

# SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**





# SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENİYET  
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University  
Sustainability Office**

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<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

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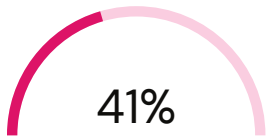


It is well documented that income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10 percent earning up to 40 percent of total global income. The poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 percent and 7 percent of total global income. In developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent if we take into account the growth of population. These widening disparities require the adoption of sound policies to empower the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race

or ethnicity. Income inequality is a global problem that requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide.

34.6  
MILLION

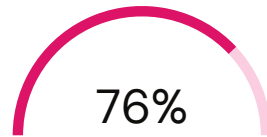
number of  
refugees in 2022



of refugees are  
children



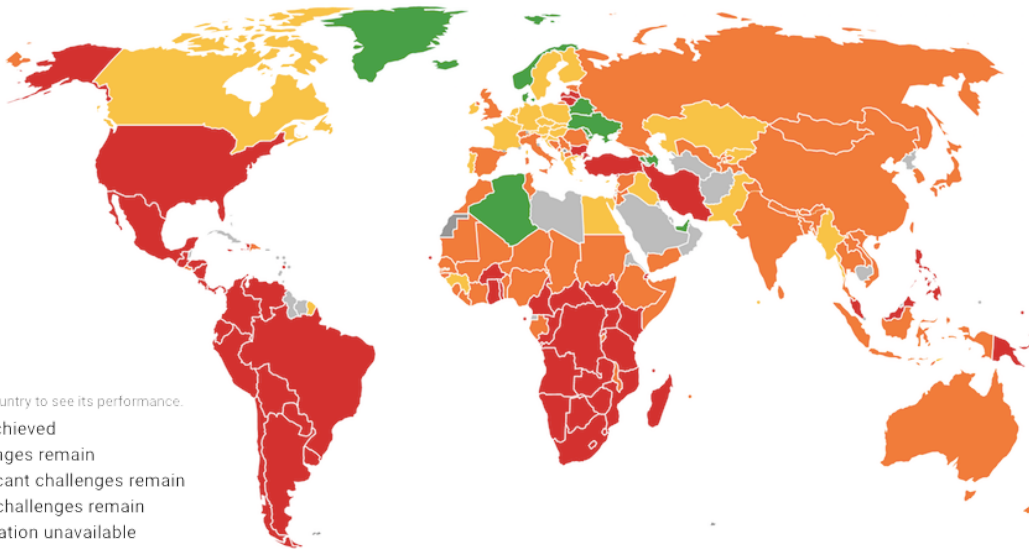
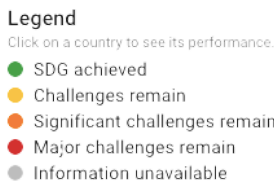
1 in 6 people  
worldwide experience  
some form of  
discrimination



of refugees are  
hosted by low and  
middle-income  
countries

217  
YEARS

to close the gender gap  
in employment  
opportunities and pay



302  
STUDENTS  
from developing countries



kindergarten to close the  
gender gap in employment  
opportunities for women

401-  
600  
Reduced Inequalities  
2023 Rank in  
THE IMPACT RANKINGS



95  
STUDENTS  
with disabilities



accessible facilities for people  
with disabilities

## Measures Against Discrimination

### Non-discriminatory Admissions Policy

The Turkish Constitution guarantees equality for everyone before the law without discrimination. As stipulated in [Article 10 of the Constitution](#), "All individuals are equal without any discrimination before the law, irrespective of language, race, color, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such considerations."

Reducing inequalities, whether they stem from economic, physical or international disadvantages, is key in achieving sustainable development goals. As a public university, IMU follows a non-discriminatory policy in student admission and staff recruitment as per the national legislation that guarantees equal treatment for all and supports disadvantaged groups through its policies and the activities of its related committees.

### Recruitment of Underrepresented Groups

Our students who are citizens of the Republic of Turkey are admitted to IMU through a central exam administered by the national Student Selection and Placement Center and as per Article 7 of the [Law no 6114 on the Organization and Duties of the Directorate of the Student Selection and Placement Center](#), the nation-wide university admission exam and the following assessment and placement process are carried out in compliance with the principles of reliability, confidentiality, and, objectivity in a way to ensure equal opportunities for all applicants. On the other hand, we admit our international students through our annual [Istanbul Medeniyet University International Student Selection Exam](#), in which we give priority in admissions to the students from regions and countries with widespread poverty and wars. As of 2022, IMU had 302 foreign students from developing countries.

As of 2022, 95 students with disabilities were enrolled in the undergraduate and graduate programs in IMU.

**95**  
STUDENTS  
with disabilities were enrolled  
in IMU

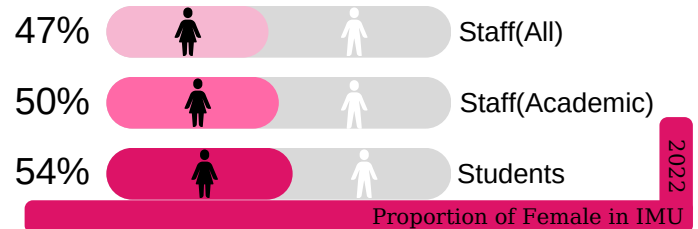
Our Turkish Music Department, which admits students through a talent exam, also assigns [a quota of 10% to applicants with disabilities](#).

In addition to all the national laws concerning staff recruitment, IMU also abides by the provisions of the [Regulation on Domestic Employment Services](#), which stipulates for public institutions to employ people with disabilities (4%) and ex-convicts (2%). As of 2022, a total of 10 administrative staff members with disabilities worked in our university.

Our Erasmus+ Office prioritizes students and staff members with disabilities and those who are close relatives of martyrs and war veterans in the [selection criteria for our Erasmus+ student and staff mobility programs](#).

When [selecting our part-time student employees](#), we give priority to the students from low-income families, students with disabilities, students who are children of martyrs and war veterans, and students who have been victims of natural disasters. In 2022, 55 students in IMU were employed in part-time work in the university's departments.

While our female employee rate was 47% in 2022, 54% of our students were female.



Due to the Ukraine-Russia war, IMU allocated [lateral transfer and special student quotas for both Turkish citizens and foreign students studying at higher education institutions in Ukraine](#), contributing to the continuation of education of students affected by the war and newly settled refugee students.

**302**  
STUDENTS  
from developing countries



## ***Tracking the Applications and Admissions of Underrepresented Groups***

IMU closely monitors the data on its students and staff on a yearly basis. These data include socio-demographic information about age, sex, education, ethnicity, migration background, and disability status among others. The data on our undergraduate students are kept by our Department of Student Affairs and statistical information about the students placed in our university's undergraduate programs for each program are annually published on the [website of the Council of Higher Education](#). Our staff data are kept by our Personnel Department, while the data on our graduate students are kept by our Institute of Graduate Studies. All the data on our students and staff are regularly analyzed and published in our annual official activity reports by our Strategy Development Department.

