

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES and
COMMUNITIES**

**20
21**



SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University
Sustainability Office**

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https://www1.undp.org/content/seoul_policy_center/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html



More than half of the world's population now live in urban areas. By 2050, that figure will have risen to 6.5 billion people – two-thirds of all humanity. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

The rapid growth of cities in the developing world, coupled with increasing rural to urban migration, has led to a boom in mega-cities. In 1990, there were ten mega-cities with 10 million inhabitants or more. In 2014, there are 28 mega-cities, home to a total 453 million people.

Extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban spaces, and national and city governments struggle to accommodate the rising population in these areas. Making cities safe and sustainable means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements. It also involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

4.2
BILLION

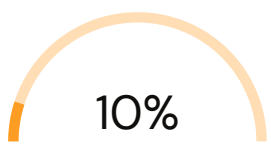
people, more than half of the world's population, live in cities



90% of global gdp is produced in cities.

35
CITIES

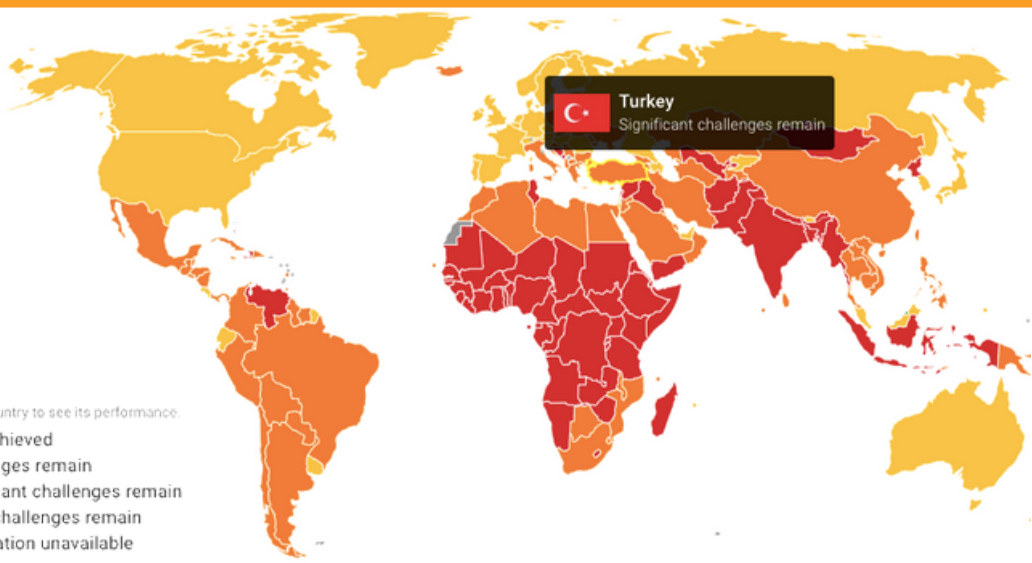
number of "megacities" by 2020



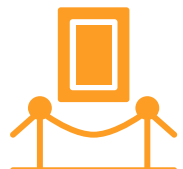
10% of the carbon emissions originate from the city

828
MILLION

people live in slums and the number is rising



3
BROWNFIELDS
used with different functions after renovation



public access to exhibition spaces or galleries

601+

Sustainable Cities and Communities
2022 Rank in



15+
PERFORMANCE
by bands and theater clubs open to general public



projects to record and preserve both tangible and intangible cultural heritage

Support of Arts and Heritage

Public Access to University Buildings, Green Spaces, and Libraries

Our university buildings and green spaces are open to public access for visitors who must first register at the security gates, after which they can freely go around the campus areas, attend our free public events, spend quality time in our cafeterias and green spaces, and enjoy access to the resources in our libraries.

Our libraries and library resources are open to the use of the students of local schools through institutional protocols.



3.200+
STUDENTS

from local schools were allowed to use our libraries

As our central library opened in our Göztepe North Campus in 2020, İstanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank Library is the largest university library in Turkey which was designed to serve 7/24 with all the amenities required by modern librarianship and when it reaches its full capacity, it can house one million volumes and 3000 simultaneous users. Although currently we mainly serve our students and staff in our library, we have planned for a gradual process to fully open it to public use.



IMU Ziraat Bank Library

In addition to the resources in our libraries, students of local schools can also use our campus facilities, as well as our educational facilities such as laboratories and conference halls thanks to our collaboration protocols. In this context, our University signed protocols for collaboration in education with Gebze Anatolian İmam Hatip High School, İstanbul Prof.Dr. Mümtaz Turhan Social

Sciences High School, İTO Şehit Ragıp Ali Bilgen Anatolian İmam Hatip High School, Kadıköy Anatolian İmam Hatip High School, Kartal Mehmet Akif Ersoy Anatolian İmam Hatip High School, and Rabia Anatolian İmam Hatip High School for Girls.

Arts and Heritage Contribution and Public Access to Museums, Galleries or Works of Art

As a public university in the heart of one of the largest metropolises in the world, we are fully aware of our pivotal role in strengthening the ties of our urban community to arts and heritage through various channels: by teaching arts and offering a free and creative environment for artists, by organizing and hosting art events and exhibiting works of art, and by providing free public access to our art events and exhibition spaces. We have the Departments of Turkish Music, Visual Communication Design, and Art History that offer training in arts. In 2021, we spent TRY 1,062,000 on activities related to arts and heritage.

