faculty and staff at the university, ensuring a respectful and harassment-free work environment.



#### Higher Education Law (No. 2547):

This law underscores the importance of creating a safe educational environment for students and staff, facilitating the implementation of anti-harassment policies in higher education institutions. **Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** 

Article 3 affirms the right to security and freedom from violence and harassment for all individuals.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):

This convention obligates member states to take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination and protect women from harassment in educational settings.

**International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:** 

Articles 3 and 26 emphasize the importance of equality and protection from discrimination, forming a basis for anti-harassment policies.











# SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

# Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

# SDG 11: Sustainable Cities 💭 THE GLOBAL GOALS and Communities

# SDG 11.2.1. Public access to buildings

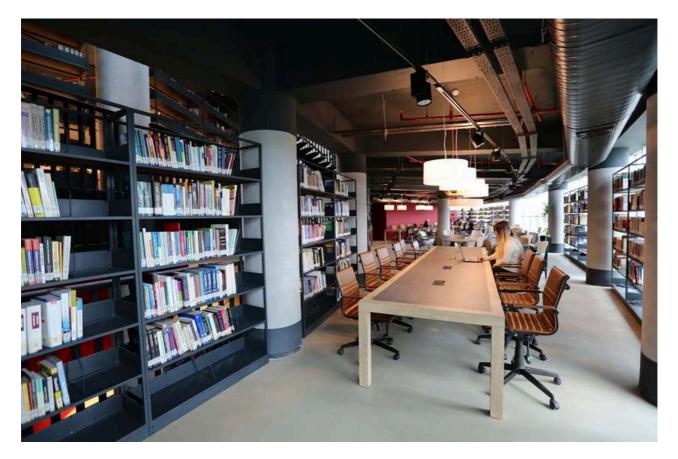
Istanbul Okan University provides public access to various buildings, monuments, and natural landscapes of cultural significance. The university's campus features several buildings, open spaces, and green areas that reflect its commitment to creating a culturally rich and inclusive environment. These spaces are designed to support community engagement and enhance the cultural experience for both students and the visitors. The university often hosts events, exhibitions, and guided tours to make these facilities accessible and to promote cultural and educational activities.

### Life in Campus

# SDG 11.2.2. Public access to libraries

After submitting an application, all students, academicians, and proprietors of student ID cards are granted unrestricted access to all libraries and learning resources.

#### **Library**



# SDG 11: Sustainable Cities 💭 THE GLOBAL GOALS and Communities

### SDG 11.2.3. Public access to museums

All applicants who have been evaluated by the administration are eligible to access exhibition spaces, galleries, and/or works of art and artefacts.

## SDG 11.2.4. Public access to green spaces

Istanbul Okan University offers unrestricted public access to its green areas and open spaces. The campus is intended to provide a warm and inviting atmosphere, featuring a variety of public recreational areas, gardens, and parks. The purpose of these areas is to foster community interaction, relaxation, and well-being, and they are available to both students and visitors at no cost. The university's dedication to sustainability and community engagement is evident in its endeavours to preserve and distribute these verdant spaces to the general public.

#### Activities

## SDG 11.2.5. Arts and heritage contribution

Through a variety of cultural events and public performances, Istanbul Okan University actively supports the local arts scene. The university consistently hosts annual performances by its choirs, theatre groups, orchestras, and dance ensembles, which serve to promote cultural engagement within the community and showcase the talents of its students. These events are accessible to the public and provide a forum for artistic expression, thereby enriching the cultural landscape of the local area. The local arts and culture are significantly supported and enhanced by Istanbul Okan University through these initiatives.





### A design workshop was held with the students of Okan College

As the Faculty of Arts, Design, and Architecture, we decorated our upcoming exhibition titled "Notes from the Century of the Republic," which will open on November 7, 2023, together with the students of Okan College.

The students' original designs will be on display at the Bekir Okan Culture, Art, and Congress Center throughout the exhibition.

# SDG 11: Sustainable Cities 💭 THE GLOBAL GOALS and Communities



#### 100. YILINDA LOZAN BARIŞ ANTLAŞMASI VE CUMHURİYET

**KONFERANS & SERGİ** 26 Ekim 2023, Perşembe

10.00-10.30: Acily Ni Poyraz Gürson (İYBF Dekan Prof. Dr. Güliz Muğan (Rektör 10.30-11.00: Açılış Konuşm 1106.000 11.00-12.30: P Prof. Dr. Şule Kut in Ma

12.30.13.00 Yu k Masa ve Kapanış

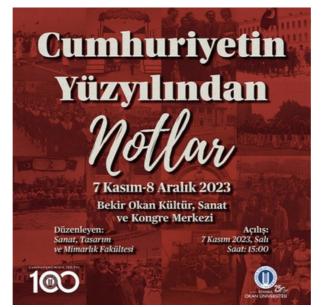
of. Dr. Elçir Doç. Dr. 0

Sergi Açılış Yeri ve Saati: STMF Giriş Kat - 13.00



#### Lozan Conference and Exhibition on its 100th Anniversary

The 100th Anniversary Lausanne Conference and Exhibition, jointly organized by our Faculty of Visual Communication Design and the Department of International Relations in the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, took place on October 26, 2023.



#### Notes from the Century of the Republic" Exhibition Opened

The third exhibition of the Republic series, organized annually by our faculty, was inaugurated on November 8, 2023, at the Bekir Okan Culture, Art, and Congress Center. The exhibition is accompanied by a selection from the newspaper archives of Prof. Dr. Semih Baskan dated October 29. "Notes from the Century of the Republic" will be on display until December 8, 2023.





## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities 💭 THE GLOBAL GOALS and Communities

#### SDG 11.2.6. Record and preserve cultural heritage

Istanbul Okan University is committed to the preservation of intangible cultural heritage by conducting a variety of projects that are designed to document and protect local folklore, traditions, language, and cultural knowledge. The university is actively involved in community-based initiatives and research that investigate and document the region's rich cultural heritage, which includes the traditions and narratives of displaced communities. The objective of these endeavours is to guarantee that valuable cultural assets are not lost, but rather preserved and passed on to future generations, thereby contributing to the broader cultural sustainability and diversity of the local and regional communities.

#### Okan International

#### SDG 11.4.1. Sustainable practices targets

Istanbul Okan University is actively engaged in the measurement and establishment of targets to encourage the adoption of more sustainable commuting options. The university promotes the use of public transportation, carpooling, shuttle buses, and walking and cycling, in addition to non-motorized transportation. Furthermore, the university advocates for the implementation of environmentally favourable transportation alternatives, including electric vehicles. Istanbul Okan University endeavours to diminish its ecological footprint and improve the sustainability of commuting for students, faculty, and staff by means of these endeavours.



