# IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on SDG-4 QUALITY EDUCATION





































# 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 professional toward training understanding that prioritizes human and social responsibility. Therefore, universities are central to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Thus, as Istanbul 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)

2022, IMU Sustainability Office 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 organizes public training and programs workshops.

Our Sustainability Office has planned to create sustainability development annual 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 CELİKBİLEK, 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 Istanbul Medeniyet University

# **FOREWORD**

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

# QUALITY EDUCATION



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrolment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes.

Progress has also been tough in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. In Western Asia and North Africa, ongoing armed conflict has seen an

increase in the number of children out of school. This is a worrying trend. While Sub-Saharan Africa made the greatest progress in primary school enrolment among all developing regions – from 52 percent in 1990, up to 78 percent in 2012 – large disparities still remain. Children from the poorest households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households. Disparities between rural and urban areas also remain high.

Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and bovs complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.

109 MILLION

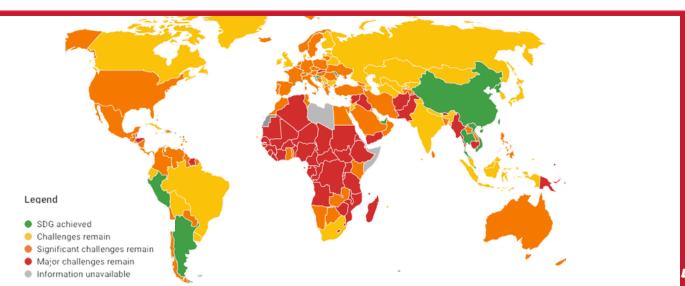
the increase in the number of children attending school since 2015 91%

enrollment in primary education in developing countries has reached

in developing countries, one in four girls is not in school %88

primary school completion rate worldwide in 2023 **272** MILLION

still out of school in 2023



"Quality Education" category 2025 ranking



IMPACT

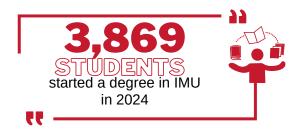






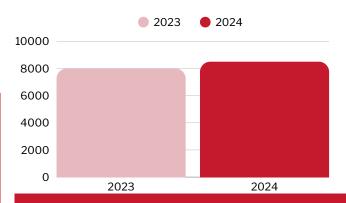
RELATED

public trainings for quality education in 2024





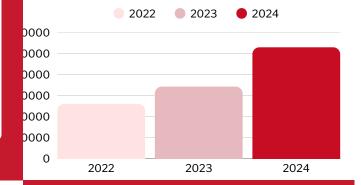
## Number of External Users of IMU Libraries



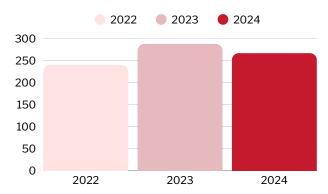
The number of external users accessing the IMU Main Library increased from 8,000 in 2023 to 8,500 in 2024, representing a **6.25% rise**. This growth reflects the library's ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility and support wider engagement from the community.

Library resources accessible to the public have shown remarkable progress over the past three years. The total number of accessible resources increased from 5,212,421 in 2022 to 10,601,421 in 2024, marking a 103% increase. This significant progress demonstrates IMU's commitment to expanding public access to knowledge and strengthening its role as an inclusive academic resource center.

# Number of Resources Become Accessible to the Public



## Graduates with Primary School Teaching Qualification



The number of graduates with primary school teaching qualification in 2024 had increased by 12% compared to 2022.



## **Lifelong Learning Access Policy**

Concerning the right of education and educational equality, the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey established in **Article 42** that "No one may be deprived of the right of learning **and education.** The scope of the right to education shall be defined and regulated by law...The State shall provide scholarships and other means of assistance to enable students of merit lacking financial means to continue their education. The State shall take necessary measures to rehabilitate those in need of special training so as to render such people useful to society. Training, education, research, and study are the only activities that shall be pursued at institutions of training and education. These activities may not be obstructed in any way..."

As a state university and a public institution, Istanbul Medeniyet University offers all its educational services and activities by following an indiscriminate policy of providing access to everyone, as required by the applicable legislation.

