

# IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-13 CLIMATE ACTION**



# SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET  
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University  
Sustainability Office**

Kuzey Kampüs BİLTAM No: 508, Unalan Mah. Unalan Sok. D-100  
Karayolu Yanyol 34700 Usküdar/Istanbul/TURKEY



<https://sdg.medeniyet.edu.tr>  
[@surdurulebilir\\_imu](https://www.instagram.com/surdurulebilir_imu)

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## **Coordinated by**

Prof.Dr. Yaşar BÜLBÜL

## **Written by**

Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK

Lecturer Zehra SAVAN

Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR

## **Proofread by**

Lecturer Zehra SAVAN

## **Designed by**

Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK

## **SDG Icons**

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

## **Sustainable Development Report Maps**

<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/turkey>

## **SDG Statics**

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-midpoint/>

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

# FOREWORD

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. In this context, 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 human and social responsibility. Therefore, universities are central to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Thus, 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)**

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

We carry out a wide range of activities and events to share our knowledge, experience, and best practices about the implementation of SDGs with our students, staff, and local community with the ultimate aim of building a more conscious society. **(EVENTS)**

In 2022, IMU Sustainability Office was established to assume the role to place “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 SDGs, 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.

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 2023 as a result of these efforts. I thank everyone who have contributed to the creation of the report and especially Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, Lect. Zehra SAVAN and Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR, 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  
İstanbul Medeniyet University

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assesses the contribution of universities around the world to sustainable development goals, 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 Istanbul Medeniyet University, we were included in THE Impact Ranking for the first time in 2021 by applying with only 4 SDGs, while we applied with 11 SDGs for 2024, being ranked 601-800 in the global ranking. The table below shows IMU's continued rise on this ranking.

Sustainable Development Goals	THE Impact Rankings 2024	THE Impact Rankings 2023	THE Impact Rankings 2022	THE Impact Ranking 2021
<b>General Ranking</b>	<b>601-800</b>	801-1000	1001+	1001+
<b>SDG 1 No Poverty</b>	<b>601-800</b>	601-800	-	-
<b>SDG 2 Zero Hunger</b>	<b>301-400</b>	401-600	401+	301-400
<b>SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being</b>	<b>301-400</b>	301-400	401-600	401-600
<b>SDG 4 Quality Education</b>	<b>1001-1500</b>	801-1000	801-1000	601-800
<b>SDG 5 Gender Equality</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	801-1000	-	-
<b>SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	<b>401-600</b>	401-600	401-600	-
<b>SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	601-800	601+	-
<b>SDG 10 Reduce Inequalities</b>	<b>401-600</b>	401-600	401-600	-
<b>SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	<b>601-800</b>	401-600	601+	-
<b>SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production</b>	<b>201-300</b>	201-300	-	-
<b>SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals</b>	<b>401-600</b>	601-800	1001+	601-800

**13**

**CLIMATE  
ACTION**





There is no country in the world that is not experiencing first-hand the drastic effects of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and are now more than 50 percent higher than their 1990 level. Further, global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not take action now.

The annual average losses from tsunamis, tropical cyclones and flooding amount to hundreds of billions of dollars, requiring an investment of US\$6 billion annually in disaster risk management alone. The goal aims to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries and help mitigate climate-related disasters.

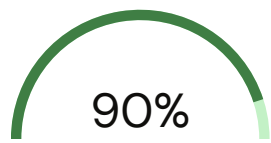
Helping more vulnerable regions, such as land locked countries and island states, adapt to climate change must go hand in hand with efforts to integrate disaster risk measures into national strategies. It is still possible, with the political will and a wide array of technological measures, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This requires urgent collective action.

