

# IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

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



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

An orange square containing the text '11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES' in white. Below the text is a white icon representing a city skyline, featuring a small house, a tall skyscraper, and a modern building with a slanted roof.

<b>1 NO POVERTY</b> 	<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b> 	<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b> 	<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b> 
<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b> 	<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b> 	<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> 	<b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> 
<b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> 	<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b> 	<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b> 	<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b> 
<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b> 	<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b> 	<b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b> 	<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b> 

# 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/map/>

## **SDG Statics**

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/>

<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 2024 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 2025	THE Impact Rankings 2024	THE Impact Rankings 2023	THE Impact Rankings 2022	THE Impact Ranking 2021
<b>General Ranking</b>	<b>401-600</b>	<b>601-800</b>	801-1000	1001+	1001+
<b>SDG 1</b> <b>No Poverty</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	<b>601-800</b>	601-800	-	-
<b>SDG 2</b> <b>Zero Hunger</b>	<b>301-400</b>	<b>301-400</b>	401-600	401+	301-400
<b>SDG 3</b> <b>Good Health and Well-being</b>	<b>401-600</b>	<b>301-400</b>	301-400	401-600	401-600
<b>SDG 4</b> <b>Quality Education</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	<b>1001-1500</b>	801-1000	801-1000	601-800
<b>SDG 5</b> <b>Gender Equality</b>	<b>1001-1500</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	801-1000	-	-
<b>SDG 8</b> <b>Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	<b>601-800</b>	<b>401-600</b>	401-600	401-600	-
<b>SDG 9</b> <b>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>	<b>601-800</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	601-800	601+	-
<b>SDG 10</b> <b>Reduce Inequalities</b>	<b>401-600</b>	<b>401-600</b>	401-600	401-600	-
<b>SDG 11</b> <b>Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	<b>401-600</b>	<b>601-800</b>	401-600	601+	-
<b>SDG 12</b> <b>Responsible Consumption and Production</b>	<b>101-200</b>	<b>201-300</b>	201-300	-	-
<b>SDG 15</b> <b>Life on Land</b>	<b>101-200</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>SDG 17</b> <b>Partnerships for the Goals</b>	<b>301-400</b>	<b>401-600</b>	601-800	1001+	601-800



# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



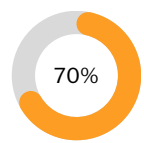


More than half of the world's population now live in urban areas. By 2050, that figure will have risen to 6.5 billion people – two-thirds of all humanity. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

The rapid growth of cities in the developing world, coupled with increasing rural to urban migration, has led to a boom in mega-cities. In 1990, there were ten mega-cities with 10 million inhabitants or more. In 2014, there were 28 mega-cities, home to a total 453 million people. Extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban spaces, and national and city governments struggle to accommodate the rising population in these areas. Making cities safe and sustainable means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements. It also involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

1,12  
BILLION

people in total  
lived in slum  
areas in 2022



of the world's  
population will be living  
in cities by 2050



urban residents  
globally had  
convenient access  
to public transit in  
2023

3.7  
TIMES

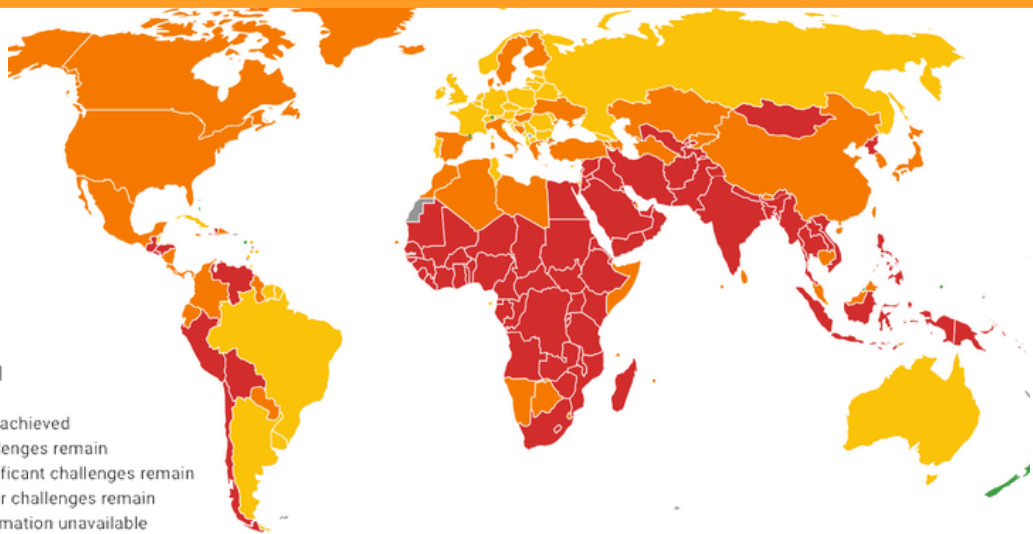
between 2000 and  
2020, cities  
sprawled up to 3.7  
times faster than  
they densified