As per the **Regulation on Special Students in** Istanbul Medeniyet University **Undergraduate Programs**, students from other universities and alumni of any higher education institution can take courses in our university under the free mover student status in order to experience a different higher education environment and to acquire certain knowledge and skills which they find in our curriculum. Such students may apply and register for our courses on a semesterly basis

within the time schedule specified in our academic calendar every year and the requirements are announced by our Department of Student Affairs on a regular basis. Applications by graduate students from other universities are made to our Institute of Graduate Studies. which publishes announcements on the quotas and requirements for free mover students every year. Also, we admit students from other universities to our **summer school programs** involving different courses from different faculties of our university.

The Student Selection and Placement Center (OSYM), which is the official public institution that coordinates and administers nationwide central exams in Turkey and carries out the assessment, selection, and placement processes for students through these exams, has established one of <a href="its regional offices for lstanbu">its regional offices for lstanbu</a> Anatolian side in our campus area. Our university also opens its classrooms in our campuses to be used for administering all these country-wide exams in Istanbul.

Furthermore, through our collaboration protocol with Atatürk University, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University of Continuing Education Application and Research Center and Istanbul University Faculty of Open and Distance Education on the planning and administering of their central exams to be held in the Anatolian side of Istanbul, 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.

#### **Public Resources**

IMU signed protocols for collaboration in education with 6 local high schools. Thanks to these protocols, students of local schools can use our campus facilities and the resources in our library, which is the largest university library in Turkey, as well as our educational facilities such as laboratories and conference halls. Also, the students are provided academic support for their projects and research by the faculty members and graduate students in related departments of the university.

IMU Ziraat Bank Central Library was opened to the use of **external researchers and students** in 2022. With this opportunity, 10,601,421 resources in our library have become accessible to the public in 2024.





allowed to use our libraries

77

Publishing services in our university are carried out by our Department of Library and Documentation and as Istanbul Medeniyet University, we have published the **books** of some of our faculty members under our own publisher brand name, Istanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi Yayınları. Some of our books are sold in print format on various online bookstores, while our **books in electronic format** are shared freely on our website.

Likewise, some of our faculties and academic centers have been issuing indexed academic journals, the contents of which can be freely accessed online on Dergipark platform. These journals include **Medeniyet Sanat** journal issued by our Faculty of Art, Design, and Architecture; Medeniyet Eğitim Araştırmaları Dergisi issued by IMU Faculty of Education Sciences; Bulletin of **Medeniyet Cultural Studies** issued by IMU Faculty of Arts and Humanities; Medeniyet Araştırmaları Dergisi (Journal of Civilization **Studies**) published on behalf of IMU Center for Civilization Studies(ISMAM): Iournal of Medeniyet Politics issued by our Faculty of Political Sciences; Medeniyet Medical Journal issued by IMU Faculty of Medicine; Medeniyet Law Review issued by our Faculty of Law; Library, Archive and Museum Research Journal (LAMRe) issued by IMU Department Information and Document Management.







Open Access Journals Published by IMU



Acting on the mission of helping our students and staff members identify their career goals in line with the changing conditions of the business world, guiding them about how to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experience required for their goals, and contributing to their IMU Development improvement, Career Coordination Office serves our students and staff with its team of career counselors and representatives formed by our academic staff members from all faculties specialized in career development.

The Youth and Volunteering Cooperation Protocol was signed between Istanbul Medeniyet University and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey and as part of the protocol, a Youth Office was created in 2020 to carry out sports, educational, social, cultural, and artistic activities in our university campuses. Through IMU Youth Office located in our Göztepe North Campus, our students and student clubs can receive consulting about their volunteering projects from the representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the projects that are deemed eligible are given funding. In IMU Youth Office, our students and clubs can also organize and carry out events and activities and are provided with project training, free cultural trips, workshops, and other artistic, cultural and sports activities.

In 2024, many of our student clubs held their meetings in our Youth Office, which also organized events and workshops on different subjects including a <u>cycling tour</u> for our

students held in Maltepe Park on 25-26 October 2024, an <u>Culture Day</u> program on 1 November 2024 and <u>Language Workshops</u> started on October 2024.

Our university offers its students free vocational training courses to ensure their equal access to affordable quality education and to support their career development.

In 2024, our Department of Library and Documentation organized many <u>free training</u> and <u>certification programs</u> including courses on social media use development and compliance training in business life, diction, drama, generative writing workshop, personal image management and chess.