**+1.1°C**

warming caused by human activities since the industrial age

**26**  
TRILLION \$

in economic benefits could be triggered through bold climate action, by 2030



90%

share of oceans in heat absorption

**+20**  
CM

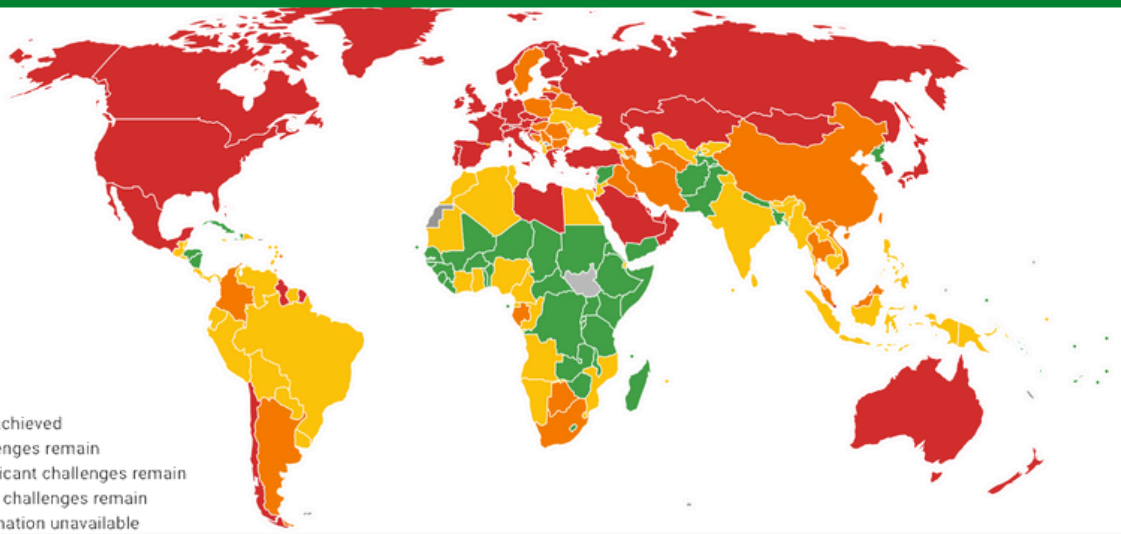
the global average sea level rose since 1880

**85**  
COUNTRIES

have national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned to the Sendai Framework

Legend

- SDG achieved
- Challenges remain
- Significant challenges remain
- Major challenges remain
- Information unavailable





university climate ambassador



2 local training programs on climate were organized in 2023

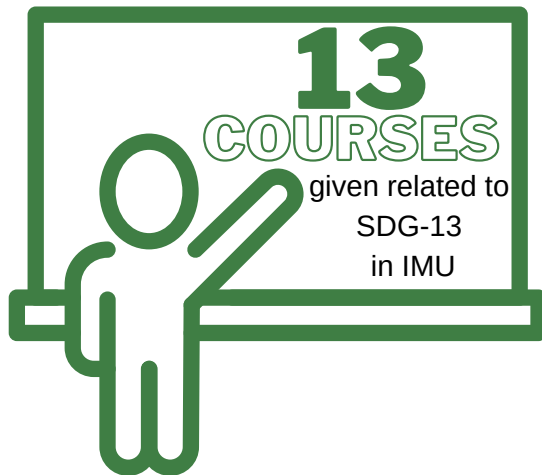


4 environmental trainings were held in 2023



# LEARNING

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 2023, 13 courses related to SDG-13 were given at IMU. Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course
Arts and Humanities	SOS324 - Environmental Sociology
	FEL458 - Bioethics and Environmental Philosophies
Education Sciences	ECE007 - Environmental Education and Sustainability in Early Childhood
	EBB061 - Sustainable Development and Education
Engineering and Natural Sciences	BYM313 - Industrial Ecology and Recycling
	BYM317 - Biomaterials
Health Sciences	BES249 - Ecology of Nutrition
	BES327 - Sustainable Diets and Food Systems
Political Science	ULI462 - Environmental Problems and the World
	MLY411 - Environmental Protection and Taxation
All - Elective	IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability
	IMU055 - Society and Ethics
Law	HUK342 - Environmental Law

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 taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we not only lead the society by carrying out activities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the institutional level and but also guide how the SDGs are applied at local, national, and international levels as a community through our collaboration efforts and support solving problems through our research projects.

