

# IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

# 2023

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>1</b> NO POVERTY<br>                                | <b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER<br>                  | <b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING<br>                | <b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION<br>                         |
| <b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY<br>                         | <b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION<br> | <b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY<br>             | <b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH<br>         |
| <b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE<br> | <b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES<br>      | <b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES<br>     | <b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br> |
| <b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION<br>                         | <b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND<br>              | <b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS<br> | <b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS<br>             |

# SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET  
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University  
Sustainability Office**

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## **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.

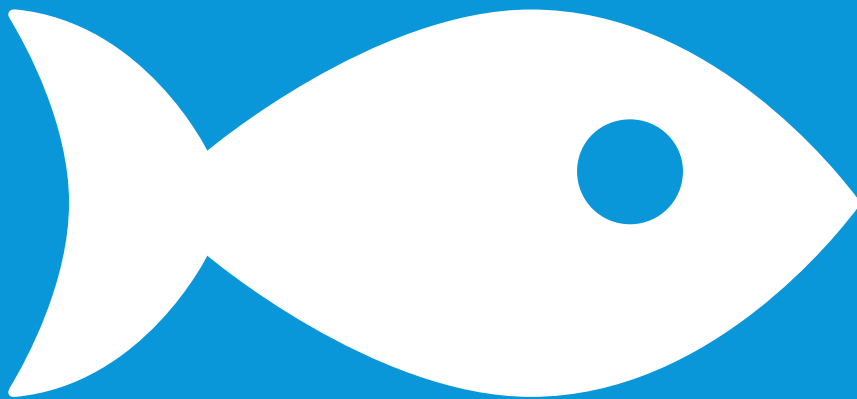
**Prof. Dr. Yaşar BÜLBÜL**

Vice-Rector and Sustainability Office Coordinator  
İstanbul Medeniyet University

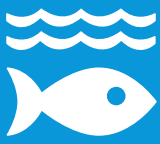
The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assesses the contribution of universities around the world to sustainable development goals, has been an important source of motivation for us to see our place in the world and measure our contribution with all the activities we carry out for sustainable 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<br/>No Poverty</b>                              | <b>601-800</b>           | 601-800                  | -                        | -                       |
| <b>SDG 2<br/>Zero Hunger</b>                             | <b>301-400</b>           | 401-600                  | 401+                     | 301-400                 |
| <b>SDG 3<br/>Good Health and Well-being</b>              | <b>301-400</b>           | 301-400                  | 401-600                  | 401-600                 |
| <b>SDG 4<br/>Quality Education</b>                       | <b>1001-1500</b>         | 801-1000                 | 801-1000                 | 601-800                 |
| <b>SDG 5<br/>Gender Equality</b>                         | <b>801-1000</b>          | 801-1000                 | -                        | -                       |
| <b>SDG 8<br/>Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>         | <b>401-600</b>           | 401-600                  | 401-600                  | -                       |
| <b>SDG 9<br/>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b> | <b>801-1000</b>          | 601-800                  | 601+                     | -                       |
| <b>SDG 10<br/>Reduce Inequalities</b>                    | <b>401-600</b>           | 401-600                  | 401-600                  | -                       |
| <b>SDG 11<br/>Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>     | <b>601-800</b>           | 401-600                  | 601+                     | -                       |
| <b>SDG 12<br/>Responsible Consumption and Production</b> | <b>201-300</b>           | 201-300                  | -                        | -                       |
| <b>SDG 17<br/>Partnerships for the Goals</b>             | <b>401-600</b>           | 601-800                  | 1001+                    | 601-800                 |

# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



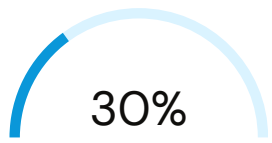
# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. How we manage this vital resource is essential for humanity as a whole, and to counter balance the effects of climate change. Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, today we are seeing 30 percent of the world's fish stocks overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields.

Oceans also absorb about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, and we are seeing a 26 percent rise in ocean acidification since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Marine pollution, an overwhelming majority of which comes from land-based sources, is reaching alarming levels, with an average of 13,000 pieces of plastic litter to be found on every square kilometre of ocean.

The SDGs aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.