#### **Collaborations**

Istanbul Medeniyet University collaborates with numerous public institutions, research institutions, universities, local schools, and NGOs toward numerous goals that would help us achieve the objective of quality education, including ensuring equal access to affordable technical, vocational, and tertiary education; increasing the number of people with relevant skills for financial success; ending all disparities in education; increasing universal literacy and numeracy; providing sustainable development and global citizenship education; and increasing the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries.

#### **Public Institutions**

Our Faculty of Medicine uses Göztepe Prof.Dr. Süleyman Yalçın City Hospital as a training and research hospital jointly with the **Ministry of Health** in accordance with the **Joint Use and Cooperation Protocol** signed between **Istanbul Governorship** and IMU Göztepe Prof.Dr. Süleyman Yalçın City Hospital, which is the largest training and research hospital of the Anatolian side of Istanbul, physicians of the future are given both pre-graduate education and post-graduation specialization training.

**T.R. Ministry of Youth and Sports** collaborated with IMU to <u>establish a Youth Office</u> to carry out educational, social, cultural, sports, and artistic activities in our campuses. The Youth Office established in our Göztepe North Campus

contributes to the academic, professional, personal, social, and physical development of university students, strengthening of their volunteering spirit, and raising them as individuals who are aware of their social responsibilities. Activities of our Youth Office also contribute to the performance of social services needed by large segments of the society and chiefly those groups that need special policies. These efforts aim to guide the university youth toward spending their free time on solving social problems and providing social services using their knowledge, skills, and competencies they acquire through education.

Maltepe Provincial Directorate of National Education and IMU signed a protocol for collaboration in education regarding developing the standard of educational services in the educational institutions managed by the Directorate, developing programs to increase learning success, and implementing services to increase teachers' qualifications. Also, Directorate and IMU decided to support each other on topics such as research and community service.

The General Directorate of Religious **Education of the Ministry of** National **Education** signed a collaboration protocol with IMU to ensure that the educational potentials and common educational goals and efforts of educational administrators, teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders are actively, successfully. effectively, productively and incorporated into and implemented in the education process. Through the collaboration,



Our academic staff members organize awareness and visionary activities to support the academic and intellectual development of the students in Imam Hatip schools. Thanks to these activities, our youth receive coaching for their career development chiefly in major area courses.

The Governorship of Istanbul, Provincial Directorate of National Education and IMU signed a collaboration protocol concerning the operation of a kindergarten established in IMU Göztepe North Campus under the Ministry of National Education, appointment of administrators, teachers, and staff for the said kindergarten, and organizing its curriculum.

**Istanbul Provincial Directorate of National Education** and IMU have signed a collaboration protocol in education, science, arts, sports, and culture.

**Police Academy** signed an Academic and Educational Cooperation Protocol with IMU to establish academic collaboration between the parties to conduct joint scientific research, organize events, and develop partnerships in the fields of education and academia.

**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.

**Kartal Provincial Directorate of National Education** signed a collaboration protocol with IMU. This agreement covers the procedures and principles to be followed in order to carry out planned and programmed projects and studies in the fields of education, teaching, research and development, projects, and community service applications through the cooperation established between the IMU Faculty of Health Sciences Dean's Office and the Kartal District MEM.

**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.

IMU signed collaboration **protocol in arts** with **Gaziosmanpaşa Municipality**. Within the scope of the protocol, our University will contribute to artistic and academic studies, which will facilitate the social and cultural development of the people living in this district 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.







**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.

Üsküdar Provincial Directorate of National **Education** and IMU signed another protocol to collaborate on the project titled "From Tradition to Future: Şile Ecosystem and Sustainability". The project aims to encourage young people who grow up under the rapid influence of technology and urbanization and therefore disconnected from nature to establish a healthy connection with nature, to contribute to the upbringing of individuals who are sensitive to environmental problems, and to emphasize the importance of nature and sustainability education for students studying in the 10th and 11th grades of high schools and equivalent schools. Through the activities to be carried out with the project, students are expected to increase their knowledge, skills and awareness within the framework of environmental literacy, sustainability, etc.