The book chapter titled [“An Assessment on Climate Change Resistant Cities and Sustainability of Cities”](#), 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 his PhD student Bahar BIYIKLAR, was published in the book titled *“Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilient Cities Practices, Problems and Solutions”*. The study focused on what has been done and what needs to be done to make cities resistant to climate change within the scope of sustainable city understanding. Based on the fact that the main cause of climate change is human activities, the problem experienced today is described as ‘anthropogenic (human-induced) climate change’, and the study is based on the thesis that the negativities of this process can be prevented with human activities.

## Local Education Programmes on Climate

Istanbul Medeniyet University is well aware of the importance of collective climate action to reduce the effects of climate change. Since raising awareness on this issue in the local community is key for these efforts, we regularly organize environmental and sustainable development trainings for our students, staff, and the public in partnership with non-governmental organizations.

IMU Sustainability Office took part in the **Environment Festival** organized by **Kadıköy Municipality** annually as part of World Environment Day events. In 2023, the Festival was held under the theme “Urban Resilience” to draw attention to fighting natural disasters caused by geological disasters and climate change. IMU Sustainability Office conducted [environment training games and workshops](#) for local participants in the festival. Through these games and workshops held on June 2, 2023, Friday, the team members, Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, Lect. Zehra SAVAN, and Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR, discussed how to create more resilient cities and generate a good disaster management mechanism with the participants.

On the first day of the festival, the team raised awareness among children about ecosystem and biodiversity with the game **“Nature Detectives”** designed for children. The game was played for three times during the day in Selamiçeşme Özgürlük Park, where the festival was held. In the game, the children were given target cards

# EVENTS

with items to find inside the park area and they searched for these targets in groups. Workshop coordinators ÇELİKBİLEK, SAVAN, and ERUÇAR provided the children with information about each target discovered, including the characteristics of the living beings and their importance for the ecosystem. Thus, the children gained awareness about the fact that even the parks they play in contain considerable species richness and it is important to preserve such areas in order to sustain biodiversity. After the game, each group were distributed gifts from our university and pots of plants planted by the Office team to grow in their classrooms.

During the festival, our Sustainability team also carried out activities for adults. In the roleplaying game **"Climate Resilience"** developed by the team member Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, the participants were given family roles with different means of livelihood living in different geographical regions to discuss how climate change affects disaster resilience capacity in different regions. In the game, each group assumed the role of a family from a different corner of the world who produces a different product that is suitable for the geographical conditions of the area in order to access basic services such as accommodation, education, and healthcare and to live an honorable life. The families were assigned the duty to survive by maintaining their family integrity without going down below the poverty line. throughout the game, the players questioned the capacity of communities from different parts of the world to cope with and fight climate change and issues such as climate justice.

Another festival event was playing **"Before the Storm"**, a card game designed by Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK for young people and adults. During the game, the participants brainstormed about potential short-, medium-, and long-term measures to make cities more resilient to seasonal changes created by climate change, excessive climate events and accompanying disasters. Throughout the game which focused on the disasters of storm and flood, each player assumed the role of an urban administrator or a citizen with decision-making power and discussed potential measures to reduce disaster risk in urban disaster management process.



2 June 2023

Kadıköy Municipality Environment Festival 2023

350Türkiye was the guest of the interactive workshop hour on the second day of the **“3rd Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week”** events. Held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at IMU BİLTAM Meeting Hall, 350Türkiye’s role play **“Parata: A Climate Justice Story”**, designed by **350Türkiye**, was played and led by Efe BAYSAL from 350Türkiye and facilitated by Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK from **IMU Sustainability Office**.

In the workshop, the effects of climate crisis on individuals and societies were discussed in the context of inequalities and climate justice. The workshop, which was open to the participation of our students, staff and the public, was attended by 12 people. The workshop started with Efe BAYSAL’s briefing on climate change followed by a discussion on the effects of the climate crisis on cities and nature. BAYSAL pointed out that the effects of climate change are often felt today, and that the climate crisis is not a distant abstract concept, but one of today’s main problems in the field of sustainability. In the second part of the event; “Parata: A Climate Justice Story” workshop was held.

In the workshop, which was based on an imaginary country, the participants were first given basic information about the imaginary country of Parata and its natural resources and population. Then, each participant chose role cards, assumed different socio-economic roles and evaluated the effects of climate crisis on different social groups by questioning the capacity of their roles to cope with the climate crisis.