**Transportation** 

## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities 💭 THE GLOBAL GOALS and Communities

#### SDG 11.4.2. Promote sustainable commuting

Istanbul Okan University undertakes various actions to promote sustainable commuting. The university provides shuttle buses for students and staff, ensuring an affordable and eco-friendly transportation option. Additionally, it offers dedicated bicycle parking and storage facilities to encourage cycling on campus. The university has implemented a pedestrian-friendly campus layout and supports ride-sharing programs to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use. Furthermore, Istanbul Okan University promotes the use of electric vehicles by providing charging stations and offers preferred parking for fuel-efficient vehicles, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable transportation solutions.

#### Istanbul Okan University Transportation Options

#### SDG 11.4.3. Allow remote working

Istanbul Okan University promotes remote working and telecommuting for its employees as a matter of policy, especially for roles where it is feasible. The university also offers flexible working arrangements, such as condensed working weeks, to reduce the need for daily commuting and support a more sustainable work environment. These initiatives aim to improve employee well-being, reduce commuting-related carbon emissions, and contribute to the university's sustainability goals which is stated in <u>Article 27 of the Administrative Staff Directive</u>.

#### SDG 11.4.4. Affordable housing for employees

At the Staff Dormitory long-term or short-term accommodation is provided by a small rent to all applicants on the basis of availability.

#### **Dormitories**

#### SDG 11.4.5. Affordable housing for students

Our 1334-bed dorms at Istanbul Okan University Tuzla Campus contain 5 buildings, 3 girls' and 2 boys'. Five minutes to all faculty buildings. Dining is included in dormitory fees. Our walkable dormitories are open 5 days a week (excluding holidays). Study rooms, a free laundry facility, an ironing room, a prayer room, wired and wireless Internet, and 24-hour hot water are available in the dorms. Counselling and administrative staff working 24-hour shifts in all dorms consider students' concerns and suggestions to create a quiet and safe atmosphere. Istanbul Okan University's security crew and 24-hour video system monitor all campus dormitories. Healthcare is available 24/7 in our dorms with nurses and ambulances. For social activities, our students receive free cinema days, theatre performances, football, volleyball, and basketball facilities in the dorm common areas. Experienced workers clean all student dorms and communal areas.

Our dorms have 1-2-3 and 4-person rooms. Dormitory rooms have bathrooms, WCs, mini and midi refrigerators, phones, desks, closets, and plasma TVs. Our students can use our fully equipped sports centre, swimming pool, and on-campus car parks for free with the proper documentation.

**Dormitories** 

## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities 💭 THE GLOBAL GOALS and Communities

#### SDG 11.4.6. Pedestrian priority on campus

Istanbul Okan University prioritises pedestrian access on its campus. The university has instituted a pedestrian-friendly campus layout that includes designated walkways, pathways, and green spaces. This layout is designed to promote secure and convenient mobility for students and staff by encouraging walking. This method not only improves accessibility but also fosters a more sustainable and healthful campus environment.

#### Explore the University

## SDG 11.4.7. Local authority collaboration regarding planning and development

Istanbul Okan University collaborates with local authorities to address planning and development issues, including efforts to ensure that local residents have access to affordable housing. The university actively participates in initiatives and discussions with municipal leaders to contribute to community development and address the housing needs of the surrounding population. This partnership reflects the university's commitment to social responsibility and sustainable community engagement.

#### **Okan News**

#### Chamber of Architects of the Union of Turkish Engineers and Architects

#### SDG 11.4.8. Planning development - new build standards

Istanbul Okan University constructs new buildings to sustainable standards. The university adheres to national and international guidelines, including those set by organizations. These standards focus on energy efficiency, sustainable materials, and environmentally friendly design practices, ensuring that new developments align with the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

In Turkey, certification of the ISO 50001 Energy Management System is mandatory. The establishment of an ISO 50001 Energy Management System is mandatory for public buildings, commercial and service buildings, electricity generation facilities, industrial sites, and organised industrial zones by the end of 2023.

Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources ISO 50001 Certificate



### Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



#### SDG 12.2.1. Ethical sourcing policy

Istanbul Okan University has a policy on the ethical sourcing of food and supplies. The university is committed to promoting sustainability and social responsibility by ensuring that the food and supplies it sources meet ethical standards. This includes prioritizing suppliers who adhere to fair trade practices, environmentally friendly production methods, and the humane treatment of workers and animals. Additionally, the university encourages the use of locally sourced and organic products to support local economies and reduce its environmental footprint. This policy is part of Istanbul Okan University's broader commitment to sustainability and ethical practices in all areas of its operations.

Istanbul Okan University procures food and other products in accordance with the <u>*İstanbul</u>* <u>*Okan Üniversitesi Procurement Directive*</u> by conducting procurement processes in line with the principles of open tender procedures through firms that comply with these regulations.</u>

The university places significant emphasis on ensuring that the firms from which goods and services are procured fulfill their responsibilities towards their employees in line with the ethical sourcing policy, particularly under **the Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331**. In this regard, the procurement technical specifications and contracts include the provisions of <u>Article 4</u> <u>of the Occupational Health and Safety Law No. 6331</u>, which states:

- The contractor is responsible for ensuring the occupational health and safety of employees at their own expense. This includes ensuring that employees benefit from the services provided by occupational safety experts, workplace physicians, and, when necessary, other health personnel.

- The health monitoring of employees must be conducted, professional risks must be prevented, and necessary training and information should be provided. All necessary measures must be taken, organizations established, tools and equipment provided, and health and safety measures adapted to changing conditions. Monitoring, supervision, and correction of any non-compliance with workplace health and safety measures must also be ensured by the contractor.

Additionally, it is strictly monitored that the contractor does not employ uninsured workers, through correspondence with the Social Security Institution (SSI) in compliance with the <u>Social</u> <u>Insurance and General Health Insurance Law No. 5510</u>. Istanbul Okan University also provides Occupational Health and Safety training to the staff employed under its supervision.

Through these measures, Istanbul Okan University ensures that both the ethical sourcing policy and compliance with occupational health and safety regulations are meticulously observed during the procurement process.