## ***Anti-discrimination and Anti-harassment Policies***

### ***The Law no 6701 on Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey***

sets forth the fundamental principles regarding the prohibition of discrimination and equal treatment and defines and prohibits against all kinds of direct and indirect discrimination, mobbing in the work place, harassment, and discrimination based on gender, race, color, language, religion, sect, philosophical and political opinion, ethnic origin, wealth, birth, marital status, health status, disability, and age.

As a state university, Istanbul Medeniyet University (IMU) is legally bound by and fully complies with the state's legislation concerning the prevention of discrimination and harassment and is committed to protecting and supporting disadvantaged individuals and groups both in its campus community and the society at large.

## ***Support for Underrepresented Groups***

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we offer [free psychotherapy and counseling services](#) to all our students, staff, and staff relatives via our Psychotherapy and Counseling Center in the South Campus. Counselees of IMU Psychotherapy and Counseling Center also include people from underrepresented groups within our community. The Center aims to:

- assist our students, staff, and staff relatives in their emotional, mental, and social development and academic problems, and

- support their ongoing psychological treatment particularly through cognitive behavioral psychotherapy with the approval and collaboration of the patient's doctor.

No health insurance is required for counseling visits and all our students, staff members, and staff relatives can use our counseling services by making an appointment through the system. No appointment is needed for emergency visits.

## ***Research and Practices to Reduce Inequalities***

IMU conducts research and application projects with its many research centers in order to reduce inequalities within and between countries and to ensure equality of opportunity.

Below is information about some of them:

IMU has a [Human Rights Application and Research Center](#), which was established to raise awareness about the human rights of disadvantaged groups and carry out scientific and academic activities to support their access to their fundamental rights. The research center also includes subunits that carry out studies in areas such as martyrs' and veterans' rights in the field of human rights; women's rights; children's rights; youth rights; elderly rights; disabled rights, refugee and immigrant rights; disadvantaged group rights; victims' rights; rights of gifted/intelligent individuals; minority rights and poor rights.

## ***IMU Autism Application and Research Center***

carries out early diagnosis, treatment, educational services and research activities on autism spectrum disorder; organizes public trainings in autism-related areas; carries out studies on mainstreaming/integration practices in order to provide an inclusive educational environment for students with autism spectrum disorders.

## ***IMU Africa Health Training and Research Center***

conducts education, practice and research in the field of health in the African Continent in order to reduce inequalities between countries and provide equal opportunities for African countries; in this context, it contributes to the professional development of experts and researchers in medicine, surgery and other health fields with the internship program provided at the university training hospital, and carries out training and surgeries in African countries in cooperation with institutions and organizations operating in the field of health.



IMU has made it a part of its **Institutional Strategic Plan** to support underrepresented groups in the society through various social responsibility projects for people with disabilities, refugees, the elderly, children, and the unemployed. These projects are reported every 6 months, and the aim is to increase the projects produced by 10% every year. In addition, the IMU Institutional Strategic Plan prepared for the 2020-2024 period aims to increase the number of disabled-friendly buildings on campus, the number of arrangements made in buildings for the disabled, and the number of technological equipment that removes obstacles. In this regard, the satisfaction level of disabled individuals in our campus community with university services is monitored and reported at regular intervals and new targets are determined.

Amaç (A6)	Kültür, Sanat, Sağlık ve Çevreye Katkı Hizmetlerinin Geliştirilmesi						
Hedef (H6.1)	Kültür, Sanat, Sağlık ve Çevre Konularında Sosyal Sorumluluk Projelerinin sayısını her yıl %10 artırmak.						
Performans Göstergeleri	Hedef Etkisi (%)	Plan Dönemi Başlangıç Değeri	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
PG6.1.1 Sosyal sorumluluk projesi sayısı (Engelli, yaşlı, çocuklar, işsizler, göçmenler vb)	40	5	7	9	10	11	
PG6.1.2 Engelli dostu bina sayısının toplam bina sayısına oranı	15	50	55	60	65	70	
PG6.1.3 Engellilerin üniversite hizmetlerinden memnuniyet düzeyi	15	70	75	80	80		
PG6.1.4 Engellileri kaldıran teknolojik ekipman sayısı	15	1	2	2	2		
PG6.1.5 Engelliler için binalarda yapılan düzenleme sayısı	15	2	3	4	4	4	
Sorumlu Birim	Sosyal İşbirlikleri Bölgesi Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi						
İşbirliği Yapılacak Birim(ler)	Tüm Akademik Birimler, Merkez, Ofis ve Koordinatörlükler, Yapı.						
	* Üniversitenin ve imkanlarının (laboratuvar, test, analiz, danışmanlık) kullanılmaması, tanınmaması.						

## IMU Institutional Strategic Plan Aims on Social Responsibility Projects for Disadvantaged Groups

To carry out such social responsibility projects in a more planned and efficient manner, Istanbul Medeniyet University established the **Sociopark (Research Center for Social Collaboration Area)**, which aims to generate solutions to national and global social problems and to guide social development policies by carrying out scientific projects in areas such as urbanization and urban problems, poverty, migration studies, disadvantaged groups, crime, law, and human rights, as well as organizing conferences, symposia, and workshops and publishing books on these subjects to reach the masses with the project results. IMU Sociopark also contributes to the implementation of practices that will provide equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups by collaborating with public institutions and transferring the knowledge produced and academic experience at the research center to the public.

## Disability Accommodation Policy

IMU Disabled Students Unit is in charge of coordinating all the adjustments in our university made to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in university life. As set forth in the Regulation on Consultation and Coordination for the Disabled in Higher Education Institutions published by the Council of Higher Education, IMU Disabled Students Unit mainly works toward the following objectives:

- To meet the needs of students with disabilities registered in higher education programs throughout their studies; to identify their potential challenges and carry out the necessary arrangements to eliminate those challenges;
- To organize the learning environment for disabled university students in a way that will not hinder their academic, physical, psychological, and social life; provision and preparation of learning tools, special course materials, learning and research environments for students with disabilities;
- To draft informative documents about disabilities, the specific limitations they bring about, and the necessary arrangements for other students and all faculty members to raise awareness; to provide consulting and in-service training programs for those concerned;
- To develop training programs and projects and to organize seminars, conferences, etc. on relevant issues;
- To develop courses and curricula concerning individuals with disabilities to be incorporated into the undergraduate curricula of higher education institutions;
- To take measures to support the students with disabilities in their examinations in matters concerning the duration, environment, materials, accompanying persons, etc. and to make the necessary arrangements according to the nature of different disabilities;
- To draft reports about the higher education programs that are suitable for students with disabilities to be submitted to the Directorate of the Student Selection and Placement Center before the national Student Selection Examination for higher education.