By discussing the effects of the climate crisis on individuals and societies in the context of inequalities, an answer was sought to the question “Are we all really in the same boat?” in the climate crisis, which has become a global problem.



19 December 2023

Parata: A Climate Justice Story

# EVENTS

Within the scope of the “3rd Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week” activities, jointly organized by **IMU Sustainability Office** and **IMU Sustainability Student Club**, in a workshop on December 21, 2023, led by **Kadıköy Climate Ambassadors**, the participants played **“Combine Blue and Green”**, an ecological urban design game in which the they questioned the effects of energy efficiency, environmental issues and the effects of these issues on the city while designing a city and discussed how solutions can be developed against these effects. Held at Istanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank Library Foyer Area, the workshop was open to the participation of all Istanbul Medeniyet University students, staff and the public. Through this workshop, IMU aimed to raise awareness not only for the campus community but also for the local community by providing them with climate education. Attended by 12 participants, the workshop started with theoretical training given to the participants by Kadıköy Climate Ambassadors. In this training, the trainers talked about the development of human settlements from past to present, as well as problems such as unplanned urbanization, transportation problems, environmental pollution and air pollution that cities often face today. In the second part of the workshop, the participants were introduced to a sustainable and ecological urban design game called “Combine Blue and Green” and the rules of the game were explained. Participants designed a city by placing public spaces, transportation routes, public transportation stops, waste management center, energy production center, residential areas in an empty space.

During the placement of each unit, the positive and negative effects of this unit on the city were discussed. The workshop ended with the participants describing the sustainable city they designed through the group spokesperson.



21 December 2023

“Combine Blue and Green” Game

A workshop on renewable and clean energy production was organized by IMU Sustainability Office in cooperation with Sustainability Student Club on December 20, 2023, as part of the **“3rd Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week”** activities. In the workshop conducted by our university Sustainability Office Research Assistant Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK and geological engineer Gökhan SAPMAZ, **“ElectriCITY: Energy Preferences Game”**, a role game in which participants would produce energy policies as decision makers in the city’s energy production, was played. The workshop was open to the participation of all Istanbul Medeniyet University students, staff and the public.

In the workshop, general information about the energy system used in cities and energy management was given. In this context, participants were informed about primary energy sources, including fossil fuels, renewable energy sources and other energy sources. Then, the technologies and facilities that convert these primary energy sources into usable energy were mentioned and the energy sources through which these facilities generate electricity and which end-use sectors such as commerce, industry, transportation and housing are provided with energy. Following this information through the Sankey diagram, the participants discussed where the electricity generated from which energy sources is used, the amount of energy that energy sources can produce and the amount of energy lost (energy efficiency). Finally, in order to understand why energy policies are important for the environment, participants were informed about the air pollutants,

greenhouse gases, water consumption caused by fuel choice in energy production. This helped participants understand the importance of energy management in the global climate crisis.

In the second part of the workshop, the participants were introduced to the game, which is a simple simulation of the energy system in cities, and the rules of the game were explained. The participants were divided into five groups, each representing a city with different resources. The game, which was designed as a simulation of real life, was played in 6 different stages in which carbon costs gradually increased, carbon emissions were kept within a certain limit, water consumption was kept within a certain limit, and different political and economic conditions developed for each group. In each stage, it was discussed how the changes in political, economic and environmental conditions were reflected in the energy policies produced by the groups and how these policies were reflected in environmental costs in addition to construction and operating costs.



21 December 2023

ElectriCITY: Energy Preferences Game

As part of the “3rd Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week” activities, two “[Balcony Gardening Workshops](#)” were held on 20 and 21 December 2023. The workshops were organized by IMU Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Club in cooperation with Osmanlı Bahçesi and the workshop trainer was Savaş GÖNEN, Agricultural Technician/Agricultural Consultant/Permaculture Designer from Osmanlı Bahçesi. The workshops, which were open to the participation of all Istanbul Medeniyet University students, staff and the public, were held at IMU Sustainability Office.