#### SDG 12.2.3. Policy waste disposal - hazardous materials

Istanbul Okan University has a comprehensive directive and process in place for waste disposal, including the management of hazardous materials. The university is committed to ensuring that all waste is disposed of in accordance with environmental regulations and sustainability practices. This includes the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials such as chemicals, biological waste, and other potentially harmful substances. The university follows strict protocols to minimize environmental impact and ensure the safety of the campus community. Regular audits and training are conducted to maintain compliance and promote best practices in waste management.

#### Waste Management Directive

#### SDG 12.2.4. Policy waste disposal - landfill policy

Istanbul Okan University has a directive in place for waste disposal that includes measuring the amount of waste sent to landfill and recycled. The university is committed to reducing its environmental footprint by tracking and monitoring waste disposal practices. This policy ensures that the university actively measures and records the quantities of waste generated, with a focus on increasing recycling rates and minimizing the amount of waste sent to landfill. Regular assessments and reporting help the university continuously improve its sustainability efforts in waste management.

#### Waste Management Directive

#### SDG 12.2.5. Policy for minimisation of plastic use

Istanbul Okan University has policies in place aimed at minimizing the use of plastic. The university is committed to reducing plastic consumption on campus as part of its broader sustainability goals. This includes encouraging the use of reusable alternatives, reducing single-use plastics in dining areas and events, and promoting awareness campaigns to reduce plastic waste. The university also works with suppliers to minimize plastic packaging and supports recycling initiatives to manage plastic waste effectively. These efforts align with the university's dedication to promoting environmental responsibility and sustainability.







#### SDG 12.2.6. Policy for minimisation of disposable items

Istanbul Okan University has policies focused on minimizing the use of disposable items. The university promotes sustainable practices by encouraging the use of reusable alternatives across campus, especially in dining areas, offices, and events. Efforts include reducing reliance on single-use items such as disposable cups, plates, and cutlery, and offering reusable options where possible. Additionally, the university raises awareness about the environmental impact of disposable products and works with suppliers to minimize packaging waste. These policies are part of the university's broader commitment to sustainability and reducing waste.

#### Waste Management Directive Zero Waste

#### SDG 12.2.7. Disposable policy: extensions to services

Istanbul Okan University's policies on minimizing disposable items, reducing plastic use, and waste disposal extend to outsourced services and the supply chain. The university ensures that its commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility is reflected not only within the campus but also in its interactions with third-party suppliers and service providers.

By extending these policies to its supply chain and outsourced services, Istanbul Okan University ensures that sustainability efforts are comprehensive and integrated across all aspects of its operations.

#### Zero Waste Regulation (Official Gazette No. 30829):

In line with the Zero Waste Regulation, which forms part of Turkey's national strategy for waste management, Istanbul Okan University ensures that its suppliers and contractors comply with waste minimization strategies. This regulation mandates institutions to implement waste reduction and recycling practices, providing the legal basis for requiring suppliers to follow suit and contribute to the university's zero-waste goals.

#### Zero Waste

#### SDG 12.2.8. Minimisation policies extended to suppliers

Istanbul Okan University's policies on minimizing disposable items, reducing plastic use, and managing waste disposal extend to outsourced suppliers, including those providing equipment, stationery, and building contracts. The university ensures that its sustainability and environmental policies are integrated throughout its supply chain by applying the following measures: By extending these policies to suppliers of equipment, stationery, and building contracts, Istanbul Okan University ensures that its environmental initiatives are comprehensive and affect all aspects of procurement and service provision, driving sustainability across its entire supply chain.





#### SDG 12.3.1. Waste tracking

Istanbul Okan University measures the amount of waste generated and recycled across the university. The university is committed to tracking its waste output as part of its sustainability initiatives, focusing on reducing overall waste, increasing recycling rates, and minimizing landfill contributions. This measurement process includes regular monitoring and reporting of waste data, helping the university assess its environmental impact and make informed decisions to improve waste management practices and sustainability performance.

#### Waste Management Directive

#### Waste Management Regulation (No. 29314):

The Waste Management Regulation outlines the responsibilities of businesses, including suppliers and contractors, for managing and disposing of waste. It mandates the separation of waste at its source, encourages recycling, and sets guidelines for the proper disposal of hazardous materials. Istanbul Okan University's requirement for suppliers and contractors to follow waste disposal policies aligns with this regulation.

#### SDG 12.4.1. Publication of a sustainability report

**Sustainability Reports** 





## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



#### SDG 13.2.1. Low carbon energy tracking

Istanbul Okan University measures the amount of low carbon energy used across the university. The university actively monitors its energy consumption to assess the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources, which is part of its commitment to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint. This data is used to inform energy management strategies and promote further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.



Gold Standard | Chemin de Balexert 7-9 1219 Châtelaine, International Environnment House 2, Switzerland | poldstandard.org. +41 22 788 70 80, help@poldstandard.org

#### SDG 13.3.1. Local education programmes on climate

Istanbul Okan University provides local education programs and campaigns focused on climate change risks, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction. The university engages with students, faculty, and the community through workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns to promote understanding of climate change issues. These initiatives aim to educate and empower individuals to take action in addressing climate change and its associated challenges.

2022-2023-2-15718-1	MOD462 - Moda Etiği ve Sürdürülebilirlik (1)	2/16/23 1:04 AM	Original	
2022-2023-2-28070-1	HRE461 - Sürdürülebilirlik İletişimi (1)	2/10/23 1:04 AM	Original	
2022-2023-2-31950-1	GST270 - Gida ve Gastronomide Sürdürülebilirlik (1)	2/16/23 1:04 AM	Original	
2022-2023-2-6310-1	MIM518 - Sürdürülebilirlik ve Yeşil Yapılar (1)	1/31/23 1:03 AM	Original	
2022-2023-IY8F	YBF SEMINERLERI: SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLIRLIK	3/22/23 12:12 PM	Original	
2023-2024-2-6310-1	MIM518 - Sürdürülebilirlik ve Yeşil Yapılar (1)	2/6/24 1:04 AM	Original	
2023-2024-2-5IM	Sürdürülebilirlik ve İnovasyon Merkezi	5/22/24 11:51 AM	Original	
2024-2025-1-31025-1	İÇT563 - İç Mekan Tasarımında Sürdürülebilirlik (1)	9/21/24 1:05 AM	Original	



#### SDG 13.3.2. Climate Action Plan

Istanbul Okan University has a Climate Action Plan that is shared with local government and community groups. The plan outlines the university's strategies for reducing its carbon footprint, promoting sustainability, and collaborating with external stakeholders to address climate-related challenges. This initiative reflects the university's commitment to contributing to the broader community's climate goals and fostering collective action.

