

IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-16 PEACE, JUSTICE and STRONG INSTITUTIONS**



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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

16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law - we cannot hope for sustainable development. We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long standing grievances

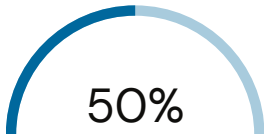
that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk. The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

120 MILLION

The number of people forcibly displaced



one in five people reporting being asked to pay or having paid a bribe to a public official in the last 12 months.



half of countries reported prison occupancy above capacity

48,384 PEOPLE

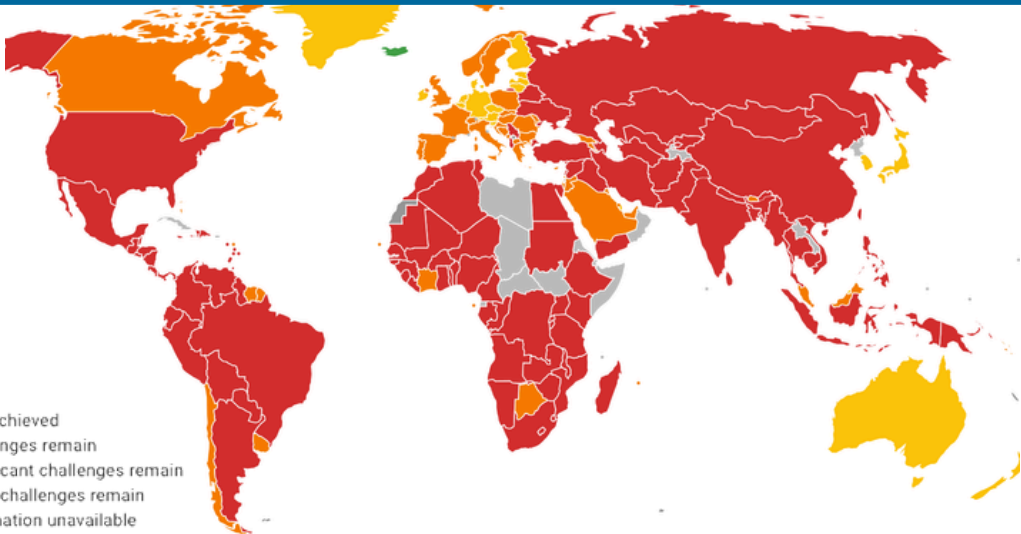
lost their lives in an armed conflict in 2024

11%

journalist killings increased 11 per cent in 2024

Legend

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





independent students' union



financial data shared publicly



identifying and engagement
with local, national and
international stakeholders



providing expert advice to
governments at local, national
and international levels



180
STUDENTS

graduated for our faculty of law
in 2024

Students' Union

IMU has an independent student council. The aims of [IMU Students' Council](#) are to ensure that the students registered in our university contribute to the development of the university; to convey the students' views and suggestions to the necessary units on meeting and developing their education, health, sports and cultural needs and to be a solution partner in these matters; to ensure that the students participate in the management in education issues; and to ensure that students are sensitive to national interests and are represented at non-university institutions when necessary. The Council consists of the student representatives **elected by the student community**. Student representative elections are held in November every year.

Identifying and Engagement with Local Stakeholders

Istanbul Medeniyet University has written policies and procedures to engage with its internal and external stakeholders. Our stakeholder groups have been clearly defined in our [Institutional Strategic Plan for 2020-2024](#). We plan our services and activities by identifying the expectations of our internal and external stakeholders through stakeholder satisfaction surveys and meetings, brainstorming, satisfaction surveys for the staff and students, and our system for submitting suggestions and expressing satisfaction.

We inform our external stakeholders about the University's activities and applications through the "Announcements" menu on our website. And we send our **external stakeholder surveys** online to receive the opinions and expectations of our large groups of external stakeholders in order to better analyze the University's current standing and projections for the future. IMU's procedures for managing stakeholder engagement are clearly explained in our [Internal Evaluation Report](#) published annually.

IMU's local stakeholders include regional directorates of central government agencies, the Governorship of Istanbul, local schools and universities, local government agencies, local industrial firms, trade union and civil government representatives, and local residents among others. Our stakeholders are regularly invited to have meetings with our governing bodies to participate in our decision making processes.

University Principles on Corruption and Bribery

As a public institution, IMU is completely against corruption and bribery and complies with the [Law No 3628 on Declaration of Property and Fight against Bribery and Anticorruption](#), which lays down rules for fighting with bribe and corruption, regulates the declaration of property by civil servants, renewal of declarations, supervision of acquisition of property, provisions applicable in case of unjust acquisition of property and false declaration.