## Accessible Facilities for All

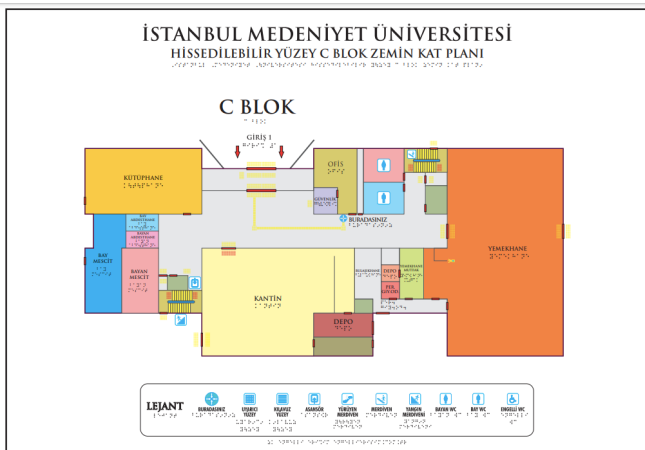
As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are committed to offering accessible facilities for people with disabilities and are continuously working to improve the accessibility of our campus areas.

Our Göztepe South Campus is a fully disabled-friendly campus. **Tactile ground surface indicators** were installed to guide the users with visual impairments from the main entrance to the campus to all the academic blocks and inside the buildings.



Tactile Ground Surface Indicators

Once the visually impaired users enter the building, they are guided to the **Braille embossed layout plans** and tactile signage on the walls informing them about the location of common user areas, classrooms, restrooms, dining halls and cafeterias, as well as the stairs and elevators.



Braille Embossed Layout Plans

The buildings in IMU campus areas contain accessible toilets and elevators for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, there are embossed information signs in all these areas.

The architectural project for our North Campus was designed to build a disabled-friendly campus and **IMU Ziraat Bank Library building** inside the North Campus was opened in 2021. This smart and barrier-free building has accessible toilets and elevators, tactile signage, and also includes a work room for people with special needs.



Work Room for People with Special Needs in Our Ziraat Bank Library

**Istanbul Medeniyet University Dental Hospital** located in our Orhanlı Campus has a special designated and accessible clinic for patients with disabilities.



Dental Clinic Room for People with Special Needs

## Disability Support Services

**Istanbul Medeniyet University Disabled Students Unit** was formed under our Rectorate to support our students with disabilities and thereby create an unhindered education environment by eliminating all potential barriers to the right to education for all. The unit coordinates all the support services provided to the members of our campus community with disabilities. In accordance with IMU's "Barrier-Free Medeniyet" policy, all academic and administrative staff and students within the University are voluntary supporters of this unit.



Istanbul Medeniyet University collaborates with numerous public institutions, research institutions, universities, local schools, and NGOs toward numerous goals that would contribute to achieving the objective of reducing inequalities within and among countries, chiefly including reducing income inequalities; promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all; ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination; and implementing policies that promote equality.

### Collaboration Protocols

**Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office Probation Directorate** signed a collaboration protocol with IMU in "education, research, consultancy and project design" fields. Within the scope of the protocol, IMU will support the reintegration of those under probation measure into society and to develop social responsibility projects for individuals in this group and also support strengthening the institutional capacity of probation, IMU will also contribute to the academic support of the staff working in judicial services and increase their professional competence.

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 sports, educational, social, cultural, and artistic activities in our university campuses and to contribute to training our students as individuals who are aware of their social responsibilities. IMU Youth Office aims to support the social services needed by large segments of the society and chiefly by the groups that require special policies. 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.

**The Turkish Red Crescent** and IMU signed a protocol to collaborate on social issues, chiefly including migration studies, social work, humanitarian law, humanitarian aid research, public health, and disaster management.

**District Governorship of Fatih, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Foundation University, Fatih District Directorate of National Education, Fatih District Directorate of Youth and Sports, Governorship of Istanbul, Fatih Social Service Center, Human and Civilization Movement Association, Happy Family Association,** and IMU signed a collaboration protocol to develop an integrated service model that involves family-oriented planning for all children under risk and their families and chiefly children who are under the risk of dropout and have high absenteeism rates or those who have cut ties with formal education, through the collaborative efforts of the stakeholders from public, civil society, and academic institutions.

Our faculty members of the **Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation** in IMU Faculty of Medicine run the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinic in Göztepe Prof. Dr. Süleyman Yalçın City Hospital, with which we have an affiliation protocol. In the clinic, our faculty members carry out and coordinate the diagnostic and treatment services for adults with disabilities, pediatric disabilities, spasticity, and spinal cord injuries and also train intern students and residents.

IMU cooperated with **TCDD** to ensure that individuals with special needs have access to local art and cultural heritage through museums. With the "Towards a Multi-Sensory and Inclusive Museum for Individuals with Sensory Disabilities" project, which is also supported by the EU, inclusive museum designs were made that individuals with special needs can easily access and experience. Also a conference was held in 2022 to share the results of the project with the participation of project partners from Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Greece. During the project, integrative learning activities were organized by our university department members for visually impaired and disabled children between the ages of 6-12.



Towards Accessible and Inclusive Museums Conference

IMU cooperated with ÇEGDER and Thessaly University to provide training to early intervention teams about the principles of intervention for disabled individuals. In the project named **ErISFaVIA (Early Intervention Services for Families with Children with Vision Impairment and Additional Disabilities)**, also supported by Erasmus+, early intervention expert teams from 6 different countries serving babies/children with special education needs between the ages of 0-6 and their families were trained.

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 toward reducing inequalities.

Perspective Student Club of our university visited **Galip Öztürk Childcare Houses** on the occasion of World Children's Rights Day on November 20, 2022. During the welcoming speech, childcare house officials explained the important role of the childcare houses in the lives of children in terms of eliminating the socio-economic inequalities such as access to education. They also described the work that has been done in identifying the children with special education needs and putting them into a more inclusive education model. Our students who participated in the visit had a nice chat with the children, played games and presented their gifts. After the visit, our students donated the books collected via the book donation campaign to contribute to the library in the Childcare House. Through the donation, they contributed to the children's equal access to education.