#### **Istanbul Climate Action Plan**

#### SDG 13.3.3. Co-operative planning for climate change disasters

Istanbul Okan University participates in cooperative planning for climate change disasters, including the potential displacement of people both within the country and across borders. The university works in collaboration with government agencies and relevant organizations to develop strategies and response plans for such emergencies, reflecting its commitment to addressing the human and social impacts of climate change. This cooperation ensures a coordinated and effective response to climate-related challenges and disasters.

#### YÖK Earthquake Victim Student

#### SDG 13.3.4. Inform and support government

Istanbul Okan University informs and supports local and regional governments in climate change disaster risk early warning and monitoring. The university collaborates with authorities to share research, data, and expertise to enhance the community's preparedness and response capabilities. This partnership contributes to building a resilient local infrastructure and mitigating the impacts of climate-related disasters.

#### **Istanbul Climate Action Plan**

#### SDG 13.3.5. Environmental education collaborates with NGO

Istanbul Okan University collaborates with NGOs on climate adaptation. The university partners with various non-governmental organizations to implement projects, share research, and develop strategies aimed at adapting to the impacts of climate change. These collaborations are part of the university's commitment to promoting sustainability and supporting community resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Sustainability Collaboration Sustainability Awareness Education Series







#### SDG 13.4.1. Commitment to carbon neutral university

**The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB)** is making significant strides in its efforts to address climate change. Local governments convened at the C40 Mayors Summit in Copenhagen to achieve this objective. The "Deadline 2020" Commitment was signed by İBB Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and other signatory leaders. Consequently, İBB initiated its operations in accordance with Istanbul's aim of becoming a "resilient city" and "carbon neutral" by 2050. Our university is encompassed in these objectives as a resident of Istanbul.

**Istanbul Climate Action Plan** 



## SDG 14: Life Below Water

# Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

## SDG 14: Life Below Water 🔅 THE GLOBAL GOALS



#### SDG 14.2.1. Fresh-water ecosystems

Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs on freshwater ecosystems, covering topics such as water irrigation practices, water management, and conservation for local and national communities. These programs include initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable water use and raising awareness about the importance of protecting freshwater resources.

#### **Course Contents**

#### SDG 14.2.2. Sustainable fisheries

Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs and outreach initiatives for local and national communities on the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. These programs aim to promote sustainable practices, enhance resource management, and support the development of environmentally friendly approaches in these sectors. The university engages with community members, industry stakeholders, and students to raise awareness and provide expertise on sustainable management strategies.

#### **Food Policies Course**

#### SDG 14.2.2. Sustainable fisheries

Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs and outreach initiatives for local and national communities on the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. These programs aim to promote sustainable practices, enhance resource management, and support the development of environmentally friendly approaches in these sectors. The university engages with community members, industry stakeholders, and students to raise awareness and provide expertise on sustainable management strategies.

#### SDG 14.2.3 Overfishing

Istanbul Okan University offers educational outreach activities for local and national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, as well as destructive fishing practices. Through seminars, workshops, and collaborative projects, the university educates community members and stakeholders on sustainable fishing practices and the importance of protecting marine ecosystems. These initiatives aim to contribute to the longterm sustainability of local and national fishing industries.

Our Chairman of the Board, Prof. Dr. Ali Kahriman, Visited the General Directorate of ISKI



## SDG 14: Life Below Water 🔅 THE GLOBAL GOALS

#### SDG 14.3.1. Conservation and sustainable utilisation of the oceans

Istanbul Okan University supports and organizes events aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable utilization of oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and marine resources. Through workshops, seminars, and collaborative projects, the university raises awareness and encourages responsible management practices to protect these vital ecosystems. These initiatives are part of the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

#### SDG 14.3.2. Food from aquatic ecosystems

Istanbul Okan University has a policy to ensure that food on campus sourced from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested. The university is committed to promoting responsible consumption by working with suppliers who follow sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices, ensuring that seafood offered on campus meets environmental and ethical standards.

#### Sustainable Food Policy

## SDG 14.3.3. Sustainable fisheries (direct work) & SDG 14.3.4. Technologies towards aquatic ecosystem damage prevention (direct work)

At In this paper, it was attempted to examine and analyze the environmental and sociological impact of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) that was established in June 1992 in Istanbul. Members of the organization are Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Greece.

### Protecting the environment as an international process: Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

#### SDG 14.4.1. Water discharge guidelines and standards

Istanbul Okan University has water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges to uphold water quality and protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare. The university ensures that its water management practices comply with these standards, aiming to minimize environmental impact and contribute to the sustainability of local water resources.

#### Sustainable Water Policy

#### SDG 14.4.2. Action plan to reducing plastic waste

Istanbul Okan University has an action plan in place to reduce plastic waste on campus. The plan includes initiatives such as promoting the use of reusable items, reducing single-use plastics, implementing recycling programs, and raising awareness about plastic waste reduction among students and staff. This approach supports the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

#### Waste Management Directive

## SDG 14: Life Below Water



#### SDG 14.4.3. Reducing marine pollution (policy)

Istanbul Okan University has a policy focused on preventing and reducing marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities. The university implements sustainable waste management practices, promotes environmental awareness, and works to minimize pollutants from campus operations that could impact marine environments. This policy reflects the university's dedication to protecting aquatic ecosystems and contributing to the overall health of marine resources.

#### Sustainability Policies

#### SDG 14.5.1. Minimizing alteration of aquatic ecosystems (plan)

Istanbul Okan University has a plan in place to minimize physical, chemical, and biological alterations of related aquatic ecosystems. The university focuses on sustainable practices in its operations, research, and community engagement to protect and restore aquatic environments. This plan includes monitoring ecosystem health, promoting conservation efforts, and collaborating with local stakeholders to ensure the integrity of these vital ecosystems.

#### SDG 14.5.2. Monitoring the health of aquatic ecosystems

Istanbul Okan University monitors the health of aquatic ecosystems as part of its commitment to environmental sustainability. The university conducts research and assessments to evaluate the status of local water bodies and aquatic habitats. This monitoring helps inform conservation efforts and contributes to the understanding of ecosystem dynamics, ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to protect and restore these vital resources.