30%  
ocean water is 30% more acidic than pre-industrial times

200.000 SPECIES

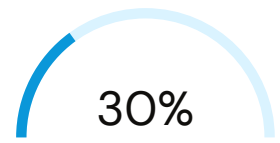
number of species found to live in the oceans



1 in 5 fish caught comes from illegal fishing

3 BILLION

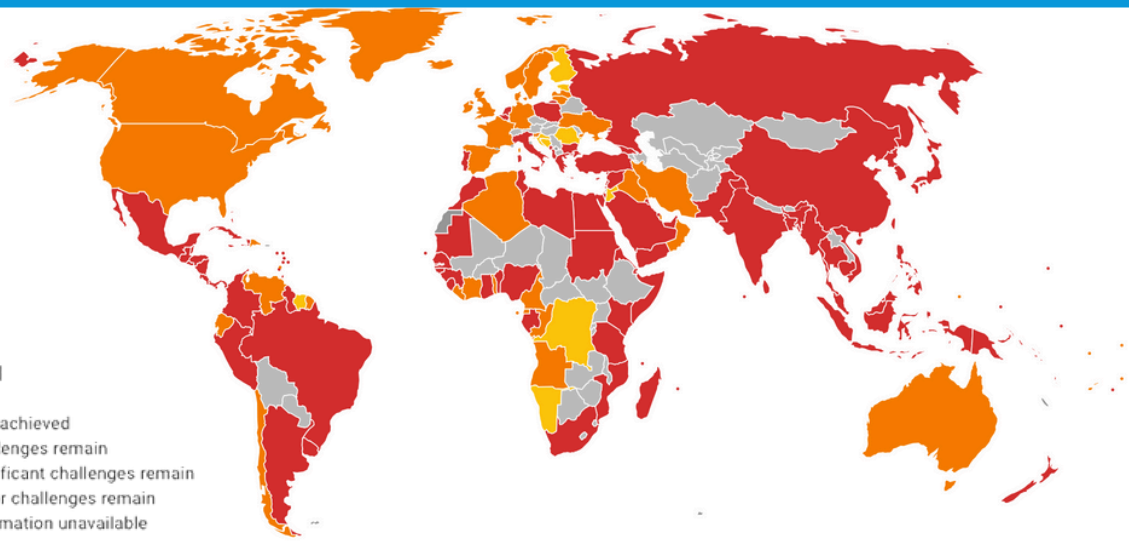
people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods



30%  
of carbon dioxide produced by humans is absorbed by the ocean

Legend

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



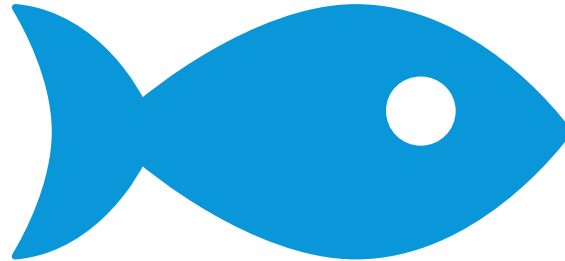
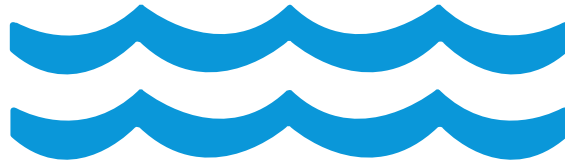
3

## R&D LABS

are researching aquatic ecosystem damage prevention



filtering systems for wastewater



1

## R&D LAB

is researching for maintaining aquatic ecosystems and their biodiversity



reduce plastic waste to prevent pollution of water ecosystems



transnational ocean biodiversity research

## Water Discharge Guidelines and Standards

Istanbul Medeniyet University cleans the wastewater inside the campus areas using certain **filtering systems** before discharging it. For instance, we have oil filters installed in the dishwashing sites in our campus kitchen and other facilities to prevent the oily wastewater from polluting the discharged water. These filters are regularly cleaned and the oil waste collected are delivered to ISTAC Inc., an affiliation of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality that is in charge of waste management.

Wastewater from campus use is collected by the **wastewater network** and dispatched to the treatment facilities of Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (İSKİ), which is in charge of treating wastewater using various systems from preliminary treatment to advanced biological treatment so that wastewater is eliminated without environmental damage and water resources, Istanbul Strait, and the Marmara Sea are protected from the threat of wastewater.