4,2  
MILLION

people die due to  
ambient air pollution  
each year

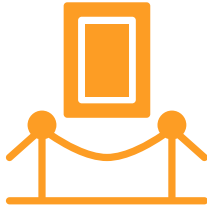
Legend

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



401-600

"Sustainable Cities and Communities" category  
2025 ranking



public access to exhibition  
spaces or galleries



sustainable practices  
in campus transportation -  
electric scooters



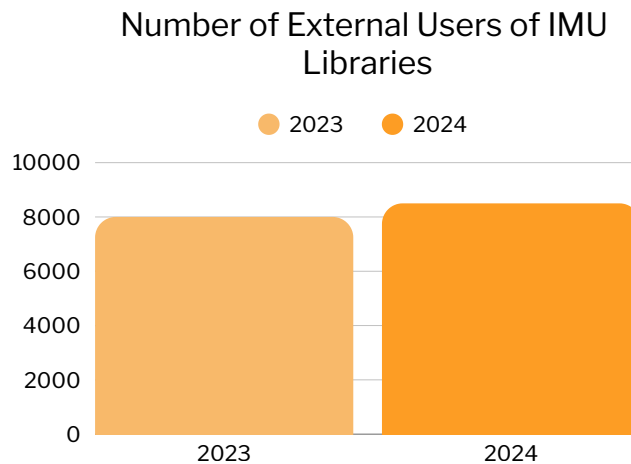
3

**BROWNFIELDS**  
used with different functions  
after renovation



8,500

**EXTERNAL USERS**  
were  
allowed to use our libraries



The number of external users accessing the IMU Main Library increased from 8,000 in 2023 to 8,500 in 2024, representing a **6.25% rise**. This growth reflects the library's ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility and support wider engagement from the community.

## Support of Arts and Heritage

### *Public Access to University Buildings, Green Spaces, and Libraries*

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

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

“ **8,500** EXTERNAL USERS were allowed to use our libraries ”

As our central library opened in our Göztepe North Campus in 2020, **Istanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank Library** is the largest university library in Turkey which was designed to serve 7/24 with all the amenities required by modern librarianship and when it reaches its full capacity, it can house 3000 simultaneous users. IMU Ziraat Bank Central Library was opened to the use of **external researchers and students** in 2022. With this opportunity, 10,621,401 resources in our library have become accessible to the public in 2024.

In addition to the resources in our libraries, students of local schools can also use our campus facilities, as well as our educational facilities such as laboratories and conference halls thanks to our collaboration protocols. In this context, our University signed protocols for collaboration in education with Haydarpaşa Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School and Ümraniye Nevzat Ayaz Anatolian High School.



IMU Ziraat Bank Library

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

As a public university in the heart of one of the largest metropolises in the world, Istanbul Medeniyet University is fully aware of our pivotal role in strengthening the ties of our urban community to arts and heritage through various channels: by including artistic designs in our building designs by teaching arts and offering a free and creative environment for artists, by organizing and hosting art events and exhibiting works of art, and by providing free public access to our art events and exhibition spaces. We have the Departments of Turkish Music, Visual Communication Design, Performing Arts and Art History that offer training in arts.

# OPERATIONS

UMI

Istanbul Medeniyet University hosted a **solo art exhibition** by Visual Communication Design student Almedin MESIC from May 31, 2024, in the foyer of the Ziraat Bankası Library. The exhibition, inaugurated with opening speeches by the Vice Rector and the General Secretary, featured original paintings reflecting diverse aspects of contemporary social life.