#### Sustainability Policies

#### SDG 14.5.3. Programmes towards good aquatic stewardship practices

Istanbul Okan University develops and supports programs and incentives that encourage and maintain good aquatic stewardship practices. The university engages students, faculty, and the local community through educational initiatives, workshops, and outreach activities aimed at promoting responsible management of aquatic resources. These efforts are designed to foster a culture of sustainability and enhance the understanding of the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems.

#### **Course Contents**

#### SDG 14.5.4. Collaboration for shared aquatic ecosystems

Istanbul Okan University collaborates with the local community through partnerships to maintain shared aquatic ecosystems. The university engages in joint projects, research initiatives, and community outreach programs that aim to protect and enhance local water resources. These collaborations emphasize the importance of collective action in sustaining aquatic ecosystems and promote awareness of environmental stewardship among community members.

## SDG 14: Life Below Water 🔅 THE GLOBAL GOALS





#### SDG 14.5.5. Watershed management strategy

Istanbul Okan University has implemented a watershed management strategy that considers the location-specific diversity of aquatic species. This strategy involves research and conservation efforts tailored to the unique characteristics of local aquatic ecosystems, promoting sustainable management practices that support biodiversity and ecosystem health. The university collaborates with local stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of these initiatives.

Sustainability Policies



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss



#### SDG 15.2.1. Events about sustainable use of land

Istanbul Okan University actively supports and organizes events aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable utilization of land, including forests and wild areas. The university is committed to environmental sustainability through various initiatives, such as educational seminars, workshops, and student-led projects that focus on land preservation, reforestation, and the responsible management of natural resources. By collaborating with environmental organizations and engaging students and staff, the university fosters a culture of awareness and action toward protecting ecosystems and promoting sustainable land use practices.



#### The Memorial Forest event

The Memorial Forest event organized by our university, which boasts one of the greenest campuses in Türkiye, and the Regional Forestry Directorate, thousands of saplings were planted. During the event, held in celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th, a total of 5,000 saplings were donated in honor of our female staff members. Together, they planted the saplings for the Istanbul Okan University Memorial Forest held in Ballıca Village.





#### The "Let's Do It!" environmental clean-up awareness movement

The "Let's Do It!" environmental clean-up awareness movement was held simultaneously in 169 countries, across 81 provinces and thousands of locations in Turkey. Organized globally by the Let's Do It! Foundation as part of World Cleanup Day, a large-scale waste collection event took place in Istanbul with the participation of municipalities, universities, NGOs, and volunteers.

Our university's Research Assistant Görkem Önal from the Faculty of Arts, Design, and Architecture, Cinema-TV Department, was chosen as Istanbul representative for this globally popular event. An 80-person team composed of our staff and students participated in the waste collection event in Kartal. They cleaned up waste in the Aydos Forest of Kartal.



#### SDG 15.2.2. Sustainably farmed food on campus

Istanbul Okan University has implemented policies to ensure that food on campus is sustainably sourced. These policies include prioritizing suppliers who practice sustainable farming methods, supporting local and organic food producers, and reducing the environmental impact of food production. By promoting sustainable agriculture, the university aims to minimize its carbon footprint, reduce waste, and contribute to the overall health and well-being of both the campus community and the environment. Additionally, initiatives to raise awareness about sustainable food consumption are regularly conducted to engage students, staff, and faculty.

Safe and Sustainable Food Policy



#### SDG 15.2.3. Maintain and extend current ecosystems' biodiversity

Istanbul Okan University actively works to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, with a particular focus on protecting ecosystems under threat. Through various research projects, conservation programs, and partnerships with environmental organizations, the university is committed to preserving both plant and animal species. Initiatives include habitat restoration, monitoring endangered species, and promoting biodiversity-friendly practices on campus and in surrounding areas. By involving students, faculty, and local communities in these efforts, the university helps to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of ecological balance and biodiversity conservation.

#### SDG 15.2.4. Educational programmes on ecosystems

Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs on ecosystems, focusing on wild flora and fauna, for local and national communities. These programs aim to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity, ecological conservation, and sustainable practices. Through workshops, seminars, and field studies, the university engages both students and the public in understanding the dynamics of ecosystems and the need to protect endangered species and habitats.

#### From Farm to Table Agriculture







İstanbul Okan Üniversitesi @okanedu

Gastronomi ve Mutfak Sanatları Bölümü öğrencilerimiz, Tarladan Sofraya Tarım Dersi'nde Kampüsümüzdeki gastronomi tarlasına meyve-sebze ekiyor. 🍸 🍎

Yetiştirdikleri meyve ve sebzeleri kullanarak yemek hazırlıyor.





## SDG 15.2.5. Sustainable management of land for agriculture (educational outreach)

Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs and outreach initiatives for local and national communities on the sustainable management of land for agriculture. These programs focus on promoting sustainable farming practices, efficient land use, and environmental stewardship. Through workshops, training sessions, and collaborations with local farmers and agricultural organizations, the university helps communities adopt eco-friendly agricultural methods that ensure long-term soil health and productivity.

#### From Farm to Table Agriculture

## SDG 15.2.6. Sustainable management of land for tourism (educational outreach)

Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs on ecosystems, focusing on wild flora and fauna, for local and national communities. These programs aim to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity, ecological conservation, and sustainable practices. Through workshops, seminars, and field studies, the university engages both students and the public in understanding the dynamics of ecosystems and the need to protect endangered species and habitats. Istanbul Okan University offers educational programs and outreach initiatives for local and national communities on the sustainable management of land for tourism. These programs focus on promoting eco-friendly tourism practices, minimizing environmental impact, and ensuring the preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Through workshops, seminars, and collaborations with tourism professionals, the university helps communities and businesses adopt sustainable tourism models that balance economic development with environmental conservation.

The importance of special interest tourism is increasingly growing in response to changing tourist demands and needs, as well as within the framework of sustainable tourism. As a country with high tourism potential, exploring different types of special interest tourism, in addition to mass tourism, will not only enhance Turkey's competitiveness in tourism but also enable the country to gain a larger share of the global tourism market. In this context, the primary goal is to learn about and promote special interest tourism.

#### **Special Interest Tourism**

#### SDG 15.3.1. Sustainable use, conservation and restoration of land (policy)

Istanbul Okan University has a policy in place to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems associated with the university, particularly forests, mountains, and drylands. This policy focuses on promoting biodiversity, implementing sustainable land management practices, and engaging in restoration projects that enhance the ecological health of these ecosystems. Through research, community outreach, and collaborations with environmental organizations, the university is committed to preserving natural habitats and promoting sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and local communities.