This law also regulates follow up and trial procedure for public officials and accomplices due to crimes specified in this law. As civil servants, all our staff members are obligated to comply with the provisions of the above law and the [Regulation on the Declaration of Property](#) and are to declare any property they have acquired at the start of their public service and renew their declarations when-ever they acquire a new valuable property. The declarations are made to our Personnel Department using the [relevant form](#) on the web page.

Academic Freedom Policy

In [Article 27](#) of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, it is stated that everyone has the right to study and teach, express, and disseminate science and the arts, and to carry out research in these fields freely. Istanbul Medeniyet University supports this freedom in all aspects.

In addition, Turkey is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. According to [Article 15](#) of this Covenant, The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone: to take part in cultural life; to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he/she is the author. Our university also supports this Covenant.

Publishing Financial Data

The University's [Institutional Financial Status and Expectations Report](#), which is annually published by IMU Strategy Development Department, contains the realization data on the University's budget for the first six months of the relevant year and the expectations and predictions for the second half of the year. The report also contains the data on the University's financing and budget revenues and expenditures for the two periods, as well as detailed information about its major investment projects.

Providing Expert Advice to Government

Many of our faculty members contribute to decision- and policy-making at local, national, and international levels by providing expert advice to government agencies and organizations through policy guidance and membership or chairmanship of various boards, commissions, and committees. Listed below are only a small part of our faculty members' contributions.

[Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ](#) from IMU Department of Art History is a member of **UNESCO Turkey National Comission - Displaced Cultural Heritage Monitoring Group**. He is also a member of the **Istanbul Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Board No 1**, member of the **Superior Council for the Conservation of Cultural Property**.

OPERATIONS

Prof.Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ is also the **Director of Archaeological Fieldwork for Beçin and Fethiye Castles**, and member of the **Scientific Commissions for Akköprü and Ilisu Dams**.



UNESCO Türkiye National Commission

Prof.Dr. Hamza ATEŞ, a faculty member of IMU Department of Political Science and Public Administration is serving as a **member of the Civil Society Advisory Council of the Ministry of Interior**.

Prof.Dr. Belgin ERHAN, a faculty member of IMU Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, serves as the **chair of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCOs) Prevention Committee**.

Prevention Chair:



Prof Belgin Erhan, MD

ISCOs Web Page - Prevention Committee

Prof.Dr. Işıl MARAL of IMU Faculty of Medicine is a member of the National Immunization Scientific Advisory Board, the Post-Vaccination Adverse Effects Commission, and the Measles Verification Commission of the Ministry of Health of Turkey.

Prof.Dr. Sertaç ARSLANOĞLU of IMU Faculty of Medicine is serving as the **President of European Milk Bank Association (EMBA)** and Scientific Director for the Turkish **Association of Milk Banks**. She also serves as an advisor for the Neonatology Commission for Curriculum Development and Standard Assignment System of the Medical Specialty Training Board (TUKMOS) and for the World Association of Perinatal Medicine Working Group on Nutrition.

Our faculty member **Prof.Dr. İhsan FAZLIOĞLU** of IMU Philosophy Department is serving as a **permanent member of the Scientific Board of the Turkish Historical Society**.

Prof. Dr. Yusuf Çalışkan, Head of the Department of Private International Law of our University, was re-elected as a **Member of the Governing Council of the Institute for the Unification of Private International Law (UNIDROIT)**.

Policy and Lawmakers Outreach and Education

Havran Municipality and IMU signed a collaboration protocol for ensuring that the municipality staff processes and transfers personal data in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Personal Data, raising awareness about the confidentiality of personal information and related security measures.

Sultanbeyli Municipality and IMU signed a collaboration protocol in education, application, and research aiming to use our university's academic expertise to enhance the municipality's service quality.

Üsküdar Provincial Directorate of National Education and IMU signed a protocol for collaboration in education concerning improving the quality of education services in the educational institutions run by the Directorate, developing programs to enhance student success, and conducting services to increase teachers' competencies.

Kartal Provincial Directorate of National Education and IMU signed a protocol on cooperation between academic staff, administrators, teachers, students in the fields of education, training, research and development.

IMU signed a protocol with the **Turkish Statistical Institute** on cooperation in academic, scientific and educational fields, project studies, consultancy services, seminars, conferences, etc. in the determined fields.