Imedin MESIC, who has previously held exhibitions in multiple countries, received great attention during the four-day showcase, attracting students, faculty, and visitors alike.

A The exhibition highlighted the role of art in fostering inclusive, vibrant, and culturally rich communities by creating public spaces that encourage cultural engagement and social cohesion. Furthermore, the event emphasized the importance of supporting young artists and integrating artistic initiatives into university life as a means to strengthen community identity and public participation, contributing to more sustainable and resilient urban and campus environments.



**Solo art exhibition by Almedin MESIC**



# OPERATIONS

IMU

During 2024, the faculty members of IMU Visual Communication Design Department at IMU Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture created artimu, a digital platform for art exhibitions both to contribute to local art and the cultural heritage and to help people maintain their ties with art in the pandemic environment.

In the exhibitions open to international participation, artworks from various art and design areas from photography, painting, video, graphic design to illustration, animation, and ceramics have come together.

Artimu held 3 online exhibitions in 2024: [scent](#), [collage](#), [water](#). These exhibitions can be visited online at artimu's website.



"Scent" Exhibition

Also other exhibitions was organized at IMU in 2024. Some of these exhibitions were; [Exhibition on the History of Military Interventions in Turkey](#); [Photography Exhibition on the Anniversary of the February 6 Earthquakes](#); [Almedin MESİC's Solo Exhibition](#).



Exhibitions at IMU

# OPERATIONS

Various performances in the form of concerts and theater performances are held in our university every year by our bands and music and theater clubs as open-to-public events. In 2023, more than 5 annual performances were organized. Below is a list of some of the annual performances held in our university in 2023:

## ***Musical Performances/Concerts and Dance Shows***

1. Folk Dance Show as part of the **"Sustainable Nature-Friendly Children's Festival"** on November 06, 2024
2. **Special Concert for Teachers' Day** by Department of Health Management on November 24, 2024
3. **Medeniyet Olympics Inaugural Concert** by Culture and Arts Club on May 13, 2024
4. **Corridor Concert** by Turkish Music Department Student on March 20, 2024



Musical Performances at IMU in 2024

## ***Theater/Drama Performances***

1. **"Theatre performance commemorating the Sarıkamış Martyrs"** by IMU National Values Club on December 30, 2024.
2. **"The Fertilizers of the Enchanted Village, or the Masked Exhibition"** performance by Stage Arts Department on March 27, 2024
3. **"Doctor"** performance by IMU Thater Club on May 24, 2024.
4. **"Backstage"** performance by IMU Thater Club on May 24, 2024.
5. **"Sketch Diaries"** performance by IMU Thater Club on May 24, 2024.
6. **"Sweet Days"** performance by IMU Thater Club on May 24, 2024.
7. **"RezaIethane"** performance by IMU Thater Club on May 24, 2024.



Theater Performances at IMU in 2024



## Sustainable Practices

### Promotion of Sustainable Commuting

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

IMU offers a free shuttle service for its administrative staff to assist with their transportation between campuses, promoting shared commuting. Also, in order to encourage public transport, IMU provides all administrative staff with a public transport card with 200 monthly public transport passes. Our academic staff members can use their institutional ID cards to buy discounted fares on the public transport services of the municipality. All our campus areas are centrally located and are close to public transport hubs and as an institution, we promote using public transport services as a responsible and sustainable choice of transport for all our students, staff, and visitors.

Istanbul Medeniyet University also encourages sustainable transportation options for on-campus transportation. In this context, within the scope of the "Zero Emission on Campus" project, 6 electric scooters were purchased in 2022 to reduce carbon emissions caused by the transportation of our administrative staff within the campus. Thus, a significant contribution was made to providing transportation that is more environmentally friendly and uses clean energy.



Electric Scooters for on-campus Transportation

### Affordable Housing for Students

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

### Building on Brownfield Sites

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

# OPERATIONS

In this context, **Block K** located within our Göztepe North Campus area, which had previously been used by a firm and was later transferred to our university's ownership, was converted from a commercial unit into an educational building housing offices, classrooms, and laboratories in line with the needs of our university. As part of the renovation work carried out by our Department of Construction and Maintenance, the interior space of the building was re-partitioned to be used as classrooms, a library and conference hall was designed within the building, and a research laboratory was established on floor -1. Once all the installation works were completed for the refunctioning of the building, it was brought into service in 2017.