#### SDG 15.3.2. Monitoring IUCN and other conservation species (policies)

Istanbul Okan University has a policy to identify, monitor, and protect any <u>IUCN Red Listed</u> species and species on the national conservation list that have habitats in areas affected by the university's operations. This policy includes conducting regular assessments of local biodiversity, implementing conservation measures, and collaborating with relevant authorities and organizations to ensure the protection of these species. By raising awareness and involving the university community in conservation efforts, the university aims to contribute to the preservation of endangered species and their habitats.

#### **Biodiversity and Ecosystems Protection Policy**

#### SDG 15.3.3. Local biodiversity included in planning and development

Istanbul Okan University incorporates local biodiversity into its planning and development processes, including the construction of new buildings. The university prioritizes environmental assessments to evaluate potential impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity during the planning stages. This approach ensures that development projects consider the preservation of native species and habitats. Additionally, the university promotes sustainable design practices that integrate green spaces and biodiversity-friendly features, contributing to the overall ecological health of the campus and surrounding areas.

#### **Biodiversity and Ecosystems Protection Policy**

#### SDG 15.3.4. Alien species impact reduction (policies)

Istanbul Okan University has a policy in place to reduce the impact of alien species on campus. This policy includes measures to identify and manage invasive species, promote native plant species, and raise awareness among the university community about the importance of preserving local biodiversity. Through research, monitoring, and educational initiatives, the university aims to mitigate the effects of alien species and protect the integrity of its ecosystems.

#### **Biodiversity and Ecosystems Protection Policy**

#### SDG 15.3.5. Collaboration for shared land ecosystems

Istanbul Okan University collaborates with the local community through partnerships to maintain shared land ecosystems. These collaborations involve working with local organizations, government agencies, and community groups on conservation projects, habitat restoration, and biodiversity initiatives. By engaging students, faculty, and community members in these efforts, the university fosters a collective responsibility for protecting and preserving local ecosystems while also promoting awareness of environmental issues and sustainable practices.

**Collaborative Success for Joint Solutions in Biodiversity and Ecosystems** 



There is a student group on our campus that collects food from dining halls and distributes it to feed stray dogs under the slogan "If You Don't Eat, I Will," and they are supported by our administrators.



#### SDG 15.4.1. Water discharge guidelines and standards

Istanbul Okan University has established water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges to uphold water quality and protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare. These standards ensure that any discharges from university operations meet regulatory requirements and are monitored to prevent pollution. By implementing best practices for water management, the university aims to minimize its environmental impact and contribute to the sustainability of local water resources.

<u>Waste Management Directive</u> <u>Biodiversity and Ecosystems Protection Policy</u> <u>Sustainable Water Policy</u>

#### SDG 15.4.2. Policy on plastic waste reduction

Istanbul Okan University has a policy in place to reduce plastic waste on campus. This policy includes initiatives to minimize the use of single-use plastics, promote recycling programs, and encourage the use of sustainable alternatives. The university actively engages students, staff, and faculty in awareness campaigns and educational programs to foster a culture of sustainability and responsible waste management. Through these efforts, the university aims to significantly decrease plastic waste and promote environmental stewardship within the campus community.

<u>Waste Management Directive</u> <u>Biodiversity and Ecosystems Protection Policy</u> <u>Sustainable Water Policy</u> <u>Zero Waste</u>



#### SDG 15.4.3. Policy on hazardous waste disposal

Istanbul Okan University has a policy and established processes for waste disposal that specifically cover hazardous materials. This policy ensures that hazardous waste is managed safely and in compliance with national regulations. The university provides guidelines for the proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials to minimize risks to health and the environment. Additionally, training and awareness programs are implemented for staff and students to promote safe practices and ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of responsibly.

#### Waste Management Directive





## Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies



#### SDG 16.2.1. Elected representation

Istanbul Okan University has elected representation on the university's highest governing body. This includes elected representatives from various stakeholder groups such as faculty members, administrative staff, and student bodies, ensuring that diverse perspectives are included in decision-making processes at the institutional level.

Istanbul Okan University has a diverse elected representation on the university's highest governing body, *the Senate, the University Board and the Advisory Board*.

The University's General Secretary is a non-academic member of the University's Board and represents non-faculty employees. The other members of the University Board are faculty members.

<u>the Senate</u> <u>the University Board</u> <u>the Advisory Board</u>

#### SDG 16.2.2. Students' union

The establishment of student unions is acknowledged and facilitated by Istanbul Okan University: - The Dean of Students supervises the democratic process of Student Council elections in November. The faculty representatives are determined by the representatives elected by each department. From the faculty representatives, the Student Council's elected chairperson is selected. It is required to comply with the laws of the Turkish Constitution and national regulations regarding the right to form and join unions without prior permission according to *Article 51 of the Turkish Constitution*. Therefore, university approval is not required for the formation of a student union.

Consequently, Istanbul Okan University recognises the autonomy of students to establish student unions.

Student Council Directive Student Clubs and Students' Unions Directive

#### SDG 16.2.3. Identify and engage with local stakeholders

Istanbul Okan University has implemented a Stakeholder Engagement Policy and procedures to identify local stakeholders. The university, in accordance with its Quality Assurance System, identifies both internal and external stakeholders under the guidance of its Strategic Plan. It reviews and analyses them annually and makes relevant revisions as required. Each year, surveys are administered to internal and external stakeholders to collect their feedback. Furthermore, Istanbul Okan University assesses the involvement of its internal and external stakeholders in university processes annually through the Institutional Internal Evaluation Report.

Strategic Plan Institutional Internal Evaluation Reports External Stakeholder Reports



#### SDG 16.2.4. Participatory bodies for stakeholder engagement

The Stakeholders Engagement Policy is in place at Istanbul Okan University, which establishes guidelines for stakeholder engagement and communication. The objective of this policy is to guarantee that stakeholder engagement activities are transparent, systematic, and effective. It incorporates all university employees and students who are involved in stakeholder engagement activities. In addition, Istanbul Okan University prioritises its stakeholders as a result of its commitment to social good.

Stakeholders are actively involved in the decision-making processes at Istanbul Okan University. In 2022, the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (YÖKAK) administered the External Evaluation Program at our university, during which evaluators and external stakeholders convened to provide valuable feedback on a variety of aspects of our institution. For additional information, please consult the Institutional Accreditation Report for Istanbul Okan University, which was prepared by the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council.