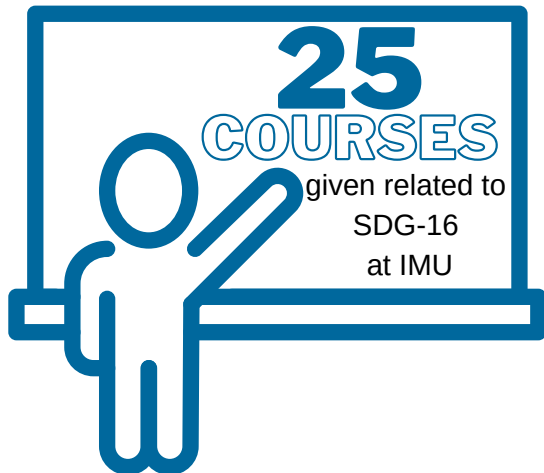
Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office Probation Directorate signed a collaboration protocol with IMU in "education, research, consultancy and project design" fields. Within the scope of the protocol, IMU will contribute to the academic support of the staff working in judicial services and increase their professional competence, to provide convenience within the budget and administrative possibilities, to the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and directorate staff who apply to the non-thesis Master's programs, organizing educational, social, cultural, and sports activities aiming to increase the motivation and productivity among the institution's staff, support the reintegration of those under probation measure into society and to develop social responsibility projects for individuals in this group to ensure that the convicts can make the best use of their time in the institution by acquiring the knowledge and skills required for their social rehabilitation. Thanks to this protocol, IMU contributed to justice system with its components and also contributed to creating a peaceful society.



Protocol Ceromony with Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office

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



Faculty	Course
Arts and Humanities	HIST410 - Violence and Crime in Ottoman Empire
Education Sciences	EBB044 - Educational Law
Health Sciences	SHB253 - Human Rights and Social Work
Law	HUK342 - Environmental Law
	HUK238 - Constitutional Jurisdiction
Medicine	TFS105 - Basic Principles of Law
Tourism	TİŞ224 - Sustainable Tourism
	TİŞ326 - Alternative Tourism
Political Science	SBK319 - Theory of Democracy and Democratization
	ULİ353 - International Conflict Resolution
All - Elective	IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability

EVENTS

UMI

On April 30, 2024, Istanbul Medeniyet University hosted a high-profile panel titled [“Civil Constitution in the 100th Year of the Republic”](#). The event offered a platform for critical reflection on constitutional reform, institutional legitimacy, and civic participation.

Panelists argued that Turkey’s current constitutional framework requires a more dynamic and participatory overhaul. It was emphasized that any constitution should not only include liberal-democratic principles, but must also be drafted through a pluralistic, inclusive, and participatory process.

Speakers emphasized the critical importance of civil society engagement in shaping the constitution. They pointed out how non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and citizen groups can act as vital counterweights to dominant political powers, contributing to checks and balances.

The panel also addressed the concept of vesayet (guardianship) in constitutional formation—

exploring how power imbalances can undermine meaningful participation and erode institutional trust.

There was a strong focus on the historical evolution of constitutional arrangements in Turkey. The discussion traced how constitutional design has reflected political struggles, governance models, and shifting understandings of legitimacy. By situating the debate in a historical context, panelists underlined the urgent need for institutional reform that aligns with modern democratic standards and ensures stronger rule-of-law protections.

In its framing, the event directly addressed promoting inclusive institutions (16.6), ensuring public access to justice (16.3), and strengthening participatory decision-making (16.7). By calling for a citizen-centered and legally sound constitutional framework, the panel contributed to ongoing debates about how Turkey can build more resilient, accountable, and democratic institutions.



“Civil Constitution in the 100th Year of the Republic” Panel

30 April 2024

EVENTS

IMU

The Human Rights Research and Application Center at Istanbul Medeniyet University held a [mock court session](#) focusing on rule of law, access to justice, and accountability for human rights violations. The session, conducted on 8 May 2024, examined Israel's actions in Gaza over the past seven months on the basis of South Africa's genocide case submitted to the International Court of Justice.

A panel of academic judges oversaw the proceedings, while students represented the opposing sides and engaged directly with procedures such as evidence presentation, legal reasoning, and the right to defense. Claims regarding attacks on civilians, obstruction of essential humanitarian resources, and mass killings were evaluated within the framework of international criminal law and the potential elements of genocide. The defense rejected all allegations, framing Israel's actions as security-driven.

The first session included testimony from two Palestinian witnesses from Gaza and the West Bank, offering insight into the humanitarian impact of the conflict. Through this exercise, participants were able to observe how international justice mechanisms function and explore how legal processes contribute to strengthening institutions, upholding human rights, and promoting peaceful and just societies.