**Üsküdar District Governorship** and Istanbul Medeniyet University signed a cooperation protocol for the Economics and Finance Literacy Project for gigh school students. The project covers the principles and procedures related to providing comprehensive education on economic literacy to high school students, aiming to enhance young people's knowledge and skills in the fields of economics and finance.

Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office Probation Directorate signed a collaboration protocol with IMU in "education, research, consultancy and project design". As per 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, support the reintegration of those under probation measure into society and to develop social responsibility projects individuals in this group.

#### **Local Schools**

Gebze Ülkem Primary School, Hayrullah Kefoğlu Anatolian High School, Kadıköy Ahmet Sani Gezici Anatolian Imam Hatip High School for Girls, Kandilli High School for Girls, Maltepe Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, iTO Marmara Anatolian Imam Hatip High School and Sultanbeyli Nilüfer Hatun Anatolian Imam Hatip High School for Girls have signed protocols of collaboration in education with our university.

Thanks to these protocols, the students of local schools are given the **opportunity to use our campus facilities and the resources in our central library**, which is the largest university library in Turkey, as well as our educational facilities such as laboratories and conference halls, and attending classes; moreover, they are provided with **academic support** for their projects and research efforts by the faculty members and graduate students of the related department of our university.



#### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

IMU signed a general cooperation and goodwill protocol with **AYDOST Education**, **Culture**, **and Solidarity Association** in 2024. The protocol defines and covers the terms and conditions for carrying out academic education, organizations, symposiums, projects, internships, and research activities related to socio-cultural events, scientific research, and practices.

IMU and the Foundation of Women's Non-Governmental Organizations from Anatolia to the World (AYSİT) signed a general cooperation and goodwill protocol.

**Lawyers Association** and IMU have signed a protocol to foster collaboration aimed at supporting the academic, legal, social, and cultural development of association members, university students, children, and their parents.

**Turkish University Students' Foundation** (TÜZDEV) and IMU also signed a protocol in 2024. The protocol covers the principles and procedures of cooperation in education, academic activities, and cultural exchange between the parties.

**Youth Aid Fund** and IMU signed a general cooperation and goodwill protocolin 2024. The protocol outlines the terms and conditions under which cultural, social, academic education, organizations, symposiums, projects, internships, and research activities will be conducted through the collaboration of the parties.

## Non-Governmental Organizations

**Boğaziçi Foundation** signed a collaboration protocol with IMU concerning **women**, **youth and child centered activities**. This protocol covers the rights and obligations regarding field research, research reports, master's and doctoral level articles and theses, academic publications, scientific events and activities on women, youth and children.

As part of the educational collaboration protocol signed between **Turkish Maarif Foundation** and IMU, our university gives **academic support** to the training programs organized by the Foundation.

Istanbul Family Foundation signed a collaboration protocol with IMU to carry out family-oriented scientific activities, sociocultural activities, scientific research and applications.

**World Children and Family Protection** Platform signed a collaboration protocol with IMU about the Certification of the Trauma and Addiction Training Certificate Program by IMÜSEM.

<u>Happy Family Happy Child Association</u> and IMU have signed a collaboration protocol to carry out cultural, social, and academic training programs, events, symposia, projects, scholarships, and research.

The Gifted and Genius Children Education Foundation of Turkey (TÜZDEV) signed a collaboration protocol with IMU to support the gifted and genius children in their education, who constitute our country's above-ground treasures, in accessing educational services; to create supporting educational programs for R&D activities and development of national education policies; and to establish new educational institutions when needed. As part of the protocol, talent workshops are organized for training gifted and genius students; joint projects are carried out for funders; collaborative research projects and joint academic meetings are held; an environment for practiceis provided for gifted students; joint academic and cultural symposia, conferences, workshops, and meetings are organized and hosted; training seminars are organized for families; research activities are carried out with resulting publications; and training programs and courses are developed.

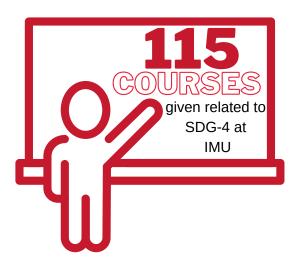


**Istanbul Volunteer Educators Association** (**iGEDER**) signed a collaboration protocol with IMU to plan for and carry out **education**, **application**, **and research activities** as well as sociocultural events and to collaborate on and implement joint projects.