Institutional Accreditation Report

#### SDG 16.2.5. University principles on corruption and bribery

Istanbul Okan University has disclosed its principles and obligations with respect to corruption, bribery, and organised crime. The university is committed to adhering to the Republic of Turkey's Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption policy, which strongly condemns any instances of corruption and bribery. Additionally, Istanbul Okan University is dedicated to the prevention of bribery and will not tolerate any form of unlawful conduct or bribery, whether it is carried out by employees, individuals, or organisations that provide services to the university, whether they are located in Turkey or abroad.

#### **Sustainability Policies**

#### SDG 16.2.6 Academic freedom policy

The principle of academic freedom is the right of academicians to express themselves freely in the context of teaching, learning, research, publication, and service. Istanbul Okan University maintains a policy that promotes academic freedom as an institution that is dedicated to societal impact, research, learning, and teaching.

#### **Sustainability Policies**

#### SDG 16.3.1. Provide expert advice to government

By participating in committees, delivering policy guidance, and providing evidence at local, regional, and national levels, the academic and administrative staff of Istanbul Okan University are able to provide particular expert advice to local, regional, and national government. This advice is provided through a variety of channels.



Dr. Merve Duysak, a faculty member of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at our faculty, presented a paper titled "An Evaluation of Recent ECtHR Decisions on the Right to a Fair Trial" at the conference <u>"A Contemporary View on Issues in the Field of Human Rights,"</u> organized by the Human Rights Center of the Istanbul Bar Association on December 10, 2023. She also presented the paper titled "Legal Developments as to 'Cyber Grooming' Actions from Lanzarote Convention to Now" at the "20th Annual International Conference on Law" hosted by <u>Atiner Athens</u>



#### SDG 16.3.2. Policy- and lawmakers outreach and education

Istanbul Okan University provides outreach, general education, upskilling, and capacity-building to policymakers and lawmakers on relevant topics such as economics, law, technology, migration and displacement, and climate change. Through workshops, seminars, and collaborative research projects, the university aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of decision-makers, helping them to formulate informed policies that address pressing societal and environmental challenges. By fostering a dialogue between academia and policymakers, the university contributes to effective governance and sustainable development.





#### SDG 16.3.3. Participation in government research

Istanbul Okan University undertakes policy-focused research in collaboration with government departments. This collaborative research aims to address various societal and environmental issues by providing evidence-based recommendations and solutions. By working closely with governmental bodies, the university contributes its academic expertise to inform policy development, enhance public understanding, and promote effective governance on critical matters such as sustainability, public health, and social welfare.



#### SDG 16.3.4. Neutral platform to discuss issues

Istanbul Okan University provides a neutral platform and a "safe" space for different political stakeholders to come together and discuss challenges openly. The university hosts forums, panels, and discussions that encourage dialogue among various political entities, allowing them to share perspectives, address concerns, and collaborate on solutions to pressing issues. By fostering an inclusive environment for dialogue, the university promotes understanding and cooperation among diverse stakeholders, contributing to constructive political discourse.





## Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## SDG 17: Partnerships for 🔅 THE GLOBAL GOALS the **Goals**



#### SDG 17.2.1. Relationships with regional NGOs and government for SDG policy

Istanbul Okan University is actively involved in national and regional sustainable development policy development, including contributing to the creation and refinement of SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) strategies. The university collaborates with government bodies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to identify key challenges, develop effective policies, and model potential future outcomes. Additionally, the university is engaged in monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of implemented interventions and supports adaptive management processes to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with SDG targets. Through research, partnerships, and innovation, the university plays a critical role in shaping sustainable policies at various levels.



#### Sustainability Collaboration

#### SDG 17.2.2. Cross sectoral dialogue about SDGs

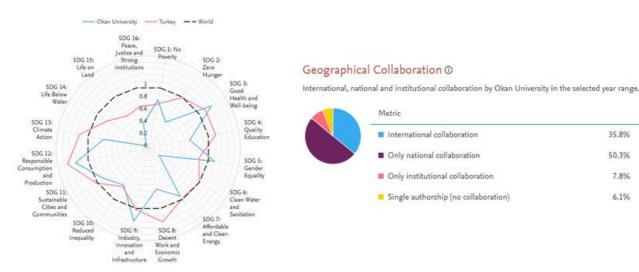
Istanbul Okan University initiates and participates in cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs through conferences involving government and NGOs. The university actively engages with various stakeholders to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Istanbul Okan University Sustainability and Innovation Center signed a cooperation protocol with IDEMA.



#### SDG 17.2.3. International collaboration data gathering for SDG

Istanbul Okan University participates in international collaboration on gathering or measuring data for the SDGs. The university contributes to global data initiatives and research projects to support evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.



#### SDG 17.2.4. Collaboration for SDG best practice

Istanbul Okan University, through international collaboration and research, reviews comparative approaches and develops international best practice on tackling the SDGs. The university actively engages with global experts to identify effective strategies and innovative solutions for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

We held the launch meeting of our Sustainability and Innovation Center on Thursday, December 7, 2023. The Center aims to be part of generating sustainable benefits that meet both national and global requirements, by incorporating the comprehensive dimensions of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) and with the support and contributions of internal and external stakeholders of the university. At our launch event, we brought together NGOs, public and private sector professionals working in the fields of sustainability and innovation. Discussions focused on how to establish impact-driven collaboration frameworks with a focus on sustainability and innovation.

Our Rector, Prof. Dr. Güliz Muğan, stated: "We are positioning our campus as a model space through the use of sustainability and innovative technology. To this end, we have set specific goals, particularly in the use of renewable energy sources. Over the past two years, we have made significant investments in solar energy systems, which has allowed us to both reduce our carbon footprint and meet our energy needs in a sustainable manner. With the opening of the Sustainability and Innovation Center, we proudly announce the beginning of a new era at our university. The Center aims to not only generate knowledge but also offer mid- and long-term solutions for our society and the world. Additionally, it seeks to guide our young people, the leaders of the future, to actively engage in this field. As Istanbul Okan University, we will continue to offer a brighter perspective for the future with the steps we take in the fields of sustainability and innovation. Together, we are working towards a sustainable world."

THE GLOBAL GOALS





#### SDG 17.2.4. Collaboration for SDG best practice

Istanbul Okan University, through international collaboration and research, reviews comparative approaches and develops international best practice on tackling the SDGs. The university actively engages with global experts to identify effective strategies and innovative solutions for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Sustainability and Innovation Centre**

#### SDG 17.2.5. Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs

Istanbul Okan University collaborates with NGOs to tackle the SDGs through student volunteering programs, research programs, and the development of educational resources. The university fosters partnerships with NGOs to promote community engagement, knowledge creation, and capacity building in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.