1,062,000€
EXPENDITURE
for the activities related to arts and heritage in 2021



Although we organize and be a part of various art events throughout the year, we had to suspend such face-to-face events in the 2020-2021 academic year due to the pandemic. Yet, after the end of social distance restrictions, we organized an [exhibition on "Addiction through the Eyes of World Cartoonists"](#) on 23-29 December 2021.

During the pandemic, the faculty members of IMU Visual Communication Design Department at IMU Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture created **Artimu**, a digital platform for art exhibitions both to contribute to local art and the cultural heritage and to help people maintain their ties with art in the pandemic environment. [Looking for the Exit](#), [Uncertainty](#) and [Nostos](#) online group exhibitions were organized by the Department in 2021. In the exhibitions open to international participation, artworks from various art and design areas from photography, painting, video, graphic design to illustration, animation, and ceramics have come together.

Various performances in the form of concerts and theater performances are held in our university every year by our bands and music and theater clubs as open-to-public events. In 2021, more than 15 annual performances were organized, some as face-to-face and some as online events due to the pandemic. Below is a list of the annual performances held in our university in 2021:

Musical Performances/Concerts

1. [Online piano recital](#) as part of the online "Music Workshop" event on February 21 by IMU Young Values Club
2. [Rigel Group Concert](#) on February 24
3. A [Musical Performance](#) by the Students of IMU Department of Turkish Music on March 18
4. Instagram Live Stream on March 27
5. [Violin Recital](#) on March 28
6. [Ney Recital](#) on March 31
7. [Nurses Week Concert](#) on May 12
8. Medeniyet Music Club May 19 Celebration Event
9. Talk with [Musical Performance](#) in the Dean's Talks on June 20
10. Closing Gala Dinner with [Concert](#) for the 2nd International School Principals Conference on School Autonomy on June 25
11. [Welcome Concert](#) by KASAMAM on October 26
12. [IMUSEK Kartal Concert](#) on November 11
13. Welcome to the University event on November 12
14. [IMUSEK Music Festival](#) on December 8-9
15. [Music Night](#) by IMU Music Club on December 30
16. [Sira Night](#) by IMU Youth Office on December 3



Theater/Drama Performances

1. [IMU Theater Club's Performance](#) on the Centennial Anniversary of the Adoption of the Turkish National Anthem on March 12
2. [Drama Performance on Zero Waste](#)

In addition to organizing several public performances / events in our university, we also support our students' participation in many art activities outside the campus to contribute to their cultural and artistic development.

For instance, on May 12, 2021, Sociology Club organized [a culture and art trip](#) to Kadıköy Barış Manço Cultural Center to watch the theater play of the book Taurus Monster (Toros Canavarı) written by Aziz Nesin. In the play, which can be viewed free of charge in line with the social aid services of Kadıköy Municipality Theater Volunteers, the students of the Sociology Department and students from different departments watched how the art of theater, which is one of the most important elements of local art, is reflected in sociology. Theater is an important local art branch that presents events that can be experienced by each person from a different perspective. The combination of the teachings of the science of sociology and the arts gave the students of the club a very wide and deep questioning opportunity.



Sustainable Practices

Promotion of Sustainable Commuting

IMU promotes the use of shuttlebuses and public transport for more sustainable commuting for the campus community, aiming to reduce transport-related carbon emissions.

Free shuttle service is provided by the university for its administrative staff members twice a day for their daily commute to and from home. In 2021, shuttle service was provided for 7 different routes and 122 administrative staff members from IMU used it for commuting between work and home. Our academic staff members can use their institutional ID cards to buy discounted fares on the public transport services of the municipality. All our campus areas are centrally located and are close to public transport hubs and as an institution, we promote using public transport services as a responsible and sustainable choice of transport for all our students, staff, and visitors.

“ **122**
ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF
used free shuttle ”



Allow Remote Working

Our university provides its employees with flexible working conditions and rotational work and telecommuting are practiced in many of our offices. Except for the faculty with administrative duties, our instructors are given enough flexibility to work remotely and freely conduct their research activities inside or outside the campus when they are not teaching. Such practices were applied throughout the institution to include the students as well during the pandemic when we **switched to remote learning** in all our programs and successfully handled the process during the 2020-2021 academic year through the **use of online platforms** such as Edmodo and Zoom.

Affordable Housing for Students

Medeniyet Female Student Dorm which is in close distance to IMU Cevizli Campus is owned by the University and run by a private enterprise. Our dormitory supports all university students in İstanbul to access to affordable housing and our students are given an extra discount of 15% in our dormitory. As İstanbul Medeniyet University, we attach importance to providing our students with affordable housing choices and in the near future, we are planning with KYK to build a large dormitory in our Göztepe campus area.

Building on Brownfield Sites

In our campus planning, IMU attaches importance to reusing older buildings within the campus area in order to reduce carbon emissions from transport and construction and the amount of demolition waste in addition to demolition and construction costs and to prevent environmental damage. After disaster risk assessments are conducted for the existing buildings inside the campus, initiatives are taken to reuse those buildings whose safety is ascertained and that are not past their economic life in accordance with the university's needs.