## Sevgi Evi Kütüphanesi

20 November 2022

Perspektif Kulübü olarak 20 Kasım Dünya Çocuk Hakları Günü'nde gerçekleştirdiğimiz Galip Öztürk Sevgi Evi ziyaretinde, küçük kardeşlerimizle sohbet ederken; kardeşlerimiz bizlere okumak ve eğlenceli vakit geçirmek için yeterince kitaplarının olmadığını söylediler. Bizlerde bunun üzerine düşündük ve Sevgi Evi'nde bir Galip Öztürk Childcare Houses kütüphanesinde bir kitap toplayarak ver almak ve

Visit Book Collection Announcement

Sociology Student Club contributed to the preparation of **aid packages for those in need during Ramadan** in cooperation with Mosque Imam of Beyoğlu Selime Hatun Mosque on March 27, 2022. In this event, which was held with the participation of club members, the target group to be helped was determined as families in need, the poor, orphan children and the homeless. In this direction, the clothes and belongings collected as a result of the donations to the mosque were packaged with the contributions of the club members and prepared to be distributed. The event provided social solidarity, contributing to the development of social welfare, and support was provided in helping the disadvantaged individuals of the society. Thus, the participants better understood the importance of helping others and the event contributed to raising awareness.

Bilgi Student Club of our university established two school libraries with the aim of ensuring equal opportunity in education within the scope of the social responsibility project. As part of the project sponsored by Üsküdar Municipality and Siirt Foundation, **two libraries** were established and opened to students' use in Siirt Pervari Dolusalkım Primary and Secondary School on May 17, 2022. In the project, which was carried out with the notion that access to equal opportunities in education is important for every individual of the society, the established libraries were named as "Medeniyet Bilgi Library" and "Dolusalkım Library". A total of 5500 books, 3000 for the primary school and 2500 for the secondary school, were added to the collection. This enrichment aimed to strengthen the learning opportunities of the school's students.

Bilgi Student Club also donated 250 university exam preparation books to Mardin Dargeçit İmam Hatip High School with the idea of providing access to equal opportunities in education.



Library Enrichment Project



Our leadership activities are not limited to Turkey but also reach overseas. Launched in 2018, **Istanbul Medeniyet University Africa Health Training and Research Center** (IMU MASAM) carries out training, application, and research in health in the African continent and in this context contributes to training specialists and researchers of medicine, surgery and other health areas and collaborates with healthcare institutions to contribute to achieving the goal of reducing inequalities.



IMU MASAM continues its ongoing training and application programs in surgery and medical sciences in Uganda, Sudan, Somalia, and Somaliland and carries out activities to initiate new training programs in the African continent. MASAM carries out activities in the African continent concerning undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate medical training programs; national and international meetings on health-related subjects such as panels, symposia, seminars, conferences, workshops, etc.; research projects on medicine and surgery; medical patient treatment and care; health education and preventive healthcare.

MASAM has been organizing an international medical seminar series called **"Istanbul/Africa Health Meetings"** and the fourth one of the seminar series was held online on 25 May 2022 under the themes "Africa's Silent Epidemic, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health" and "Diabetes Care in Africa".

ISTANBUL-AFRICA  
HEALTH MEETINGS-4

## AFRICA DAY



gene MASAM MASAM AFRICA HEALTH TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER

Istanbul- Africa Health Meetings - 4

Our faculty members working for MASAM have medically examined and performed free surgeries for numerous patients in need during their visits where they teach the medical students of the African Universities we have been collaborating. Within the scope of the International Education Programs conducted by Istanbul Medeniyet University Africa Health Training and Research Center (IMU MASAM) in 2022, 47 students from 11 different universities in 6 different countries (Azerbaijan, Palestine, Jordan, Somalia, Somaliland, United Arab Emirates and UK) received medical training in 12 different departments at Istanbul Medeniyet University Göztepe Prof. Dr. Süleyman Yalçın City Hospital.

As part of the collaboration protocols concluded between our University and numerous African universities, physician associates can visit our hospital and our Faculty of Medicine for training and observation purposes. Within the scope of

MASAM's Resident Training Programs,

**5 general surgery residents** from Somali Banadir University, **2 cardiology residents** from Somaliland Hargeisa University and **one pediatrics resident** from Frantz Fanon University visited our training and research hospital as observers in 2022.

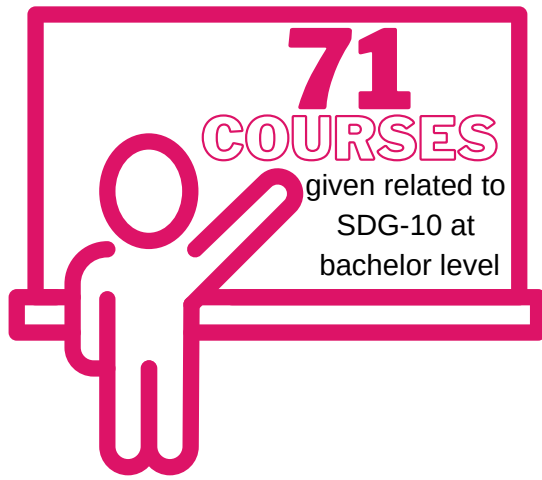


General Surgery Resident Training Program Residents

Young MASAM community, one of the student groups of our university, organized many workshops to contribute to the professional education of medical school students at our training hospital. On December 3, 2022, the application workshop called **"Basic Principles of Ultrasonography"** was held with the participation of 15 medical students and the participants were taught basic ultrasonography skills. On December 24, 2022, **"Surgical Suture"** workshop was held and the materials used for surgical suturing were introduced to the students and the suturing techniques were demonstrated in practice.



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 aware of our critical role and therefore, we primarily inform our students, the leaders and decision-makers of the future, about the Sustainable Development Goals through course contents, co-curricular activities and student club activities and strengthen their awareness. For this purpose, each of our faculties and departments prepares SDG-related course contents, including courses that address the Sustainable Development Goals holistically, as well as specific contributions that can be made by the expertise of the relevant professional field in which they provide training. In 2022, 71 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-10 were given at IMU. Some of these are listed below.



The panel titled **"Autism Spectrum Disorder and Inclusion/Integration Practices"** was held online on April 2, 2022, through the collaboration of Istanbul Medeniyet University Autism Research Center and IMU Faculty of Education Sciences. This year's theme was "inclusion/integration practices". Just like every year, this year, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) was discussed from different perspectives.

Prof.Dr. Sema BATU contributed to the program with her presentation titled "Autism Spectrum Disorder and Overview of Inclusion/Integration Practices". BATU mentioned that students with autism spectrum disorder should be supported to show their best performance by using effective teaching strategies and that opportunities should be created for students to communicate with their peers. Then, our faculty member Dr. Ayşe Büşra SUBAŞI YURTÇU talked about the needs of inclusion/integration education in our country and a service she started within the scope of the Social Autism Program.