Block K Renovation

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



Hangar to Campus Kitchen Renovation

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



Istanbul Medeniyet University Dental Hospital

## Public Access

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

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

As IMU, we give public access to our research laboratories to lead research activities. In this context, our university's Science and Advanced Technologies Research Center (IMU BILTAM) houses 7 service laboratories that offer analysis, measurement, imaging, and equipment services for all researchers in addition to our own staff and students. Institutions or researchers can fill in a request form to have their analyses made; to perform their own analyses using the devices and 41 pieces of equipment provided or to attend the analyses performed as observers. In addition, Istanbul Medeniyet University Laboratory Animal Facility (DEHAL), which has been licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the fields of research, breeding, use and procurement, provides high quality in vivo research infrastructure to academia and R&D institutions within the framework of legislation and ethical principles.

# OPERATIONS

## Collaborations on Sustainable Cities, Communities and Arts

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

**5**  
**LOCAL SCHOOLS**  
were supported with cultural and social education and activities

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

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

IMU has signed collaboration protocols with the Gifted and Genius Children Education Foundation of Turkey (TÜZDEV), **the Happy**

**Family Happy Child Association**, Istanbul Family Foundation, and Istanbul Volunteer Educators Association (İGEDER), World Children and Family Protection Platform (ÇAKOD), AYDOST Education, Culture, and Solidarity Association, Anatolia to the World Women's Civil Society Organizations Foundation (AYSİT), Süreyya Education, Culture, and Solidarity Association, International Youth Association, Lawyers Association, Ümraniye District National Education Directorate, Youth Assistance Fund, Dominican Study Institute Istanbul (Dost-1) and Happy Home Marriage and Family Counseling Education and Mutual Aid Association on carrying out cultural and social educational activities, events, symposia, projects, and internship programs and applications.

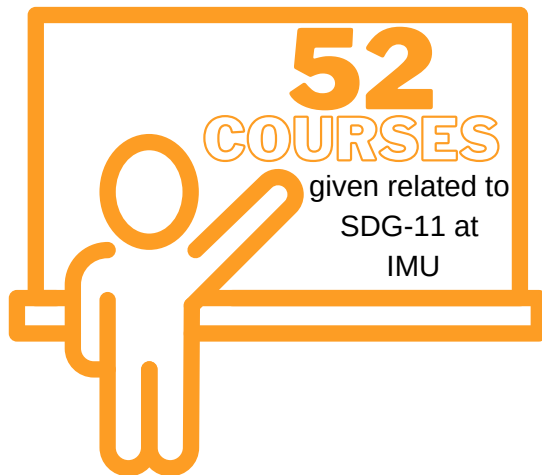
**Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office Probation Directorate** signed a collaboration protocol with IMU in fields such as education, research, consultancy and project design and also concerning the performance of various activities like organizing educational, social, cultural, and sports activities aiming to increase the motivation and productivity among the institution's staff and to ensure that the convicts can make the best use of their time.

The Youth and Volunteering Cooperation Protocol was signed between IMU and the **Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey** and as part of the protocol, a **Youth Office** was created in 2020 to carry out social, cultural, artistic, sports, and educational activities in our university campuses.



# 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 2024, 52 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-11 were given at IMU. Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course
Art, Design and Architecture	TUR105 - History of Turkish Music
	SHN207 - Turkish Theater I
Arts and Humanities	SDG437 - Discussions on Urbanization in Turkey
Education Sciences	ECE007 - Environmental Education and Sustainability in Early Childhood
Health Sciences	SHB351 - Local Authorities and Social Work
Law	HUK342 - Environmental Law
Medicine	TFS213 - Public Health and Urban Design I
Political Science	SBK214 - Urbanization and Environmental Management
	SBK315 - Urban Sociology
	MLY411 - Environmental Protection and Taxation
All - Elective	IMU060 - Disaster Management
	IMU061 - Disasters - Causes and Consequences
Institute of Graduate Studies	Ottoman Urbanism and Architecture
	Urban Risk Management

## Record and Preserve Cultural Heritage *Intangible Cultural Heritage*

In 2024, Istanbul Medeniyet University included Turkish Mangala, a traditional strategy game recognized as part of Turkey's intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, in the first-ever Medeniyet Olympics. This initiative aims to preserve and promote cultural heritage while fostering inclusive and vibrant community engagement.