In this context, **Block K** located within our Göztepe North Campus area, which had previously been used by a firm and was later transferred to our university's ownership, was converted from a commercial unit into an educational building housing offices, classrooms, and laboratories in line with the needs of our university. As part of the renovation work carried

out by our Department of Construction and Maintenance, the interior space of the building was re-partitioned to be used as classrooms, a library and conference hall was designed within the building, and a research laboratory was established on floor -1. Once all the installation works were completed for the refunctioning of the building, it was brought into service in 2017.

We also renovated **the older hangar building** in our Göztepe North Campus area, which was taken over from the State Supply Office (DMO). The building was used by our university as a warehouse in 2020 and was later renovated by our Department of Construction and Maintenance. The building was partially converted into our campus kitchen where the daily meals for our students, staff, and guests are cooked. To convert the building from a warehouse to a kitchen, partitioning, wet floor, and installation arrangements were made and ventilation systems were installed. The arrangements were followed by inspections by the Ministry of Health to obtain approval for the building's reuse as a campus kitchen, which was brought into service in early 2021.

In addition, a building in Orhanlı Campus area which had previously been used for educational purposes was renovated following a tender made in 2017 and refunctioned as a dental hospital. The renovation work in the building involved spatial arrangements as needed by a dental hospital such as dentist's rooms, x-ray rooms, and operating rooms and the installations were made as required by the new functions of the building. Following the inspection and approval of the Ministry of Health, the building was put into service in 2021 as **Istanbul Medeniyet University Dental Hospital**.



Istanbul Medeniyet University Dental Hospital



Istanbul Medeniyet University collaborates with numerous public institutions, research institutions, universities, local schools, and NGOs toward numerous goals that would help us achieve the objective of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; making our university more sustainable with our practices and support arts and heritage both in and out of our campus areas.

Public Access

Our University signed protocols for collaboration in education with local schools to lead their education process and research. Thanks to these protocols, students of local schools can use our campus facilities and the resources in our library, as well as our educational facilities such as laboratories and conference halls.

In addition to local schools, we share our campus areas and classrooms with certain universities for their examinations. In this context, Atatürk University, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University Continuing Education Application and Research Center, and Istanbul University Faculty of Open and Distance Education have signed collaboration protocols with IMU on the planning and administering of their central exams to be held in the Anatolian side of Istanbul. In the context of these protocols, we share our classrooms with these partner institutions and offer them for students' use in the exams so that everyone can have access to affordable higher education services through open learning and distance education programs.

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we give public access to our research laboratories to lead research activities. In this context, our university's Science and Advanced Technologies Research Center (IMU BILTAM) houses 7 service laboratories that offer analysis, measurement, imaging, and equipment services for all researchers in addition to our own staff and students. Institutions or researchers can fill in a request form to have their analyses made; to perform their own analyses using the devices and

41 pieces of equipment provided or to attend the analyses performed as observers. In addition, Istanbul Medeniyet University Laboratory Animal Facility (DEHAL), which has been licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the fields of research, breeding, use and procurement, provides high quality in vivo research infrastructure to academia and R&D institutions within the framework of legislation and ethical principles.

Record and Preserve Cultural Heritage

Two of our professors, [Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ](#) from IMU Department of Art History and [Prof.Dr.Ahmet KAVAS](#) from IMU Department of International Relations are members of **UNESCO Turkey National Commission**. Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ is also a member of the Istanbul Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Board No 1, member of the Superior Council for the Conservation of Cultural Property, and Director of Archaeological Fieldwork for Beçin Castle.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

Our Youth Office which carries out educational, social, cultural, sports, and artistic activities in our campuses, delivered projects to record and preserve intangible Turkish cultural heritage included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity. Among the [events organized by IMU Youth Office in 2021 to record and preserve our intangible cultural heritage](#) were a workshop on Turkish paper marbling art and a traditional sira night participated by the members of our campus community.



Intangible Cultural Heritage Educations in Youth Office

18 November 2021



Assoc.Prof.Dr. Ahmet Şefik ŞENLİK from IMU Turkish Language and Literature Department published a significant work on the recording and preservation of the Dede Korkut Heritage, one of the most important sources in the history of Turkish language and culture which was included in the "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" list by UNESCO in 2018. In the published [Dede Korkut Stories book](#), ŞENLİK also simplified the original texts in accordance with the general reader profile and contributed to the transfer of cultural heritage to Turkish youth attending secondary education.

Tangible Cultural Heritage

Our Department of Art History members conducted excavation works in different locations and in cooperation with different institutions. In order to unearth votive objects belonging to the Avar Period, to record and protect world cultural heritage, [excavations](#) were started in Nagycenk, Hungary, in cooperation with Sopron Museum and Miskolc University Archaeometric Research Institute (Hungary). The aim of the excavation was carried out under the direction of Asst.Prof.Dr. Csilla BALOGH, a faculty member of IMU Department of Art History, is the complex investigation of the archaeological sites of the votives. In this context, excavations were carried out at the sites of four votive sets that were unearthed on the border of Nagycenk (Győr-Moson-Sopron province, Western Hungary) on August 24-31, 2021. The location of the two votive sets was determined and a pit in which the votives were buried was found. Archaeometric studies of metal votive finds also began.

Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ from the Department of Art History conducted two excavation works in Milas and Fethiye districts. He led archaeological excavations in the [ancient city of Beçin](#) in the Milas district of Muğla, which once was the capital of the Menteşeoğlu Principality and one of the important centers in the settlement of the Turkish-Islamic period and is now on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Istanbul Medeniyet University, and the Turkish Historical Society. This region, which was called Caria in the ancient period, came under the rule of Menteşe Principality after 1261. In Beçin,

the administrative center of the Menteşe Principality, there are about 20 historical buildings in partially intact condition. Beçin, which was included in the World Heritage Tentative List by UNESCO in 2012, is among the very few cities in Anatolia that were founded by the Turks and survived until today. The historical artifacts unearthed in the excavations in Beçin Castle, where the works in the ancient city were carried out meticulously, excite everyone. A very rare find was found during the excavations carried out in the castle in 2021. Among the ceramics and small finds during the studies carried out in the inner castle, a Kilia type idol head known in the literature as ['Star Warrior' or 'Star Hunter'](#) was found. According to the information given by Prof.Dr. Kadir Pektaş, the Star Warrior Figurine is an example dating back to 3000-3500 BC and very rarely found in excavations.



Beçin Castle Excavations Led by Prof.Dr.Kadir PEKTAŞ

Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ also led excavations in [Fethiye Castle](#), which is located in Fethiye District of Muğla, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums and Istanbul Medeniyet University. In the castle cleaning works and rescue excavations are carried out for the recording and protection of cultural heritage. PEKTAŞ said that besides scientific excavation and research of Fethiye Castle, which is located in the district center, it is aimed to bring the artifact to tourism. PEKTAŞ stated that the works for the cleaning of the interior spaces, forward-looking landscaping and restoration projects are continuing, and added that with the project to be prepared after the works, the castle will be a more perceptible and navigable place.



Collaborations on Sustainable Cities, Communities and Arts

In addition to our collaborations with local schools for public access, we have also signed protocols with the following institutions for social and cultural collaboration: **Istanbul Provincial Directorate for National Education and local schools including Gebze Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, Kadıköy Ahmet Sani Gezici Anatolian Imam Hatip High School for Girls, Kadıköy Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, Kadıköy Anatolian Imam Hatip High School for Girls, Kandilli High School for Girls, and Sultanbeyli Nilüfer Hatun Anatolian Imam Hatip High School for Girls.**

“**4.220+**
STUDENTS

from local schools were supported with cultural and social education and activities”

IMU signed a sponsorship agreement with **Ziraat Bank** to build a university library that can house one million volumes to be used by all researchers. Our central library will serve 7/24 and can house 3000 simultaneous users.



IMU Ziraat Bank Library

IMU has signed collaboration protocols with the **Gifted and Genius Children Education Foundation of Turkey (TÜZDEV)**, **the Happy Family Happy Child Association**, **Istanbul Family Foundation**, and **Istanbul Volunteer Educators Association (İGEDER)** on carrying out cultural and social educational activities, events, symposia, projects, and internship programs and applications.

Ümraniye Type-T Closed Penitentiary Institution run by the Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses signed a collaboration protocol with IMU concerning the performance of various activities including organizing educational, social, cultural, and sports activities aiming to increase the motivation and productivity among the institution's staff and to ensure that the convicts can make the best use of their time in the institution by acquiring the knowledge and skills required for their social rehabilitation.

The Youth and Volunteering Cooperation Protocol was signed between Istanbul Medeniyet University and the **Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey** and as part of the protocol, a **Youth Office** was created in 2020 to carry out social, cultural, artistic, sports, and educational activities in our university campuses. Through IMU Youth Office located in our Göztepe North Campus, our students and student clubs can receive consulting about their volunteering projects from the representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the projects that are deemed eligible are given funding. In IMU Youth Office, our students and clubs can also organize and carry out events and activities and are provided with project training, free cultural trips, workshops, and other artistic, cultural and sports activities.

In 2021, our Youth Office also delivered numerous projects such as **paper marbling workshops** and **Sira Night** events, to record and preserve intangible Turkish cultural heritage included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity and teach Turkish culture and its heritage to our students.



Paper Marbling Art Workshop in Youth Office

IMU signed collaboration protocols in arts with **Gaziosmanpaşa Municipality** and **Bağcılar Municipality**. Within the scope of the protocols, our University will contribute to artistic and academic studies, which will facilitate the social and cultural development of the people living in these districts of Istanbul. In addition, our university will organize preparatory exams for those students who would like to take aptitude tests in order to attend college.



Collaboration Protocol in Arts with Gaziosmanpaşa Municipality

Our university and the Turkish Transplant Foundation organized an international cartoon contest on organ donation to raise social awareness about organ donation in the national and international arena. The 2nd International Organ Donation Cartoon Contest, which focuses on a very important issue in terms of public health. The contest aims to raise social awareness by bringing together the healing power of art and design with social issues, and to increase social consciousness, which will enable more organ donations.



Cartoon Contest on Organ Donation

The **Turkish Red Crescent** and IMU signed a collaboration protocol to carry out activities chiefly on disaster management and sustainable cities.

The **"School Disaster Awareness Social Responsibility Project"** conducted by Assoc.Prof.Dr. Cengiz İPEK from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences and Assoc.Prof.Dr. Alpaslan Hamdi KUZUCUOĞLU from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of our university in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent as the stakeholder institution has been completed. This awareness project was carried out between October 29 and November 4, 2021, within the scope of the cooperation protocol signed by the Turkish Red Crescent Association and our University, in order to improve disaster awareness through lifelong learning in the community and to create behavior change in disaster risk reduction and taking precautions in cities. The project was designed to increase the awareness of the students, teachers and employees of Kocaeli Kartepe Süleyman Şah Primary School, which was selected as a pilot school, through disaster awareness training.

