

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

Foreword

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Office

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FOREWORD



Thanks to their key position in the production and dissemination of new knowledge and methods, universities play an important role in ensuring economic development and social welfare. In addition, in parallel with the radical transformation that took place in education along with all aspects of life in the 21st century, the new vision for universities has now shifted from the older scholastic concept of education solely oriented toward professional training to an understanding that prioritizes the human and social responsibility. Therefore, universities are central to the achievement of sustainable development goals. In this context, as İstanbul Medeniyet University,



We always consider sustainable development goals in our university's high-level strategies, organize our management and implementation processes in line with these principles, and follow up on our activities and process of sustainability through reports for continuous improvement. **(OPERATIONS)**



In accordance with our crucial role in the society's development process and as Turkey's first university to have a sociopark to generate solutions for a better world, we establish partnerships between sectors and institutions and mentor and lead local, national, and international research and activities to better understand and study the practices that will contribute to the sustainable development goals with the ultimate aim of building a more conscious society. **(LEADERSHIP)**



While we help our students gain professional and personal skills and qualifications, we are raising future leaders, decisionmakers, entrepreneurs, teachers, and more importantly, individuals with the awareness of creating a better world through the sustainability trainings we include in our course contents. **(EDUCATION)**



We encourage our faculty members to conduct research related to sustainable development goals and increase our research capacity with our project funds, technopark, and incubation centers. **(RESEARCH)**

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 with the mission statement "a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030" have become guiding principles for all of us as countries, institutions, and individuals today. The **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings**, which has assessed the contribution of universities around the world to these sustainable development goals since 2019, has been an important source of motivation for us to see our place in the world and measure our contribution with all the activities we carry out for sustainable development as a higher education institution. As İstanbul Medeniyet University, we were included in this ranking for the first time in 2021 along with 1154 universities from 96 countries, and in the four sustainable development goals that we stood out the most, we were globally ranked in the 301-400 range for SDG-2 "Zero Hunger", in the 401-600 range for SDG-3 "Good Health and Well-being", in the 601-800 range for SDG-4 "Quality Education", and in the 601-800 range for SDG-17 "Partnerships for the Goals". In our application for the year 2022, the number of SDGs we applied to rose to 8 with our activities aiming to contribute to the sustainable development goals.

First discussed in the Brundtland report published by the United Nations in 1987, the concept of sustainability is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Perhaps, until the last few years when the impact of the global climate crisis became aggravated and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic emerged, mankind perceived sustainability in relation to a distant future rather than the present and mainly associated it with sustainable economic development. And that might be the reason why people did not give much concern to the measures and steps to be taken individually or as societies. However, these two situations have made sustainability commitments more meaningful and urgent than ever before. We believe that this whole process has made our roles in raising awareness, research, and leadership even more important. For this reason, we held **our first Sustainability Week** events led by our International Performance Development Office in 2021 as part of our efforts to find ways and remedies to live in a more sustainable world and our goal of inspiring our students, to whom we will leave the future, as well as the society as a whole.

FOREWORD



In 2022, IMU Sustainability Office was established to assume the role to place our “Sustainable Development Goals” in the center of our institutional practices, educational planning, and research activities and to lead toward the realization of these goals. **IMU Sustainability Office** plays a significant part in developing our institutional strategies for sustainable development goals, planning and carrying out our related activities and reporting on our progress. In addition to its contribution to institutional development, the Office also organizes public training programs and workshops.

In order to ensure that our strategies are disseminated to our campus community and adopted at an institutional level, to share our research results with other researchers in an international platform, and also to raise awareness across all segments of the society, we share information about our activities for SDGs on our [website](#) recently created by our Sustainability Office.

Our Sustainability Office has planned to create annual sustainability development goals progress reports that will include all the goals and all areas of activity of our university so that we can see our progress in achieving SDGs to create new and better strategies and the report you are reading has been issued for the year 2021 as a result of these efforts. I thank everyone who have contributed to the creation of the report and especially Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK and Lect. Zehra SAVAN, who have edited and published all the content for our SDG website and our reports. I hope that our efforts will inspire new ideas, actions, and collaborations to take action for a more sustainable and livable future.

Prof. Dr. Yaşar BÜLBÜL

Vice-Rector and Sustainability Office Coordinator
Istanbul Medeniyet University



| Sustainable Development Goal | THE Impact Ranking 2022 | THE Impact Ranking 2021 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Overall Rank | 1001+ | 1001+ |
| SDG 2 Zero Hunger | 401+ | 301-400 |
| SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being | 401-600 | 401-600 |
| SDG 4 Quality Education | 801-1000 | 601-800 |
| SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth | 401-600 | - |
| SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | 601+ | - |
| SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities | 401-600 | - |
| SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities | 601+ | - |
| SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals | 1001+ | 601-800 |