Turkish Mangala, which has been played for centuries across Anatolia, is more than a game—it is a living cultural tradition that reflects social values, strategic thinking, and communal interaction. The University emphasized its importance by creating a dedicated Mangala category in the Medeniyet Olympics, allowing students to directly engage with their cultural roots. The event attracted wide participation from students across faculties, who eagerly learned the rules and competed in the tournament, demonstrating enthusiasm for both cultural preservation and recreational activity.

The tournament not only provided a fun and competitive environment but also highlighted the value of integrating cultural heritage into community life, reinforcing intergenerational learning, social cohesion, and shared identity.

By including Mangala in the Medeniyet Olympics, Istanbul Medeniyet University showcased its commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage, engaging the campus community, and building sustainable, culturally rich, and inclusive spaces for current and future generations.

In the knockout-style Mangala tournament, Esmanur GÖZCÜ, a student from the Department of Bioengineering, emerged as the undefeated champion. She demonstrated exceptional strategic skills throughout the competition and secured first place without losing a single match. Her victory highlighted both her mastery of the game and the enthusiastic participation of students in celebrating this cultural heritage.



# EVENTS

IMU Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Student Club organized many other events related to natural and built environment and their interactions with communities.

“BioBlitzIMU” events held under the theme of sustainable cities, continued in 2024 as well. Spring observation of the workshop titled **“Ecology in the City - BioBlitz: Validebağ Grove”** organized under BioBlitz IMU events was conducted by wildlife biologist/ornithologist Nuh KUBILAY, and our University research assistant Ayça ÇELIKBILEK. In the event held in Üsküdar Validebağ Grove on May 01, 2024. In the workshop held in Validebağ Grove, which was registered as a 1st-degree natural heritage area and declared as a protected area, the biodiversity of the land was recorded and mapped by identifying the living species in the area.



BioBlitz Observation Participants

One of the main purposes of the event, which are designed not only as a nature observation but also as environmental education, is to contribute to the recognition and protection of the environment by developing the right attitudes, behaviors and skills in the local community. In this sense, the workshop contents aim to explore environmental problems, resolve conflicts between nature and human beings and solve the problems caused by this conflict, and mobilize individuals and then communities in order to improve the environment. In addition, information was given about the threats that rapid/unplanned urbanization and climate change will pose on these species and their habitats. Thus, the workshops contributed to the citizens' understanding of the importance of green spaces and natural heritage areas, which are gradually decreasing in a big metropolitan area like Istanbul, and to the awareness that they share these areas with many living species. They also aimed to increase the awareness of the citizens by recognizing the living species and to spread the community-based conservation works.



BioBlitz Event Observation



## Tangible Cultural Heritage

Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ from the Department of Art History conducted two excavation works in Milas and Fethiye districts. He led archaeological excavations in the **ancient city of Beçin** in the Milas district of Muğla, which once was the capital of the Menteşeoğlu Principality and one of the important centers in the settlement of the Turkish-Islamic period and is now on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Istanbul Medeniyet University, and the Turkish Historical Society. This region, which was called Caria in the ancient period, came under the rule of Menteşe Principality after 1261. In Beçin, the administrative center of the Menteşe Principality, there are about 20 historical buildings in partially intact condition. Beçin, which was included in the World Heritage Tentative List by UNESCO in 2012, is among the very few cities in Anatolia that were founded by the Turks and survived until today.



Beçin Castle Excavation

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



Fethiye Castle Excavation



As part of the “4th Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week” activities, “Sustainability with Natural and Local Seeds” was held on December 27, 2024. The seminar was organized by IMU Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Club at Ziraat Bank Library Bankkart Conference Hall, Göztepe North Campus

In the first phase of the two-stage seminar, the participants were provided with basic information on food production and balcony gardening, seed planting and plant care. In the second part of the seminar, 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. During the theoretical training, tea, a symbol of Turkish identity, hospitality and social interaction, was offered to the participants by IMU Sustainability Office. The event concluded with a local seed and flower exchange and distribution, enabling participants to access heirloom seeds and encouraging them to begin their own sustainable food production.