## Actions to Reduce Plastic Waste

Istanbul Medeniyet University primarily follows a policy of reducing consumption to reduce waste. Therefore, certain strategies have been implemented to gradually **reduce single-use plastics in the campus areas**. For instance, our contract with the catering service provider for our lunch services contains a clause on serving meals in chinaware and using metal cutlery.

Thanks to these practices, we prevent the use of single-use plastics in eating utensils and thereby reduce plastic waste generation in all our campus areas.

In 2019, Istanbul Medeniyet University joined the “Zero Waste” program carried out under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey as part of the [“Zero Waste Regulation”](#) to contain waste in line with the sustainable development goals and to leave a clean Turkey for future generations. Issues such as reducing the generation of waste and chiefly of plastic, which greatly damages aquatic, terrestrial, and aerial ecosystems, and recycling plastic waste form an integral part of our university’s vision. In this context, we removed the waste bins from the university’s indoor areas and started to collect and sort recyclable waste and chiefly plastic waste in six categories. Plastics that are thus saved from becoming garbage are delivered to the relevant municipal authorities for recycling.



“Zero Waste” Project Recyclable Waste Boxes

# OPERATIONS

Istanbul Medeniyet University carries out practices that will contribute to the plastic reduction targets throughout Turkey. For example, in order to contribute to the goal of the Packaging Waste Control Regulation of 2017, which aims to reduce the annual use of plastic bags per capita by no more than 40, cloth bags are distributed to our staff members, which can be used as an alternative to plastic bags, every year.



IMU Cloth Bags Distributed to Our Staff Members

“ **1397**  
CLOTH BAGS  
distributed to staff members to  
reduce using plastic bags ”



Thanks to all such measures to reduce plastic use and waste, IMU aims to prevent plastics from polluting natural areas and water resources and thus to avoid the death of organisms in the aquatic ecosystem due to plastics and microplastics.

Istanbul Medeniyet University leads numerous public institutions, research institutions, universities, local schools, and NGOs toward numerous goals that would help us achieve the objective of conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

## Leading the Technologies towards Aquatic Ecosystem Damage Prevention

Developing technologies to prevent aquatic ecosystem damage is an important field for our institution. In this context, IMU Science and Advanced Technology Application and Research Center (IMU BILTAM) contains two [R&D Laboratories](#) researching the technologies that can prevent the aquatic ecosystem pollution and reduce the aquatic ecosystem damage.

An R&D laboratory was established under leadership of Prof.Dr. Erkan ŞAHİNKAYA to conduct research on the optimization of the simultaneous nitrification and denitrification process in an intermittently aerated membrane bioreactor to treat wastewater.

BILTAM also has another R&D laboratory led by Asst.Prof.Dr. Senem TEKSOY BAŞARAN, conducting research on maximizing energy conservation potential by wastewater treatment and organic matter recovery with super fast membrane bioreactor (SFMBR) process.

## Maintaining Ecosystems and their Biodiversity

Protecting and maintaining ecosystems and biodiversity is crucial for the Earth's future. Being aware of the importance of the issue, our university established an [R&D laboratory](#) in BILTAM under the leadership of Prof.Dr. Turgay ÇAKMAK to conduct research on determining the coastal microalgae and cyanobacterial diversity of Horseshoe island, creating a culture collection, and evaluation of the general biotechnological characteristics of cultured species.

## Technologies Towards Aquatic Ecosystem Damage Prevention

Prof.Dr. Erkan ŞAHİNKAYA, a faculty member of IMU Bioengineering Department, served as a consultant in the design and planning of the DOSAB **wastewater recycling facility** in the scope of engagement with the industry on developing technologies towards aquatic ecosystem damage prevention and contribute to protection of seas and streams and the life inside. DOSAB Wastewater Recycling Facility received the **best application award** in the 'Be Friends with the Environment Good Application Awards Competition' organized by Bursa

Metropolitan Municipality in 2022 in order to highlight the good applications in the field of environment and to increase environmental awareness. Water scarcity and increasing water pressure in the world have brought the recycling of wastewater and the use of these waters as a new resource to the agenda.