Faculty	Course
Arts and Humanities	SOS403 - Migration Sociology
	SDG 409 - Social Inequalities
Education Sciences	ECE016 - Children Under Risk and their Education
	ÖZL203 - Braille Reading and Writing
Health Sciences	SHB252 - Migration and Social Work
	SHB401 - Social Work and Disabled People
Law	HUK315 - Refugee Law
Political Sciences	MLY417 - Income Distribution and Poverty

The collaborative consultation process offered to volunteering preschool teachers was explained and the opinions of participating teachers Merve TEZEL and Tuğçe YURT were shared. After the presentation, our faculty member Assoc.Prof.Dr. Özcan Erkan AKGÜN shared his experiences of inclusion/integration from the perspective of the parents and emphasized the factors that experts and parents should pay attention to. Inclusive education practices from the perspective of the teacher were shared with the speech of the preschool teacher Fatma KIYAK, who shared her integration/inclusion experiences with a student with ASD. Finally, our pre-school teaching students Şerife AKDENİZ, Nisanur AKYÜZ, Rabia KARABACAK, Buse YALÇIN, Merve Nur DEMIRCI and Eda Demir, who were awarded by TOVAK for their "Be Aware of Disadvantaged Children" project they carried out with their supervisor Prof. Yeşim GÜLEÇ ASLAN, shared details about their project.





The conference on "Refugee Law and Migration Policies from a Human Rights Perspective" organized by IMU Faculty of Law in cooperation with Gelişim Law Club was held online at 17:00 on April 23, Saturday.

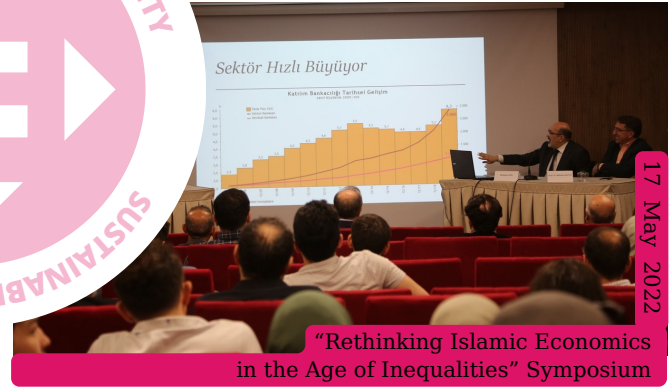
The conference started with the speech of Assoc.Prof.Dr. Tülay YILDIRIM MAT, faculty member of IMU International Law Division. Evaluating the compliance of Turkey and Europe's refugee policies with international human rights and refugee law, YILDIRIM MAT stated that Europe follows discriminatory policies against asylum-seekers, and these discriminatory immigration policies are more evident during the admissions phase. She explained that discriminatory policies can cost human life as a result of acts such as being pushed at sea, sometimes cause situations against human dignity, and violate rights such as the right to life, the prohibition of torture, and the prohibition of discrimination. She criticized the fact that although Europe's refugee policies look in line with international law in terms of procedure, they are incompatible with human rights law in substance.



In the event, Lecturer PhD. Zeynep ARDIÇ of IMU Division of General Public Law began her presentation by explaining the phenomenon of migration. ARDIÇ evaluated the relationship of migration with human rights through its causes and consequences. She explained that national and international armed conflicts are the root cause of mass migrations and major human rights problems. In this respect, she stated that Turkey is the country that receives the highest number of refugees due to the armed conflicts in the Middle East, and that although Turkey is a transit country, it has now become a destination country because of Europe's anti-refugee policy.

"Rethinking Islamic Economics in the Age of Inequalities" symposium was held at Istanbul Medeniyet University on May 17, 2022. Our Rector Prof.Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK also attended the symposium which consisted of three different sessions.

In the first session, Prof.Dr. Feridun YILMAZ delivered his presentation on "Capitalism as a System that Creates Inequality and the Experience of the Pandemic", in which he discussed mainstream economic thought, the manifestations of capital accumulation, and the effects of capitalism on consumption habits. The other speaker Prof.Dr. Mehmet ASUTAY evaluated the test of the global economy in the pandemic in the context of capital movements and income inequality. He conveyed the suggestions offered by Islamic economics to the participants and emphasized the importance of having knowledge about economics. In the afternoon session of the symposium, Prof.Dr. Ahmet Faruk ASLAN talked about. "Socio-economic inequalities in Turkey and the importance of developing Islamic Economic Institutions".



The Human Rights Summit, organized by Aydın Civilizations Academy Student Club of our university was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, in Aşıkpaşa Conference Hall of the South Campus of our university. After explaining the legal dimension of the concept of refugee in his speech titled "Refugees in Europe and Turkey", speaker Apak Kerem ALTINTOP touched upon the reasons for the increasing number of refugees in the world. He stated that global policies and the use of force prohibited by the UN Charter are quite triggers of the migration. On the other hand, he touched upon the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of refugees in the light of the 1951 Convention on the Legal Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The **“Symposium of Palestine Problem in terms of International Law and Human Rights”** was held on Saturday, 28 Mayıs 2022 at Istanbul Medeniyet University South Campus Aşık Paşa Conference Hall with the partnership of Science and Civilization Club of our university, Science and Civilization Association, Burak Association and with the participation of academicians who are experts in their fields.

The first session started with Fatih Şemsettin IŞIK's speech entitled **“Palestinian Citizens of Israel: Identity and Politics”**. Stating that the Israeli citizen Palestinians make up 20% of the population in Israel and are mostly young people, IŞIK talked about the situation of the Arabs living in Israel, their identity development, and the pressures applied by Israel. He stated that Palestinians living in Israel constituted 18% of the parliament, with 15 deputies being elected in 2019. He stated that despite this situation, these citizens are treated as second class citizens in Israel and even the laws are arranged according to the superiority of the Israelis with discriminatory laws.



The second speaker, Asst.Prof.Dr. Özlem YÜCEL who is a member of International Relations Department of our Faculty of Political Sciences discussed **“Human Rights Violations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem”**. Firstly, YÜCEL emphasized the concept of “Apartheid” and criticized Israel's racist-discriminatory regime based on racial disparities in this context, stated that many of Israel's discriminatory policies are also against its own domestic law, and that it can make this distinction even to its own citizens.

The second session started with Asst.Prof.Dr. Muhammed Hüseyin MERCAN's speech on **“Israel's Armed Attacks on Gaza”**. Touching on Israel's strategic aims on Gaza, MERCAN stated that Israel wants to add Gaza to its territory, for reasons such as Gaza's border with the Mediterranean, its proximity to the natural gas fields in the Eastern Mediterranean, and its contribution to Israel in the field of tourism.