The **"Basic Support Team Social Responsibility Project"** carried out by Assoc.Prof.Dr. Cengiz İPEK from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences and Assoc.Prof.Dr. Alpaslan Hamdi KUZUCUOĞLU from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of our university in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent, one of the leading NGOs in Turkey, has been completed. In the project, it was stated that many emergencies and disasters occur in the world and in our country. Along with urban areas, these disasters also affect schools, which are education and training institutions with many students, teachers and employees. In order to minimize the damages in a possible disaster and increase the safety of the schools, awareness studies to be carried out with public participation before the disaster are of great importance. Within the scope of the project carried out with the aim of reducing disaster risks, 54 students studying at Istanbul Medeniyet University and taking the "IMU 061 Disasters, Causes and Consequences" course were given disaster awareness trainings, first aid training in disasters and awareness raising activities for disasters both by the project coordinators and the Turkish Red Crescent Society between October 29 and November 4, 2021, which coincides with the Red Crescent Week.

In addition to our operational efforts, we, as a university, also see our students as leaders of the future. Therefore, we aim for each and every one of our students to become leaders in the society in implementing sustainable development goals through their research and social responsibility projects and thus, support them in their efforts to make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Istanbul Medeniyet University Art History Club has become a **Club for UNESCO** after successfully completing the process, which they started with the initiative of Res.Asst. Yasin SAYGILI, the club's advisor from the Art History Department. The organizations with which UNESCO, an important international organization in the protection of World Cultural Heritage, cooperates at local level and carries out joint activities and projects are known as Clubs for UNESCO. In this context, a goal of the club is to organize events on issues such as environmental protection and preservation of cultural heritage.



IMU Art History Club for UNESCO

The Information Club of our university started a social responsibility project called **'Patisever'** in April 2021 for the feeding of stray animals. Within the framework of the event, which is one of the social responsibility projects of the club, it was aimed to feed stray animals whose natural habitats are decreasing due to rapid urbanization and which have difficulty in finding food and water in urban areas due to the effect of climate change. This event, which aims for the community-based protection of the stray animals living on land, has also brought to life the idea that *'streets are the habitat of stray animals'* in accordance with the Animal Protection Law No. 5199 by raising awareness and inclusion of the society on this issue.



Learning processes are key in achieving SDGs. Thus, universities play a critical role both by training professionals who will prioritize SDGs in their future practices and by increasing local, national, and global capacity to successfully achieve SDGs. As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are fully aware of our critical role and thus aim to empower and motivate for SDGs not only our students through course contents, co-curricular activities, and student club activities, but also the community at large at a much wider scale. Therefore, we organize university-wide life-long learning activities, online courses, certificate programs, seminars, workshops, congresses, symposia, and panels that are open to all segments of society for participation. In 2021, we held a wide range of learning activities to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Istanbul Medeniyet University Department of Architecture organized the online **"Mimarlık Araştırmaları"** seminar series between June and October 2021. The seminars were moderated by different faculty members of the Department of Architecture. Studies on different topics were presented by 7 different researchers. The seminars attracted a great deal of attention from researchers and more than a hundred people participated in the series. Among the topics covered in the seminar series, subjects such as urban development, the increase in the urban population, the place of women in urban life were discussed in different presentations. Immigration as a factor that shapes cities, development of cities and the problems that occur in cities such as slum areas, economic inequality, and extreme poverty were underlined. Also, threats like urbanization and public infrastructure that faced by natural and cultural heritage sites of universal value were clarified. Sustainability, smart cities, smart buildings and water management were also featured as the topics of some of the presentations made at the seminar. Concerning smart buildings, the use of advanced technological systems such as water management systems, which are frequently used in smart buildings and provide a very high amount of savings, systems that increase the energy efficiency of lighting systems, which have an important place in terms of energy consumption today, were discussed.



"İstanbul Kent Araştırmaları" (Istanbul Urban Studies) seminar series organized by IMU Department of Urban and Regional Planning hosted 26 seminars in 2021. The seminars were organized as two separated series (quarterly periods) weekly and online. 27 researchers from 8 different profession and 17 different institutions shared the results of their studies which they have conducted in the past three years in Istanbul. Seminars attracting a lot of attention were viewed by 556 participants in total. 42% of the presented studies focused on Istanbul in general. In the seminars, 93 different projects/areas planned for Istanbul were discussed in terms of their different dimensions via 26 presentations. Research areas and topics discussed in the seminars have revealed important results for Istanbul's agenda. One of the most outstanding topics brought to discussion by the studies is how Istanbul's multi-layered structure directs urban planning, and the results of city-wide planning practices and its effects on sustainability. In this context, one of the much-debated issues was cultural heritage and world heritage sites in Istanbul -whose historical areas were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List- and their needs for preservation. In connection with the preservation studies, transformation processes that Istanbul has undergone in conformity with its global identity were also frequently addressed. Focusing on the examples, big-scale urban projects' certain impacts on Istanbul's identity and texture are analyzed. These projects were evaluated as pilot

projects to attract more investment instead of renewing old areas. This perspective also enabled important discussions about the place and importance of citizen participation in these processes of change and transformation, starting from the right to the city. In addition to urban management and governance, risk management was also discussed as a main theme in the webinars. Furthermore, the "health city" concept, as Covid-19 pandemic took the world by storm, was one of the much-debated issues. Although nearly all urban development strategies discussed in the seminars and implemented in Istanbul are a part of the efforts to create a sustainable city and society, researchers also drew attention to the fact that metropolitan municipalities and related institutions have been suffering from decreases in their budgets to fulfill their goals to provide environmental protection and to fight climate change.