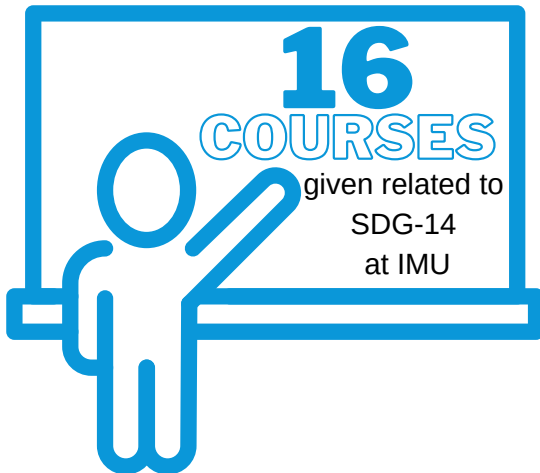
One of the most effective methods for water sustainability is Wastewater Recycle Systems. With the help of these systems, purified wastewater from enterprises and treatment plants can be brought to a quality that can be reused in enterprises by using advanced treatment techniques. Thanks to this facility, within a year; nearly 4 million cubic meters of treated water is put into production again, protecting underground water resources, standing out as environmentally friendly and sustainable production, and making participating companies preferred in the international arena.



DOSAB Wastewater Recycling Facility

# 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, 16 courses related to SDG-14 were given at IMU. Some of these are listed below.



| Faculty                          | Course   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Arts and Humanities              | FEL458 - Bioethics and Environmental Philosophies                      |
|                                  | SOS324 - Environmental Sociology                                       |
| Education Sciences               | SNE009 - Environmental Education                                       |
|                                  | ECE007 - Environmental Education and Sustainability in Early Childhood |
| Engineering and Natural Sciences | INS058 - Water Resources Engineering                                   |
|                                  | INS461 - Water Supply and Environmental Health                         |
|                                  | BYM416 - Micropollutants, Treatment and Effects on Human Health        |
|                                  | MBG362 - Evolution and Biodiversity                                    |
| Political Science                | ULI462 - Environmental Problems and the World                          |
| Law                              | HUK342 - Environmental Law   |
| Tourism                          | TİŞ224 - Sustainable Tourism   |
|                                  | TİŞ326 - Alternative Tourism   |
| All - Elective                   | IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability                                  |
| Institute of Graduate Studies    | BYM 517 Introduction to Environmental Bioengineering                   |
|                                  | BYM709 Industrial Applications of Environmental Biotechnology          |

Istanbul Medeniyet University hosted a photography exhibition that provides information about aquatic life in order to draw attention to the protection of seas and marine ecosystems. The opening of the [“Life Below Water” exhibition](#), which was held by the **IMU Sustainability Office** in partnership with the **Underwater Photographers and Filmmakers Association (SUFOD)**, was held on Monday, 18 December 2023. The exhibition was opened to visitors at Istanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank Library Foyer Area during the “3rd Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week” events.

In the exhibition, photographs of 24 species photographed within the scope of the TUSACAN (Turkey Underwater Living Platform) project carried out by SUFOD, which aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, were exhibited. The exhibited photographs provided examples of species living in different seas at the global level, while providing a detailed information about Turkey and the species living in the seas surrounding Turkey.

At the opening of the exhibition, our Rector Prof.Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK and the Sustainability Office team gave information about the protection of marine ecosystems, while SUFOD officials provided information about the species in the exhibition. In the exhibition, photographs of fish such as sharks, seahorses, stingrays, groupers, which are banned to be fished in Turkey in order to protect the species richness in

the water and to realise sustainable fishing practices were exhibited and information about these species was given.

SUFOD Board Member Hanife KÜÇÜKLER emphasised that the right decisions should be taken and controlled at the right times for the protection and sustainable use of the seas. For this purpose, she stated that local administrations, fishermen, boat owners, diving clubs and other stakeholders such as NGOs should come together in order to protect biodiversity by ensuring sustainable fisheries and to develop sustainable tourism strategies together with the protection decisions taken at international and national level. In this regard, she explained that the TUSACAN project provides an important database for documenting and monitoring the presence of species in the seas and inland waters of our country, the regions where they are distributed and the number of individuals of the species.