Atty. Yasin ŞAMLI discussed the **“Mavi Marmara Tragedy as an Example of Aggression”**. Stating that what happened in Gaza is state terrorism, ŞAMLI focused on the Mavi Marmara tragedy and gave information about the legal processes and shared his memories of the Mavi Marmara Attack, in which we had 10 martyrs.

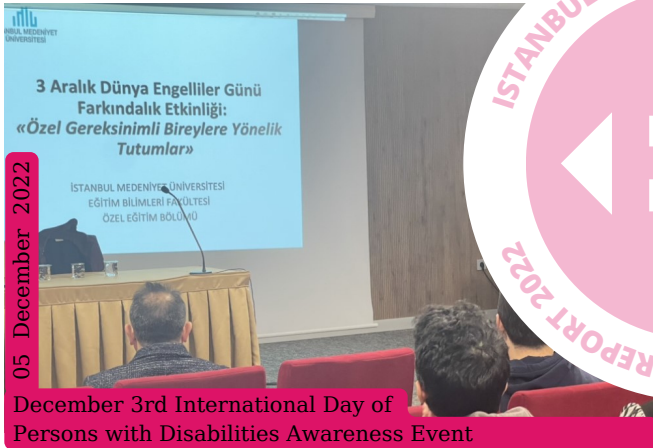
The third session started with Prof.Dr. Berdal ARAL's speech on **“Palestine's Struggle for Freedom in the Context of the Right to Self-Determination”**. ARAL stated that Israel always tries to be in conflict in order to keep its citizens together. Stating that the Palestinians living in Palestine have self-determination authority over their land rights, ARAL also emphasized Palestine's position in international organizations. As the last speaker of the symposium, Dr. Said EL-DAHAN addressed the issue of **“Palestine's Right to Self-Defense in the Face of Israel's Armed Attacks”** in Arabic. Expressing that Israel continues its warfare under the concept of self-defense, DAHAN underlined that this occupation by Israel is an attack on international peace.



Sociology Club of our university organized a 15-week **Sign Language Training Workshop** under the slogan “Sign Language is for Removing Barriers”. The workshop attracted great demand from our university and students outside our university and was held every Friday starting from April 8, 2022, between 17.30-19.00 in the South Campus Ömer Halis Demir Lecture Hall. Yunus Gültekin, Volunteer Sign Language Instructor and founding president of We Sing for Our Children Association, volunteered as the trainer of the 15-week training program. The training aimed to increase the number of people who know sign language; to create an environment in which hearing-impaired individuals can better express themselves at school; and thus, to enhance inclusiveness in education.

**December 3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities Awareness Event** was held by the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Department of Special Education with the theme of “Attitudes towards Individuals with Special Needs” on December 5, 2022 at IMU Ziraat Bank Central Library Conference Hall.

Prof.Dr.Ahmet AKIN, Dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences, spoke at the event about the arrangements and studies carried out for the disabled throughout the faculty. Vice Rector Prof.Dr. Fatih SARIOĞLU provided examples of accessible education areas for the disabled in Istanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank Library and classroom building, and emphasized the importance of reducing inequalities and the ongoing studies on equal opportunities in education, accessibility and inclusive education throughout the university. Lecturers from the Department of Special Education made presentations on special education during the program.



December 3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities Awareness Event

In the event, Asst.Prof.Dr.Hatice ŞENGÜL ERDEM talked about the “Attitudes towards Individuals with Special Needs”, Lect.Dr.Sevgi KIRBOYUN TİPİ about the “Attitudes towards Individuals with Visual Impairment”, and Prof.Dr. Yeşim GÜLEÇ ASLAN about “University without Barriers and Legal Regulations”. In addition, special education teacher Cemile Özlem CAN presented “Attitudes towards Individuals with Multiple Disabilities: Through the Eyes of a Mother” based on her experiences with her child with special needs. Students from the Department of Special Education held awareness-raising activities in the classroom building and the library during the event. The Braille alphabet was introduced to university staff and students through these activities.

To celebrate December 3rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities as adopted by the United Nations, a **“Disability Day Awareness Event”** was held by the Techno-Health Student Club of our University on December 12. 50 people from our students and their families attended the event. Istanbul Deputy Serkan BAYRAM attended the event as the guest of honor. As a disabled individual, Mr. BAYRAM told his own story and the difficulties he faced and emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive and effective education environment and reducing inequalities in education. He shared with our students how he struggled with these difficulties, how the problems faced by disabled people could be overcome, the content of the movie “Wheat Grain”, and the feedback he received. He also mentioned that the regulations made by our state for disabled people are strengthened to provide a more inclusive education environment for disabled people.



Persons with Disability Day Awareness Event

Istanbul Medeniyet University Psychology Club Academic Events Team organized an event titled **“One World One Child”**. The event took place on December 18, 2022, at Uskudar Municipality Baglarbasi Congress and Culture Center in two sessions and was attended by participants from within and outside the university. In the first session of the event, lecturer Enver MENGÜ gave a speech entitled “Migrant Children”. MENGÜ drew attention to the difficulties that migrant children face and addressed the challenges they face in the process of adapting. He emphasized that migrant children often face economic, social, and psychological problems, in addition to language and cultural differences. Then, MENGÜ made suggestions for solving these issues.



IMU Law Workshop Student Club organized a special event within the scope of International Day Against Racial Discrimination. The online event held on 20 March 2022 at 19.00 hosted Asst.Prof.Dr. Özlem YÜCEL, a member of Faculty of Political Sciences. In the **International Day Against Racial Discrimination Event**, YÜCEL explained the concept and history of racial discrimination. Subsequently, he provided information about the international documents and mechanisms that have a role in the fight against racial discrimination in international law. In this context, he emphasized the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the functioning of the committee, which was established pursuant to the convention and which receives individual applications. Then, he discussed the Prohibition of Discrimination in the Context of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is a regional mechanism, and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in this direction.



Lect.Dr. Sevgi KIRBOYUN TIPI an online training titled **"How can I Prepare a Tactile Picture/Graph/Map for Visually Impaired Students with Lowest Cost?"** on September 1, 2022. In the online training session, information was provided on how to prepare tactile materials, which are of great importance for students with visual impairments in their education. The participants were provided with information about the rules to be followed while preparing the tactile materials (map, picture, graphic, etc.) and how to read them. Then, information was given on how to create relief graphics, pictures, and tables with the lowest cost and using the materials at home and applications related to the subject were carried out together with the participants. Interactive information exchange and a fun educational experience with applications was provided to the 19 participants, including families who have a child with visual impairment and educators who work for children with visual impairment.