"Kent Atölyeleri" (Urban Workshops) were organized by the Department of City and Regional Planning of Istanbul Medeniyet University in order to carry out the practical applications of the topics covered in the weekly "Istanbul Urban Studies" seminars, which started to be organized in April 2021 within the department. It is aimed that the workshops will support closing the gap between theory and practice in the planning discipline.

In workshops, interactive trainings; role plays; analytical study and sketch workshops; drawing and planning workshops; model workshops; art workshops in the city; technical trips; training and practices in various fields, especially sustainable urban practices, are planned. And it is aimed to share the results of these workshops with the stakeholders and all citizens with the exhibitions to be held, the booklets to be prepared.

In 2021, 2 workshops were organized within the body of "Urban Workshops". The first of these **"Parata: A Story of Climate Justice"** was an interactive role play organized with 350Turkey, one of the leading NGOs in the field of climate change, while the other was the **BioBlitz** events initiated within our institution. 5 different experts from different professions directed the workshops which were open to the public and attended by a total of 23 participants.

IMU Sociology Club held an online talk titled **"Look to Explore: Houses in Urban Life"** on April 30, 2021 with Lect. Semih AKŞEKER from Medipol University. AKŞEKER started his talk by explaining how people relate to the house and what residential plans tell us, underlining the relationship between urban fabric and society. He stated that the classical Turkish house has changed, especially with the effect of industrialization, and mentioned that the architectural continuity we see in Europe is not observed in our country. He further stated that as a result of the increasing population and the increasing need for houses with urbanization, houses have lost their distinctive differences, emphasizing that now we all live inside concrete blocks, in tiny apartments without a garden, in rooms that are all the same.



Within the scope of the 'Medeniyet Meetings: Fashion' seminar series organized by the Department of Art History, a seminar titled **"Storage of Historical Clothing in Museums, Restoration and Conservation Methods"** was held on April 30, 2021. The speaker of the event was Asst.Prof.Dr. Ragsana HASANOVA from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. She started her speech by emphasizing that textile works, which are among the cultural heritage works, constitute a large part of many museum collections. She underlined the importance of the storage, restoration and conservation methods for such historical garments. She showed textile samples from different museums and talked about the methods of protection and display of textile works in museums.



Seminar on Historical Clothing and Conservation

IMU Career Club hosted Halit Buğra ÇELİK, from the field of textile, under the topic of **"Sustainable Fashion and Entrepreneurship"** at the event held on October 20, 2021. He started his speech by mentioning the ecological footprint of the fabric industry. He said that they use certified nature-friendly fabrics that do not go through stages that harm the environment in the production process, with the aim of being a brand that produces products that cause minimal damage to nature and realizes sustainable manufacturing. He stated that their goal is to reduce the impact on global climate change by producing products with materials suitable for recycling. In addition, he underlined that they are trying to minimize environmental damage by planting a tree for each product sold by the brand.

Dr. Cem KINAY was the guest speaker of the **"Tourism in the Future"** seminar, which was held online on November 11, 2021 by the Department of Tourism Management. KINAY shared information about experiences, sustainable living criteria and tourism of the future, as implemented in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Among the interesting concepts discussed at the seminar were climate and environmental responsibility, cherishing and protecting nature, sustainable agriculture and rural tourism, minimum carbon footprint and respecting, protecting and cherishing historical legacies. KINAY also emphasized the interest and curiosity of people in what is local, local food and intangible cultural heritage in the digitalized and universalizing world. His presentation featured topics such as eco-life and environmentally friendly living spaces.



1. SÜRDÜREBİLİR YAŞAM KRİTERLERİNİ UYGULAYARAK



Seminar on Tourism in the Future

Strategic Thinking Club held the **“Strategic Meetings Week’21”** event with the participation of experts in the field of technology on December 8-9, 2021. In the fourth session, MEF University faculty member Prof.Dr. Erhan ERKUT participated with his speech titled “Technology and Transforming Professions”. He stated that universities could not meet the needs of the business world and recommended that young people should constantly improve themselves in order to find quality jobs. He also stated that the most important problems of the society, which are also prominent in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, will shape the world in the future. ERKUT also stated that the problems related to the economy of old age and urbanization will increase in Turkey, and technological developments will make coding a necessity for every profession.

Medeniyet Gemisi Student Club held the **“AFAD Training”** event on December 18, 2021. The club decided to organize this event due to the increasing natural disasters in our country and the earthquake risk that already exists in our cities, especially in Istanbul. In the training, first of all, AFAD experts gave theoretical information on the types of natural disasters, the ways of protection from disasters, the points to be considered for disaster risk reduction etc. The experts emphasized the importance of resilient buildings and urban transformation in our city where the earthquake risk is high.



AFAD EĞİTİMİ

Deprem simülasyonu
Enkaz alanları
Sel simülasyonu

18 Aralık 2021 Cumartesi
12:00

Arac kalkışı saat 10:00'da İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi Güney Kampüsünden olacaktır.