#### SDG 17.4.1. Education for SDGs commitment to meaningful education

Istanbul Okan University has a commitment to meaningful education around the SDGs across the university, that is relevant and applicable to all students. The university integrates SDG-related content into various courses and programs to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to a sustainable future.

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#### SDG 17.4.2. Education for SDGs: specific courses on sustainability

Istanbul Okan University has dedicated courses (full degrees, or electives) that address sustainability and the SDGs. The university offers a range of academic programs and specialized courses focused on sustainable development, environmental studies, and related fields, providing students with in-depth knowledge and expertise on these critical issues. Some examples below:

#### <u>Corporate Sustainability Management</u> <u>Sustainable Resource management in International Trade</u> <u>Sustainable Logistics</u>

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## SDG 17: Partnerships for 🔅 THE GLOBAL GOALS the **Goals**

#### SDG 17.4.3. Education for SDGs in the wider community

Istanbul Okan University has dedicated outreach educational activities for the wider community, which could include alumni, local residents, and displaced people. The university organizes various events, workshops, and public lectures to raise awareness about the SDGs and promote sustainable development within the community.

With the protocol signed by our Vocational School Director, Dr. Işılay Bilgiç, and Model Information Services General Manager, Atila Zeybek, the aim is to employ students from the Computer Technologies Department as interns within Model for their internship and practical application courses. Additionally, this initiative seeks to facilitate the employment of graduate students as full-time employees.

The collaboration includes organizing seminars under Model's "Native Language Business Applications Development and Operation Platform," where experiences related to business applications within the Model ERP are shared. Laboratory courses will be conducted, focusing on native programming languages and software development environments, and joint projects will be executed. This partnership will also involve participation in career events organized by the university and the sharing of sectoral experiences, ultimately creating a sustainable universityindustry collaboration model. For more go to gallery at the end of the page.





Istanbul Okan University Confucius Institute operates under the partnership of Istanbul Okan University, Beijing Language and Culture University and Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN). The agreement was signed by HANBAN and Istanbul Okan University on June 18th, 2012 in Beijing, and the Institute was inaugurated on May 14th, 2013 in Istanbul Okan University.

Istanbul Okan University Confucius Institute aims to promote Chinese language learning and the understanding of Chinese culture in Turkey. Confucius Institute is working in close collaboration with the Department of Chinese Translation and Interpretation, Istanbul Okan University, which provides a comprehensive Chinese language and cultural education as well as, the Okan College, which starts Chinese language education at the age of six.

Istanbul Okan University Confucius Institute presents a model of a comprehensive education in Chinese by offering Chinese language courses to public at large and by opening Confucius Classrooms. So far, more than 150 students have been enrolled at the Istanbul Okan University Confucius Institute. Confucius Institute also supports Istanbul Okan University in organizing HSK, HSKK and YCT examinations and plays a major role in the promotion of these exams.

The primary objective of the Confucius Institute is the promotion of Chinese language education. However, the Institute does not only focus on language education. With the activities of the Institute, Turkish society will be able to obtain more accurate information about Chinese society by means of scientific studies within the framework of joint projects. Scientific cooperation will be correspondingly reflected to society. Thus, people of the two countries will familiarize with each other's cultures and living styles. Istanbul Okan University is willing to conduct joint scientific research projects with Chinese universities. The Confucius Institute will support and guide the University in this endevaour.

Istanbul Okan University Confucius Institute also undertakes the task of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fields of tourism and trade. The Institute will also be one of the gateways for Turkish business to China.

#### **Complete Projects**

- China Image As A Tourism Destination: A Research On Turkish Travellers (Istanbul Okan University Tourism and Hotel Management Department & Istanbul Okan University Public Relations and Advertising Department / Asst. Prof. Candan Ölçer & Asst. Prof. Özgür C. Selvi Taşdan)
- Chinese Porcelain of Topkapı Palace (Istanbul Okan University Art and Design Management Department / Asst. Prof. Sühendan Kumcu & Res. As. Canan Demirok)
- Chinese Language Education Research in Universities in Turkey (Istanbul Okan University Chinese Translation and Interpretation Department / Assoc. Prof. Qiang Liu)
- Compiling and Translating Chinese Language Education Books into Turkish (Istanbul Okan University Chinese Prep Class / Chunju Song & Yilei Chen)
- Chinese Cuisine Project (Istanbul Okan University Gastronomy Department / Asst. Prof. Ilkay GÖK & Lect. Şazi Murat Tezcan & Lect. Barış Aslay & Res. As. Efe Kaan Ulu)

**Continuous Projects** 

 Chinese Restaurants As Cultural Brands: Analysis on Marketing Strategies of Chinese Restaurants in Turkey (Istanbul Okan University Public Relations and Advertising Department / Assist Prof. Nezahat Hanzade Uralman & Assist. Prof. Zeynep Genel)



#### SDG 17.4.4. Sustainable Literacy

Istanbul Okan University measures the sustainability literacy of students. The university employs various assessment methods to evaluate students' understanding of sustainability concepts, their ability to apply these concepts to real-world challenges, and their commitment to sustainable practices.

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Documents Structure Collaborators Sustainable Development Goals 2023

New: See at one glance Sustainable Development Goals mapped to this organisation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are specific research areas that are helping to solve real-world problems. Elsevier data science teams have built extensive keyword queries, supplemented with machine learning, to map documents to SDGs with very high precision. Times Higher Education (THE) is using Elsevier SDG data mapping as part of its Impact Rankings. More about SDGs 71

SDO	G contributions				
1.04.0	Goal 1: No poverty	5 documents	$\oplus$	Goal 10: Reduced inequalities	27 documents
-	Goal 2: Zero hunger	9 documents	Alte	Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities	58 documents
-4/4	Goal 3: Good health and well-being	317 documents	00	Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production	44 documents
M	Goal 4: Quality education	27 documents	ø	Goal 13: Climate action	24 documents
ę	Goal 5: Gender equality	15 documents	×	Goal 14: Life below water	4 documents
¥	Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation	19 documents	<u>•</u>	Goal 15: Life on land	7 documents
ø	Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy	100 documents	×	Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	19 documents
ณ์	Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth	34 documents	۲	Goal 17: Partnership for the goals	169 documents
÷	Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	67 documents			

"Scopus publications grouped according to the SDGs"



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