The second session [of its mock court](#) on May 15, 2024. The session focused on Israel's actions in Gaza from the perspectives of international law, human rights, and accountability.

The court panel evaluated the claims presented by students representing both sides and heard testimonies from witnesses from Gaza. Students representing South Africa argued that Israel's actions against civilians could constitute genocide under international law. After reviewing the defenses of both parties, the court panel issued its decision within the framework of relevant international law. Participants also discussed alleged attacks on civilians, obstruction of essential resources, and mass killings, applying a legal perspective. This allowed students to directly observe how justice and the protection of human rights operate in practice.

The session not only provided an educational experience in legal procedures but also fostered awareness of accountability, transparency, and the strengthening of peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms, encouraging active participation of young people in justice-related processes.



15 May 2024

Mock Court Event of the Occupation Regime

EVENTS

İMÜ

The **"3rd International Information and Technology Law Symposium"** organized jointly by Istanbul Medeniyet University and the Information and Technology Law Association on 29-30 November 2024, was held at the Âşık Paşa Conference Hall on the University's South Campus. Bringing together leading experts, practitioners, and academics, the symposium addressed critical contemporary issues such as legal regulation in a digitalizing world, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence law, crypto assets, and digital addiction—all of which remain central to strengthening institutional capacity and supporting secure and just digital governance. The symposium was open to public.

In th first speech, the impact of digitalization on national infrastructure was evaluated and that infrastructure security as a key component of national security was emphasized. Also the necessity of improving cyber resilience, reinforcing institutional safeguards, and ensuring accountability in digital systems was underlined.

In the second and third speech it was mentioned the rapid rise in internet usage and e-commerce volume, drawing attention to the risks associated with cybersecurity. The importance of transparent regulation, coordinated governance, and robust justice systems to protect public rights in an increasingly digital environment was highlighted.

Our Rector, Prof. Dr. GÜlfettin Çelik, pointed out that achieving regularity, continuity, and predictability in national and international digital governance has become increasingly difficult.

He stated that a country must strengthen its institutional capacity, develop globally aligned legal frameworks, and contribute to the rule of law in digital spaces. Çelik also linked academic work to the wider goal of promoting justice, ethical governance, and resilient legal institutions in his speech.

The symposium hosted sessions on a wide range of topics, including commercial law in the context of digital transformation, artificial intelligence law, fintech, data law, and intellectual property, all of which influence the development of transparent, fair, and accountable legal frameworks.

Concluding with high participation, the symposium provided new perspectives on building strong institutions, ensuring responsible digital governance, and advancing the goals by promoting justice, the rule of law, and inclusive, effective, and accountable institutions in the digital age.



"3rd International Information and Technology Law Symposium"

EVENTS

İMÜ

A seminar titled **“Divorce and Property Regime Settlement in Practice”** organized by the Ideal Medeniyet Law Club as part of its event series “Fragment of the Profession,” was held on December 10, 2024, at the Bankkart Hall of the Ziraat Bank Library at Istanbul Medeniyet University. Attorney Fatih Karamercan and attorney and mediator Neriman Uygur participated as speakers and shared their expertise with students.

The seminar offered comprehensive insights into divorce cases, legal rights in divorce, the structure and principles of property liquidation, the principle of fault, expert witness involvement, and mediation processes within the broader scope of family law. By addressing the practical challenges faced during the divorce process and presenting international examples, the speakers contributed to strengthening students’ understanding of fair legal procedures, access to justice, and transparent decision-making mechanisms.



“Divorce and Property Regime Settlement in Practice” Seminar

Organized by the Aydın Medeniyetliler Academy Student Club, the panel titled **“Artificial Intelligence Law”** brought together law and technology perspectives at Istanbul Medeniyet University on December 19, 2024, at the Central Library Bankkart Hall. The event examined how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping legal processes and explored its implications for ethical governance, human rights, and strong institutions.

The panel addressed questions such as “Can artificial intelligence make judicial decisions?”, prompting discussions on the extent to which advanced technologies can be integrated into judicial systems without compromising the rule of law, judicial impartiality, or procedural fairness. Speakers evaluated the possibility of using AI as a supportive tool in criminal courts, focusing on how digital systems could enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in judicial processes. The panel also examined how digital transformation is reshaping the legal landscape more broadly, including the emergence of digital rights.



“Artificial Intelligence Law” Panel