18 Ocak Eğitim Merkezi
Köy Mahallesi Havalimanı Caddesi.

Katılım Belgesi verilecektir.

AFAD Disaster Awareness Training

The project titled **“Seismic Strengthening of Reinforced Concrete Shears in Existing Buildings Designed and Constructed Before Current Regulations”** conducted by Res.Asst. Yusuf ŞAHİNKAYA from the Civil Engineering Department, was entitled to be supported within the scope of TÜBİTAK 1002 in 2018 and the studies are continued. The project is carried out by IMU in cooperation with Istanbul Technical University, Boğaziçi University and DowAksa Advanced Composite Materials Ind.Co Ltd. The aim of the project is to investigate the damage caused by the critical weaknesses observed in this type of curtain samples and the effects of these weaknesses on the behavior, to eliminate these weaknesses and improve the curtain behavior with fibrous polymer (LP) materials. It was expected that the results and the proposed methods of this project would be beneficial for the sustainability of building design. The research results will contribute to building sustainable and resilient buildings in Turkey and countries with similar building stock and thus reduce disaster risks in terms of loss of life and property in the face of potential earthquakes.



Weakness Test Laboratory

The project titled **“Investigation of the Realized and Expected Effects of Adaptations to Remote Working After the Covid-19 Pandemic, on Travel Behaviors and Housing Location: Istanbul-Kocaeli-Tekirdağ Urban Region Example”** in which Prof.Dr. Lütfi SUNAR from IMU Sociology Department will be working as a researcher, received support within the scope of TÜBİTAK 1001 Projects. It is aimed that the findings to be obtained through the project will guide sectoral policies in the development plan and the companies in their practices to improve employee performance, and form a base for local and central governments' sustainable urbanization, housing production and public transportation policies at the neighborhood / district and metropolitan area level.

The project titled **"Potential Losses and Gains of Government Incentives for Renewable Energy Resources"**, headed by İstanbul University Faculty of Economics Public Finance Department Member Prof.Dr. Binhan Elif YILMAZ and involved İstanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Political Sciences Public Finance Department Member Asst.Prof.Dr. Sinan ATAER as a researcher, implemented with the support of İstanbul University Scientific Research Projects Unit, has reached the final stage. At first, a field study on environmental literacy was applied to citizens. The participants were asked questions about traditional energy production methods, renewable energy sources and renewable energy production methods. Then, YILMAZ and ATAER obtained necessary data from the participants who make up the individual consumption side of energy. After that, the data requested from both the industrialists representing the industrial energy consumption and the representatives of the energy production and transmission companies representing the supply side were obtained by interview. This study aims to develop policy suggestions accurate in terms of energy efficiency and also form public opinion about clean energy technologies. The number of projects based on such qualitative data on renewable, affordable and clean energy is increasing day by day. It is also essential for citizens to be more demanding on issues such as pollution prevention, sustainable buildings, sustainable cities and living spaces, to form public opinion about clean energy technologies and even to be effective in policy development processes through citizen participation.

The book authored by Asst.Prof.Dr. Cenk BEYAZ from the Department of Sociology of our university titled **"Göç ve Aidiyet: Kırsal Göçmenin Memleketine Bağlılığını Sürdürme Mücadelesi"** was published. In his book on migration and urbanization, BEYAZ examines the different strategies and practices of 81 immigrants from Rize, who have migrated to different places within or outside the country, in order to return to their homeland in some cases, but mostly to continue their lives in a multi-settlement system and to transfer the sense of loyalty to their homeland to the next generations.

The book titled **"Kadıköy Hasanpaşa Kurbağalıdere Kentsel Sit Alanı Üzerine Bir İnceleme"**, co-authored by Res.Asst. Özge GÜRSOY from the Department of Architecture has been published by İstanbul Medeniyet University Publishing House. The book presents the opinions and expectations of Hasanpaşa Kurbağalıdere Urban Conservation Area residents as demonstrated by the interview results with a focus on the history of social relations in the research area, as well as the current state of social relations. Aside from the social conditions, physical conditions and the buildings' impact on the residents' psychological well-being are also investigated. As a result of all the evaluations, the authors offer detailed improvement proposals for the façades of the houses in the area in order to resolve the negative impact of the houses on individuals and to protect the city's cultural heritage. Furthermore, they propose a recreation area to meet the area's public space requirements. All these suggestions in the book represent an important step toward increasing wellbeing and ensuring the resilience of the poor, who make up the majority in the urban protected area.



"Kadıköy Hasanpaşa Kurbağalıdere Kentsel Sit Alanı Üzerine Bir İnceleme" Book

Our Urban and Regional Planning Department member Assoc.Dr. Yıldız AKSOY's book, **"Contemporary Issues in Architecture: Development, Memory, Environment"**, she co-edited with Efe DUYAN, published in May, 2021. In the published e-book, Assoc. Dr. Yıldız AKSOY's research on the spatial and temporal development of green areas is also published as a book chapter with the title **"A Research on the Spatial and Temporal Development of Green Areas, İstanbul Bakırköy District Case"**. Green areas are replaced by concrete buildings in many cities. In her research, AKSOY evaluated the amount, distribution, use and degree of meeting the legal norms of active green areas in Bakırköy, where green areas are decreasing due to population growth, unplanned settlements and new land uses.