In the first phase of the two-stage workshops, the participants were provided with basic information on food production and balcony gardening, seed planting and plant care. In the second part of the workshops, which aimed to enable urban residents to have the skills to produce their own food and to popularize balcony gardening, seed planting was carried out using local seeds and vermicompost provided by Osmanlı Bahçesi.

In his presentation, GÖNEN underlined that urban gardens have a much lower impact on climate change and pointed out that each 10.76 m<sup>2</sup> of urban gardens can offset the annual carbon emissions of one car; in other words, every urban gardener can neutralize the carbon emissions of their own car, if any, by farming a small area. He also pointed out that urban gardens have much more species richness compared to conventional agriculture.

In the practical part of the workshop, arugula and basil seeds produced by the company in the Ahatlı village of Antalya using completely traditional methods and sustainable agriculture principles were distributed to the participants by the Osmanlı Bahçesi, and information was provided on how to properly plant and care for food. It was emphasized that no harmful chemical drugs or fertilizers were used in the production of non-GMO and non-hybrid seeds, and 100% organic worm manure was used; and that there was no synthetic chemical coating on the disease-free seeds. In this way, information was provided on how participants could obtain new seeds from the seeds they planted in order to carry out their own food production. In this way, people's connection with the native seeds of Anatolia was re-established, while contributing to the provision of affordable, healthy and natural nutrition.

In addition, the participants, who were given plant growing kits by the Osmanlı Bahçesi, took the first step toward becoming food producers with the seeds that they took home with them.



20-21 December 2023

Balcony Gardening Workshops with Osmanlı Bahçesi

Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Office organized **“Balcony Gardening Training”** for May 14 World Farmers Day. “Balcony Gardening Training” given by Landscape Architect Hatice Kübra ERUÇAR and facilitated by Res. Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR, was held on May 16, 2023 at the Sustainability Office located in the BİLTAM building in the North Campus of our University. The event, which was designed as an environmental education at the same time, was held open to the participation of local farmers and food producers, as well as our academic and administrative staff, students and the entire public. Within the scope of the event, the participants received information about the products they can grow in their own living spaces as part of their search for new solutions, and by learning the cultivation techniques, they became local farmer candidates.

The training started with the theoretical presentation of Landscape Architect Hatice Kübra ERUÇAR. In this presentation, besides the important contribution of farming and agricultural production to the country's economy, ERUÇAR emphasized that farming is also of great importance for the kneading of the soil, the continuation and development of the agricultural ecosystem, and providing access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

After the theoretical training, tea, which is the symbol of Turkish identity, hospitality and social interaction, was offered to the participants by the Sustainability Office and our Sustainability Office team informed the participants that in accordance with our university's waste reduction policies, the cardboard cups will be used as a

growing container for planting seeds by upcycling. ERUÇAR talked about the importance of ancestral seeds for ensuring food safety and sustainable agricultural production, and distributed pink tomato, eggplant, sunflower, almond cucumber seeds and disposable local parsley, basil and dill seeds to the participants for planting in the workshop. In the application part, each participant planted their seeds under ERUÇAR's guidance. After the seeding phase, our trainer H. Kübra ERUÇAR explained to the participants the points that they should pay attention to during the germination process of the seeds and showed practically how to do the transplanting process after the seeds turn into seedlings.



16 May 2023

Balcony Gardening Workshop

# EVENTS

Since it was first incorporated into the sustainability agenda in 2007, "Earth Hour" has been known for the "lights off" moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

Istanbul Medeniyet University turned off the lights on March 25, 2023 Saturday evening for **Earth Hour awareness**. Joining the awareness raising movement by responding the call of IMU Sustainability Office, our university switched off the lights in IMU Ziraat Bank Library, the largest university library in Turkey, at the Earth Hour from 20.30 to 21.30 and invited its staff and students to give an hour of their Saturday night for Earth, spending 60 minutes doing something – anything – positive for the planet.



25 March 2023

"Lights off" Moment in IMU Ziraat Bank Library

To raise awareness about Earth Hour, IMU Sustainability Office also posted information on its [instagram account](#) about what the Earth Hour is and how people from all around the world join the events and the audience were given suggestions on what to do on Earth Hour for the good of the planet.



25 March 2023

IMU Sustainability Office's Earth Hour Posts