“Sustainability with Natural and Local Seeds”

A workshop on renewable and clean energy production was organized by IMU Sustainability Office on December 26, 2024. In the workshop conducted by Sustainability Office Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, “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.

In the workshop, general information about the energy system used in cities and energy management was given. 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 limit, water consumption was kept within a certain limit, and different political and economic conditions developed for each group.



“ELECTRICITY”: Energy Preferences Game

# EVENTS

Between December 18-21, 2024, the II. Earthquake-Resistant Buildings Fair and Summit was held at the Istanbul Expo Center, bringing together academics, industry professionals, and policymakers to discuss resilient urban infrastructure. Istanbul Medeniyet University was represented by Prof. Dr. Fuat Aras from the Department of Civil Engineering, who presented his research and hosted the university's exhibition stand throughout the event.

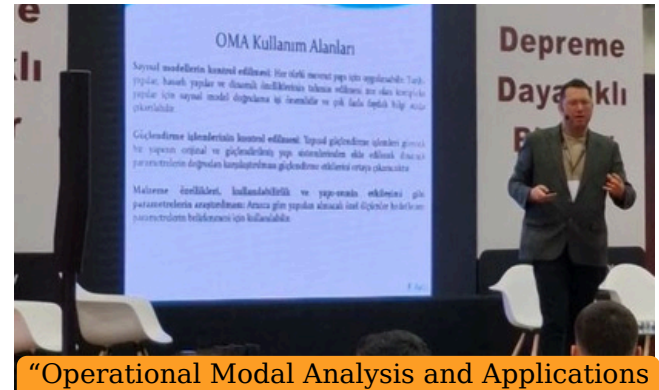
Organized under the slogan “Until Not a Single Risky Building Remains...”, the fair focused on strategies to improve building safety and urban resilience. Prof. Dr. Aras shared insights from his Operational Modal Analysis-based research, demonstrating applications that enhance the structural safety of existing buildings. Visitors showed significant interest in the university's stand, engaging with the research and exchanging knowledge on earthquake risk mitigation.

During his presentation “Operational Modal Analysis and Applications in the Assessment of Existing Structures”, Prof. Dr. Aras shared both academic insights and practical strategies for analyzing and strengthening buildings. He emphasized that applying scientific research to real-world structures is essential for creating resilient infrastructure, improving disaster preparedness, and fostering safe and sustainable urban environments, particularly in earthquake-prone cities like Istanbul.

Istanbul Medeniyet University's participation in the summit reflects its commitment to Sustainable Cities and Communities by promoting inclusive, resilient, and well-planned urban spaces. Through sharing research, practical applications, and strategies for urban risk reduction, the University contributed to raising awareness on building safety, sustainable urban development, and long-term resilience for local communities.



II. Earthquake -Resistant Buildings Fair and Summit Stand



“Operational Modal Analysis and Applications in the Assessment of Existing Structures”

# EVENTS

IMU

In order to draw attention to the increasing loss of nature and the deepening climate crisis, IMU Sustainability Club and Sustainability Office became one of the partners of “[Earth Hour](#)”, one of the world’s largest environmental campaigns. On the morning of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the project team made a call on their [social media accounts](#) and invited our campus community and the public to be a part of “Earth Hour”, which is celebrated every year in all countries around the world between 20.30-21.30 local time, and to do something positive for our Earth by turning off their lights for one hour with a symbolic action. The message also included some suggestions on what we can do for our planet in this one hour. Participants carried out many different activities of their own choosing in their cities, such as collecting recyclable waste; sorting waste; cleaning the environment; discovering and protecting biodiversity; reducing food waste with zero waste kitchen practices; and watching documentaries on sustainability.



23 March 2024

Earth Hour Movement

The second session of MASAM's [Disaster Preparedness Course](#), designed to promote a more informed and effective approach to natural disasters, was successfully carried out in collaboration with the Alimoğlu Health and Education Foundation, AFAD, and UMKE.

The course aimed to strengthen urban disaster preparedness by building inclusive emergency response capacity and enhancing the resilience of communities facing natural hazards. By equipping at-risk groups with accessible, life-saving knowledge and practical skills, the program supported efforts to create safe, resilient, and sustainable communities.



Disaster Preparedness Course