The book chapter titled **"An Analysis on Green Areas and the Potential of Irrigation Using Rainwater and Grey Water: A Case Study from the Megacity Istanbul"** has been published by Assoc.Prof.Dr. Yıldız AKSOY and Res.Asst.Dr. Özge GÜRSOY from the Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture. The book chapter is included in the book titled Contemporary Issues in Architecture and Urban Planning: Architectural and Urban Forms. In the study, rainwater collected from roofs and grey water collected from bathrooms were chosen as alternative water sources, and their efficiency was tested in the pilot urban housing area in the study. Important and encouraging findings were achieved to identify alternative sources for the sustainability and efficiency of urban water supplies.

Lect.Dr. Sevcan ERCAN GRAHAM from IMU Department of Architecture published a book chapter titled **"The Politics of Normalcy: Examining the festival on the island of Imbros/ Gökçeada"** in the edited volume Architectures of Emergency: Heritage, Displacement and Catastrophe on November 26, 2021. In the book chapter, the author examines a prominent ethno-religious festival on the island of Imbros/Gökçeada, using the theories on normalcy within the framework of spatial research. The researcher presented how intangible cultural heritage can integrate with city, space, and society in more sustainable ways.

The book chapter authored by Assoc.Prof.Dr. Alpaslan Hamdi KUZUCUOĞLU from IMU Department of Information and Document Management titled **"Önleyici Korumada İnsan Kaynaklı Risk Faktörleri"** was published in the book "Kültürel Miras Uygulamalarında Önleyici Koruma". KUZUCUOĞLU stated that there are negative conditions that can harm people, buildings and collection elements in different places that contain cultural heritage artifacts, and mentioned that the greatest damage is due to emergencies and disasters. KUZUCUOĞLU also stated that the damages caused by natural disasters are also related to human-induced risk factors, adding that human-made risk factors prevent the protection of cultural heritage artifacts in cities.

A research paper co-authored by Res.Asst. Merve ARSLAN ÇİNKÖ from the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture titled **"Kars'ta Bir Rus Dönemi Yapısının Cumhuriyet Döneminde Endüstri Yapısına Dönüşümü: Süt Tozu Fabrikası Ve Korunmasına Yönelik Öneriler"** (A Study on the Transformation of a Russian Structure Into Industrial Facility in the Republic Period in Kars: Milk Powder Factory and Suggestions for Conservation) was published in the 24th issue of TUBA-KED Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Cultural Inventory. ÇİNKÖ examined the changes that a building built by the Russians in the 19th century in Kars underwent during the Republican Period, its transformation process into an industrial structure, and the periods when it was used as a Milk Powder Factory. She made suggestions for the building to be used as a 'City Museum'. Considering the architectural configuration and physical structure of the building, suggestions were presented for exhibiting important elements of the city under different themes.

Our Urban and Regional Planning Department member Lect.Dr. Ayşegül CAN published an article titled **"The Making and Unmaking of Tarlabası, Istanbul: An Account of Territorial Stigmatisation"** in the International Development Planning Review. Territorial stigmatisation has been drawing attention in the past decade as an important concept in analysing the bad reputation of run-down neighbourhoods and how this bad reputation is used and produced by state agencies. In her paper, CAN aimed to examine the links and relationships between the concepts of territorial stigmatisation, state-led gentrification and state power in the neighbourhood of Tarlabası. The paper concluded with reflections on the use of territorial stigmatisation as a tool and accelerator for urban transformation projects as well as its use as a mechanism by which to procure consent from the public.



Our Urban and Regional Planning Department member Lect.Dr. Ayşegül Can presented her study titled "[Urban Solidarity during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Shelter in Place in Istanbul](#)" in Cultural Studies and Su Gender Speaker Series on 21th April 2021. The novel coronavirus has been emphasizing and exacerbating the effects of a widening wealth gap, years of policies of austerity, and the extent of social inequality all over the world. CAN's talk especially focused on the networks of urban solidarity on the ground and how they navigated their way around the restrictions to get to the people in need. In addition, she discussed the ways in which the local and national state can -and did- exploit public concerns and the confusion that have been evoked by the pandemic to fast-track their controversial urban projects and decisions.

Res.Asst. Yasin SAYGILI from the Art History Department of our University, presented a research paper as a part of "Information and Experience Sharing Conference on Research, Protection and Promotion of Immovable Cultural Heritage Sites of the Ottoman Period" conference held in Edirne on July 13-14-15, 2021. In his talk titled "[Ottoman Cultural Heritage on Via Militaris](#)", SAYGILI introduced the historical Via Militaris (Diagonal Road) Road, which also passes through Harmanlı and Edirne, and shared information on the cultural heritage and protection of cultural heritage on the road.

Res.Asst. H. Aysun ÖZKAN YAZAR from IMU Department of Urban and Regional Planning presented her study titled "[Governance Relations in Gated Communities: Istanbul Example](#)" in Istanbul Housing Summit as a guest speaker on December 3, 2021. She evaluated good governance practices in gated communities in Istanbul. She pointed to the privatization process of housing areas and their management and mentioned the phenomenon of restricted public space in cities. She also remarked that gated communities do not solely have the housing function anymore and they are a shining example of good governance. Rather, they constitute a new form of governance and organization structure integrated in the current urban dynamics including different actors, management tools, processes, and self-management skills.