## <u>LEARNING</u>

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, 115 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-4 were given at IMU.

Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course			
Arts and Humanities	PSİ422 - Education and School Psychology			
	BBY214 - Public, Children and School Libraries			
Education Sciences	EBB315 - Special Education			
	EBB052 - Education of Inpatient Children			
	EBB053 - Inclusive Education			
	ÖZL022 - Diagnostic Models and Tests for the Gifted			
	İMÖ482 - Mathematics Education for Students in Need of Special Education			
Engineering and Natural Sciences	IMU084 - Career Planning			
Political Science	MLY316 - Education and Health Policies in Turkey			
	İKT327- Economic Development			
	İKT440 - Economics of Education			
All - Elective	IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability			
	IMU055 - Society and Ethics			
Institute of Graduate Studies	SKY 526 Health Education and Health Improvement			



#### **Education Outreach Activities**

IMU Sustainability Office took part in the **Environment Festival** organized by Kadıköy Municipality annually as part of World Day Environment events and provided educational programmes about ecosystems. IMU Sustainability Office conducted environment training games and workshops for local participants in the festival. Through these games and workshops held from May 31 to June 02, 2024, the team members, Res.Asst. Ayça CELİKBİLEK, Lect. Zehra SAVAN, and Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR, discussed ways to develop sustainable practices in cities and improve waste management in order to create sustainable cities and communities with the participants.

On the first day of the festival, the team raised awareness among children and youth about ecosystem and biodiversity with the game "Nature Detectives" designed for children. The game was played for three times during the day in Selamiçeşme Özgürlük Park, where the festival was held.



In the game, children were given target cards consisting of flora and fauna items that could be found in the park area. The children, who were grouped in such a way that each group was accompanied by an instructor, were asked to discover and find the targets on these cards. For each target found, workshop instructors ÇELİKBİLEK, SAVAN and ERUÇAR informed the children about the characteristics of the species and its importance in the ecosystem. Children were provided with basic information about nutritional relationships between species, invasive species and threatened species. Children were made aware of the fact that there is an important species richness even in the parks where they play and the importance of protecting these areas for the survival of biodiversity. After the game, each group received gifts prepared by our University and plants planted in pots by the Sustainability Office to grow in their classrooms.



During the festival, the Sustainability team also played with the booth visitors the "Waste Sorting Game" designed and produced by the team. The game provided information on important issues of waste management such as the waste sorting system implemented in Turkey within the scope of zero waste program; recyclable and non-recyclable wastes; and the issues to be considered when throwing waste into waste bins for recycling. The team played the game with children in which waste was sorted through examples. The sustainability team made explanations about the common misconceptions about recycling and emphasized that waste should be disposed of cleanly in waste bins in order to be recycled. Thanks to the Waste Sorting Game, 108 children were trained on waste sorting during the festival.

IMU Sustainability Office also organized an hourlong **TABUSUS** workshop at the booth representing our University in the festival area to raise awareness about sustainable development goals. TABUSUS, a word game designed by Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, research assistant at Sustainability Office, and developed together with the office team, taught participants the basic concepts of sustainability through gamification. TABUSUS game design goes beyond a word-telling game and the game is also environmental education. The words presented as banned words on the game cards are actually the words to teach these concepts to the participants. For this reason, some cards actually contain words or statistical information that people may never use when explaining the keyword.









A training period in the "General Surgery **Assistant Training Program"**, which is jointly conducted by Istanbul Medeniyet University and Somalia Benadir University and coordinated by Istanbul Medeniyet University African Health Studies and Application Center (IMU MASAM), has been successfully completed in November 2024. Aiming to contribute to the development of Somalia's health system by training new physicians and to increase the access to basic health services, 6 Somali residents who participated in the training programme and received intensive training from the faculty members of our university were entitled to receive the title of 'Specialist Physician' to serve as surgeons in their country. This collaboration aimed eliminating the surgeon shortage in Somalia which is a critical step to reduce the health risks in the region. The surgeons trained in this programme will continue to take steps towards solving public health problems by contributing to the development of the health system in Somalia.



As part of the Career Week at the Education Summit organised by IMU, two important interview events were held by the Young Educators Student Club on 9 May 2024. These events with the theme of 'Teachers of the Future' were held at the Ziraat Bank Library Conference Hall.