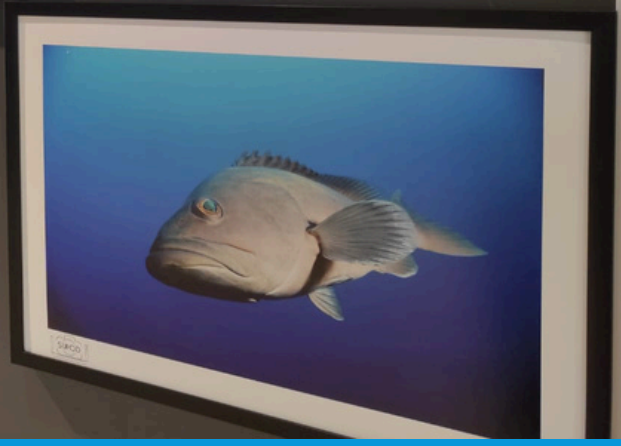


18 December 2023

“Life Below Water” Exhibition

# EVENTS

IMU



# EVENTS

IMU Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Club organizes various **Plastic-Free July** events every July to draw attention to the environmental problems, water pollution and damage to marine life caused by single-use plastic waste and to encourage our students and staff to adopt habits that will reduce usage of single-use plastics. **IMU Sustainability Office** organized the third in these series of events throughout **July 2023** within the scope of the social responsibility project launched in this month to reduce the amount of plastic waste and to encourage people to live a plastic-free life, to raise awareness on this issue, and to help them gain habits that will make a difference in their daily lives.

Within the scope of Plastic-Free July activities, IMU Sustainability Office collaborated with **STUDENT student club** and **T-Brush Company** to make people's dental care free from plastic waste. Thanks to this cooperation, our students and staff brought their old plastic-handled toothbrushes on July 17, 2023 and received new bamboo toothbrushes free of charge. At the event held at the Ziraat Bank Library of our university, the toothbrushes of 35 of our students and staff were replaced with sustainable bamboo toothbrushes with the sponsorship of T-Brush. In addition, in order to raise awareness in the public as well as our campus community, 5 more people were given bamboo-handled toothbrushes as a gift as a result of the information and raffle held on the instagram account of the Sustainability Office on the same day.

the water and to realise sustainable fishing practices were exhibited and information about these species was given.

The Sustainability Office also collaborated with **MisecaTr** to make personal care plastic-free. With this collaboration, on July 24, 2023, our students and staff brought their plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles and received new solid shampoo bars with natural ingredients and no plastic waste free of charge. At the event held at the Sustainability Office, our students and staff had the opportunity to start a new habit for a plastic waste-free care with the sponsorship of MisecaTr. In addition, in order to raise awareness in the public as well as our campus community, on the same day, 5 more people were given solid shampoo bars with natural ingredients as a gift as a result of the information provided and the raffle held on the instagram account of the Sustainability Office.



July 2023

Plastic-Free July Events

As the second part of the collaboration between IMU Sustainability Office, **STUDENT student club**, and **T-Brush Company** to make people's dental care free from plastic waste within the scope of Plastic-Free July activities; on July 24-25, 2023, the old plastic packaged toothpastes of our campus community were replaced with reusable and recyclable packaged toothpaste tablets with natural ingredients. With the event held at the IMU Sustainability Office, 35 people from our students and staff brought their old plastic packaged toothpaste tubes and received sustainably packaged toothpaste tablets with natural ingredients free of charge under the sponsorship of T-Brush. In addition, in order to raise awareness in the public as well as our campus community, 5 more people were given toothpaste tablets as a gift as a result of the information provided and the raffle held on the Instagram account of the Sustainability Office on the same day.

The last event of IMU Sustainability Office's "Plastic-Free July" project drew attention to the harm that plastic toys that are not produced in accordance with the standards can cause to children. Attention was drawn to the negative effects that such toys can have on our children's central nervous system, skin, immune and reproductive systems, and it was suggested that toys made from natural materials such as wood and bamboo should be preferred instead of plastic toys to protect our children from all these dangers. In addition, since toys made of wood and natural materials have an important place in

Turkish Culture, an event open to external participation was organized under the sponsorship of **REDKA** to introduce people to "Mangala", one of the most important of these games which has been included in the list of Turkey's intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO. At the event, first of all, Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK from IMU Sustainability Office made a presentation on mangala and its importance in Turkish culture. After the presentation, ÇELİKBİLEK explained the rules of Turkish Mangala to the participants. After all the information about the game, the participants were paired and the tournament started with wooden mangalas provided by REDKA. At the end of the tournament, Zeynep Yasemin AKARDAŞ, our student from the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department of our University, who ranked 1st by collecting the most points, was presented with a prize package including a REDKA wooden mangala and sustainable product gifts.