**En Düşük Maliyetle Kabartma Resim/Grafik/Harita Nasıl Hazırlarım?**

Eğitimci:  
Dr. Öğr. Gör. Sevgi Kırboyun Tipi

**Online Aile Eğitimi**  
Zoom meeting ID: 497 059 058  
Tarih: 1 Eylül Perşembe  
Saat: 21:00-22:30

01 September 2022

**İhtiyaçlı Malzemeler**  
Tablet ve kalem

**İhtiyaçlı Mum**  
Renkli İp

**Online Training: How can I Prepare a Tactile Picture/Graph/Map for Visually Impaired Students with Lowest Cost?**

Lect.Dr. Sevgi KIRBOYUN TIPI from the Department of Special Education at IMU Faculty of Educational Sciences held a seminar titled **"Integrated Environment: Are My Course Materials Accessible?"** for faculty members on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at Istanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank conference hall. The seminar covered topics such as ensuring accessibility for individuals with special needs and offering inclusive education, as well as providing examples of potential applications. The faculty members who attended the seminar learned how to create visually accessible PDF, Word, and PPT documents. A teacher training was organized to contribute to providing equal opportunities in education by reducing inequalities for students with special needs.

The Art History Club of our university organized an event titled **"Others in 19th Century Istanbul"** on December 20, 2022. The speaker was the club advisor, Res.Asst. Yasin SAYGILI. In this event, which addressed the different lives and diverse aspects of these lives in the 19th century Ottoman Empire, the lives, societal positions, and distinctive characteristics of marginalized groups such as "madmen" and "dervishes" were discussed. In his speech, SAYGILI explained how the madmen and dervishes were perceived in society, how they lived, and the roles they assumed. He then shared information with the audience about the prejudices, exclusion, and societal acceptance that they faced in Ottoman Istanbul and about the religious lives, worship practices, roles, and functions of these marginalized people.

The academic staff members of our university carry out research on reducing income inequalities; promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all; ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination; implementing financial and social policies that promote equality; improving the regulation of global financial markets and institutions; ensuring enhanced representation for developing countries in global financial institutions; responsible and well-managed migration policies; special and differential treatment for developing countries; encouraging development assistance and investment in the least developed countries; and reducing the transaction costs for migrant remittances, publish the results of their research and share them with other researchers, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public as a foundation for policies toward achieving SDGs.

A book by Asst.Prof.Dr. Cenk BEYAZ from the Department of Sociology of our university, titled **Göç ve Aidiyet: Kırsal Göçmenin Memleketine Bağlılığını Sürdürme Mücadelesi** (Migration and Belonging: The Rural Migrants' Struggle to Maintain Loyalty to Their Hometown) was published. The book, which aims to explain and focus on migration and urbanization, examines the different strategies and practices of 81 immigrants from Rize, who have migrated to different places within or outside the country to return to their homeland in some cases, but mostly to continue their lives in a multi-settlement system and transfer the sense of loyalty to their homeland to the next generations. The book deals with the issues why immigrants had to migrate from their place of birth, how these factors are understood and interpreted by the immigrants, what the patterns of thought, emotion, relationships and socialization are that push them to maintain their contact with the land where they were born, and the new life order and family circles they establish in the place they migrated. BEYAZ reaches the conclusion that in many cases, immigrants do not see themselves as someone who has migrated, but as someone who has gone abroad temporarily to return to their home.

Thanks to the collaboration between Istanbul Medeniyet University and the Association of Leading Principals, a book was prepared as part of the **social responsibility project "We Are Together With Our Differences: The Roles and Responsibilities of School Administrators and Educators for Effective Inclusion and Integration Practices"**. Under the leadership of Prof.Dr. Yeşim GÜLEÇ ASLAN from Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Educational Sciences, Department of Special Education Teaching and with the contributions of Assoc.Prof.Dr. İbrahim Hakan KARATAŞ, the book **"Together with Our Differences: Effective Inclusion Integration Practices"** prepared by the students of the Special Education Department Early Childhood Special Education Master's Program was published.



The book provides guidance for situations that children with special needs face, for school administrators who face various problems every day in order to cope with the problems they face. "Who can help them to cope with these problems and improve their schools? How can they grasp the boundaries of the complex competence areas of school management? The answers to these questions are discussed in the book and in order to create an inclusive, reliable and accessible education environment, it presents the scientific information produced in the field of school administration in an easy, understandable and application-oriented way for school administrators.

The book chapter titled **“International Migration and Refugee Issue”** by Asst.Prof.Dr. Cenk BEYAZ from our University's Department of Sociology has been published. In the text, various aspects, reasons, and consequences of international migration were discussed. It was emphasized that migration is a topic of academic interest and that Turkey plays a significant role in migration due to its geographical location. The impact of irregular migrants was noted as contributing to the increase in migration movements; millions of people have been prompted to migrate due to reasons such as war, compulsion, and asylum requests. The concept of refugees and Turkey's refugee policies were also explained in the text. The existence of temporary protection status for refugees was mentioned, with a specific focus on its application to Syrian refugees. However, it was noted that prolonged temporary protection status could be burdensome, suggesting that Turkey should enhance border controls against irregular migration flows and engage in responsibility sharing.

Asst.Prof.Dr. Kadir TEMİZ, one of the faculty members of the Department of International Relations at IMU Faculty of Political Sciences, gave a seminar titled **“How Does the Climate Change Impact on Global Migration?”** within the scope of the Fulbright Enrichment program held in Cleveland on 7-10 December 2022. In his speech, TEMİZ stated that climate change has created a global migration process due to the changes and destructions it has created in the production, economic structures and living spaces of the regions, and discussed how and why this migration has become an important issue for international relations and foreign policy. He stated that global migration has entered an unstoppable phase that needs to be supported by civil society, such as the diaspora groups in host countries, with an institutional structuring approach. Thus, both the migration and immigrant policies of nation states and the growing concerns about migrants in these states will play a mitigating role rather than increasing populism and illiberal migration policies.

Prof.Dr.Yeşim GÜLEÇ ASLAN, a faculty member of IMU Department of Special Education, made a presentation on **“Overview of Physical Environment Arrangements in the Context of Barrier-Free School Model”** at the 11th International Conference on Culture and Civilization held in Mardin on February 22-23, 2022. In her presentation, Prof.Dr.Yeşim GÜLEÇ ASLAN first explained the educational environments for individuals with special needs and the barrier-free school model in special education. In this direction, special arrangements for the physical environment should be made in school and classroom environments on the basis of the needs of individuals with special needs. Prof.Dr. Yeşim GÜLEÇ ASLAN discussed the theoretical information about the basic arrangements that can be made physically in classroom environments, and finally shared examples of arrangements that can be made in the school environment in line with universal design principles.