The "Plastic-Free July" events organized by the Sustainability Office was ended by sharing informative content that evaluated the effects of habit changes for a plastic-free life for a month on global warming, oceans and seas and landfill and invited people to maintain these habits throughout their lives.



**PLASTIKSİZ Temmuz**

THE GLOBAL GOALS

- Bir arkadaşınızı plastiksiz yaşamaya davet et.
- Plastiksiz yaşam ile ilgili bilgi edin.
- İçecekler için tek kullanımlık karton bardak yerine kupa kullan.
- Plastik içermeyen bir kalem tercih et.
- Plastik ambalajlı sıvı sabun yerine kalıp sabunu kullan.
- Pipet kullanma ya da yeniden kullanılabilir pipet kullan.
- Plastik yerine ahşap ya da bambu mandal kullan.
- Plastik ambalaj içermeyen gıda al.
- Alışverişini atıksız mağazalardan kendi kaplarımla yap.
- Kendi doğal cilt bakım malzemeni üret.
- Kendi doğal cilt bakım malzemeni üret.
- Alışverişinde plastik olmayan doğal dostu çanta kullan.
- Çöplerini saklamak için kağıt/kumaş sepetçikleri tercih et.
- Çevreyi plastikten kurtar.
- Plastik dış fırçalarıyla alanlarla değişti.
- Tek kullanımlık şişe kullanmak yerine kendi termosuna ya da matarasına taşı.
- Kullanılmak üzere bırakılan plastikleri ileri dönüştür.
- Plastik çatal, büyük kaşık yerine bambu, ahşap ve metal kullan.
- Plastik yerine ahşap oğnak tercih et.
- Plastik atıklarını ağır ve geri dönüşüm kutusuna at.
- Poşet çay yerine demleme çay iç.
- Bulaşık süngerini kabak lifi ile değiştir.
- Yemek sipariş verirken "plastik çatal kaşık istemiyorum" seçeneğini seçti.
- Paketli atırmalıklar yerine ev yapımı atırmalıklar tercih et.
- Plastik ambalajlı şampuan yerine katı şampuan kullan.
- Plastik tüpteki ilaçları yerine cam kaplardaki tablet macunları tercih et.
- İçecek alırken cam şişe ya da tenek ambalajlıları tercih et.
- Geri dönüşümün her şeyi kumaş kullan.
- Mutfakta kağıt kulağı yerine kuralama bıçağı kullan.
- Kendi doğal temizlik malzemeni üret.

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100% COTTON

**PLASTIKSİZ Temmuz**

THE GLOBAL GOALS

Özellikle tüketim odaklı günümüz dünyasında satın aldığımız neredeyse her ürünün paketinde ve çoğu ürünün içeriğinde plastik var. Dünyada her yıl ortalama 400 milyon ton plastik çöpe gidiyor, 60 milyon plastik su şişesi toprağa karışıyor ve bunların doğada çözünmesi 1.000 yılı aşıyor. Sen ilk dış fırçanı hatırlamıyor olsan da o hala doğada...

Bu nedenle doğada bıraktığımız etki için sorumluluk almamız gerekiyor.

"Plastiksiz Temmuz", kişilerin kullandıkları plastik miktarı konusunda farkında olmalarını sağlayarak, onları tek kullanımlık plastik ürünleri hayatlarından çıkarmaları için bir meydan okumaya davet ediyor.

İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi Sürdürülebilirlik Ofisi olarak, biz de 2023 yılı Temmuz ayında plastiksiz bir yaşamı teşvik ederek bu konuda bir farkındalık oluşturmayı ve günlük yaşamımızda fark yaratacak alışkanlıklar kazandırmayı amaçlıyoruz.

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