The research by Asst.Prof.Dr. Ertan GÖRGÜ of IMU Department of Preschool Education and Duygu ARICI DOĞAN, our graduate student of the Family Counseling Master's Program, titled **“Investigation of the Views' of the Mothers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder on Suspending Special Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic Process”** was published in the Journal of Qualitative Research in Education. The aim of the study was to examine the views of mothers of children with ASD regarding curfews and a break from special education during the Covid-19 pandemic and to gain an understanding about how individuals with special needs were affected by the pandemic. It was carried out with the mothers of children with ASD who attend a special education center in Gaziosmanpaşa, Istanbul. According to the results, it was determined that suspension of special education due to Covid-19 had positive and negative effects on children with ASD. As to the positive effects, it was revealed that the pandemic mostly caused changes in family relations on children with ASD. The area with the highest negative effects was reported as behavioral problems.



The research article titled **“Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic Process on Migrants in Turkey”**, written by Prof. Hamza ATEŞ, a faculty member of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the Faculty of Political Sciences of our university, together with Dr. Aslı COŞKUN, was published in Konuralp Medical Journal. In this work, using qualitative research methods and techniques, the effects of the pandemic process on immigrants in Turkey were investigated. The data obtained as a result of the research revealed that foreigners who came to Turkey through migration were in a more disadvantaged position than domestic people in terms of a healthy and quality lifestyle and access to basic public services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the difficulties of being an immigrant, combined with the difficult process experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic, have created a kind of multiple disadvantage situation for immigrants, which created a serious handicap in reducing inequalities.

The research conducted by Dr. Sevgi KIRBOYUN TİPİ, faculty member of Istanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Educational Sciences Department of Special Education, and Samet ATA, Çiğdem AYTEKİN and İsmihan ARTAN, titled **“Inter-cultural examination of deprivation and prosociality in special education teachers: a comparison of USA and Turkey”** was published in Çukurova University Faculty of Education Journal. This study, which was carried out to take a step towards equal opportunities in education with students with special needs, examined the relationships between prosocial skills and deprivation levels in teachers of visually impaired students. The environmental Deprivation Scale for Teachers was developed by the researchers with 751 teacher participants. It was found that American Teachers of Students with Visual Impairment student have higher levels of prosocial skills and lower levels of deprivation. In addition, there is a positive and significant relationship between prosocial skills and deprivation.

Lect. Dr. Sevgi KIRBOYUN TİPİ of IMU Educational Sciences Special Education Department delivered a presentation in “Biltevt2022: International Barrier-Free Informatics 2022 Congress”, which was held on September 22-24, 2024. In her presentation titled **“Experiences with Dokun-Duy-Öğren Application”**, she evaluated the applications aiming to empower visually impaired students and enhance their access to education. Lect. Dr. Sevgi KIRBOYUN TİPİ explained that the Dokun-Duy-Öğren Application is a mobile application launched with the cooperation of the Inclusive and Accessible Life Association (ERYADER) and aims to strengthen the independent learning experiences of individuals with visual impairment by providing them with both tactile and auditory access to information to offer a quality and inclusive educational environment for individuals with disabilities. She also offered an experience with this application to visually impaired students. She conducted a hands-on activity with three volunteer participants with visual impairment in different age groups about using the application.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kadir TEMİZ from IMU Department of International Relations conducted a research project titled **“The Impact of Diaspora Organizations on Foreign Policies of Host Countries: The Case of Uyghur Diaspora Organizations in the United States and Turkey”**. In the project, he investigated the contemporary experiences of a particular ethnic and religious community (Uyghurs) suffering under the heavy oppression of an emerging great power (China) by questioning the activities of the organizations they established in the United States and Turkey. He analyzed the causal relationships between the foreign policy decisions of host countries and the activities of diaspora organizations. The researcher concluded that the main idea behind the establishment of diaspora organizations was to secure their existence in the host countries, to live in a peaceful society and to influence the local and international audience through political, economic, social and cultural activities.





PhD. Miray AZAKLI KÖSE, a member of the International Law Department of IMU Law Faculty, delivered a speech at the “Legal and Sociological Aspects of Forced Migration Conference on the Anniversary of Hijra” held on 30 July 2022 in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Non-Governmental Organizations. AZAKLI KÖSE presented her paper titled **“Basic Concepts of Forced Migration in National and International Law”**, in which she explained the basic principles of forced migration in the light of 1951 Geneva Convention on the Legal Status of Refugees, European Convention on Human Rights and Law No. 6458. In this respect, she answered questions such as what are the types of international protection status, who is a refugee, what is temporary protection, what is the principle of non-refoulement. She emphasized the necessity of establishing a fair balance between the national security concerns of the states and the right to asylum and the protection of human rights. She stated that even if asylum is not a right, states can be held responsible if they do not receive applications for asylum and do not carry out risk assessments. She explained the legal status of asylum seekers residing in our country and the migration policies in the light of these documents.

The **Barrier-Free City Kocaeli Project**, which took place in 2021 and 2022 and lasted 14 months, was carried out under the leadership of ŞURA Urban Policies and Research Center established within Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, in cooperation with Kocaeli Governorship, universities, chambers of industry and commerce, Eastern Marmara Development Agency and Kocaeli City Council. One of the faculty members of our university, Prof.Dr. Hamza ATEŞ also took part in the execution of the project. In the project, a comprehensive inventory was created by compiling the efforts made in Turkey and the world to rehabilitate disabled people and make cities barrier-free. Surveys were conducted regarding the expectations and demands of disabled individuals living in Kocaeli province and their views on services for disabled people. Finally, the “Barrier-Free City Council” was organized, bringing together all effective institutions and stakeholders in the province regarding the barrier-free city issue.

Asst.Prof.Dr. Ayşe Büşra SUBAŞI YURTÇU from İstanbul Medeniyet University Faculty of Educational Sciences, Department of Special Education presented her thesis called **“Improving Inclusive Practices In a Preschool Classroom Through Consultation: An Action Research”** at the 6th National Interdisciplinary Congress on Early Childhood Intervention (UDEMKO2022) with International Participation, held in Eskişehir between 26-29 May 2022. Within the scope of this study, which was carried out in order to provide quality education for individuals with special needs and to have equal opportunities in education, teacher training was also provided while providing education to a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This research is designed as a three-stage action study aiming to improve inclusion practices through consultation in a preschool classroom where a student with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is enrolled. The action plans included practices aimed at preventing or stopping behavioral problems, practices to increase the duration of student participation in activities, effective use of prompting and reinforcement systems, adaptation skills, peer mediated intervention and incidental teaching. The changes determined for the student with ASD were increase in verbal expressions, starting to follow instructions, increase in social interaction, increase in conscious behavior, awareness and perception level of his surroundings, development of pencil holding and painting skills, starting to be included in classroom routines, prolongation of time spent in meaningful activities, decreased duration of self-stimulating behaviors, increased duration of participation in class activities and starting to be involved in individual and group play.