At the first interview Zeki ÇOBANOĞLU mentioned that teachers have a social responsibility on the development of society and drew attention to the power of teachers to create social impact.

In the second interview Yusuf Islam AKAY interactive activities with the organised participants and discussed the subtle nuances between staying in the flow and making a difference. In order to provide quality education, suggestions were made in the training seminar for the participants to create awareness in line with sustainable education goals in every environment and in every work they do. He also emphasised the importance of providing equal education. opportunities in The event contributed to the development of a sustainable education vision.





#### **Public Events**

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we have been constantly increasing our activities for sustainable development education.

The Sustainability Week, which we organise every year with a wide scope, is at the forefront of our sustainability trainings. In addition to the trainings we organise within our university, we also organise trainings and workshops in sustainability and environment-related activities of various public institutions.

We held our fourth <u>Sustainability Week in 2024</u> as a series of events jointly organized by IMU Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Student Club. Our Sustainability Week 2024 featured 16 different events and workshops throughout the week including talks, trainings, workshops, games, and an exhibition on topics varying from biodiversity, climate change to clean energy, healthy lifestyle, recycling, upcycling and sustainable food production with heirloom seeds.

For these events, various collaborations were developed with different public institutions, private sector organisations and NGOs.





The first event of Istanbul Medeniyet University's 4th Sustainability Week, a **Paper Recycling Workshop**, was successfully held on December 24 at the Sustainability Office. The workshop was led by Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK and Furkan ERUÇAR from the Sustainability Office, providing participants with hands-on experience and practical knowledge on paper recycling and sustainable practices.

In the workshop, the participants were informed about the history of paper and the traditional methods used in paper production in Anatolia, and had the opportunity to put into practice the knowledge they gained about how waste paper can be recycled and re-papered.

After the theoretical session, participants moved on to the practical stage of the workshop. Waste paper from the university was recycled using traditional methods, producing papers of various colors and sizes, with or without embedded seeds. Throughout the production process, the transformed materials were handled carefully to ensure both quality and sustainability. The entire production process was carried out using recycled materials. Paper screens were made from leftover wood pieces from a school construction site; workshop aprons produced by upcycling unused cloth bags; discarded egg cartons were used to add color to the papers; and recycled electronic products were utilized to create the paper pulp.





The second event of Istanbul Medeniyet University's 4th Sustainability Week was "Product Design Workshop with **PET** Filament". The workshop, organized in collaboration with TylmanDesign, was held on 24 December 2024 under the hosting of the Sustainability Office.

After the participants were informed about the types of plastic materials and transformation processes; Res.Asst.Furkan ERUÇAR informed the participants about the working principles and installation of PETmachine. Afterwards, the PETmachine was operated to demonstrate the recycling and production process. At this stage, each participant was informed about recycling process of PET water bottles. After the filaments were produced, the participants used these produced PET filaments to manufacture the products. Later, these filaments were used to produce snowflake-shaped new year ornaments.

During the workshop, the ornaments produced by the participants were gifted to them. The remaining ornaments were distributed on 25 and 26 December across both the North Campus and Cevizli Campus to students and staff by IMU Sustainability Student Club members. During the distribution, our campus members were also informed about the recycling processes of PET bottles to raising awareness about sustainable material use.



Product Design Workshop with PET Filament and Snowflake Ornament Distrribution



IMU Sustainability Student Club organized a seminar series named "Net Zero" to build climate change literacy. The training module prepared by the Institute for Advanced Studies in Sustainability at the United Nations University was narrated by Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK from the Sustainability Office. Within the scope of IMU Sustainability Week'24 activities, the seminars were held in 3 sessions on Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25 and Friday, December 27, and were held both face-to-face at the Sustainability Office and online. At the end of the training, 12 of the participants who took the exam at the end of the training and scored 75 points and above were entitled to receive the training certificate issued by United Nations University.

The seminar series, which was implemented to support climate change literacy, was also designed as an environmental training that equips participants with the skills and knowledge they need to make informed decisions, take



action and combat the climate crisis. Throughout the seminar series, participants were provided with a scientific foundation on climate change and net zero concepts.

In the first seminar ÇELİKBİLEK stated that the 6th report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in 2023 clearly revealed that the greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere as a result of human activities cause global warming, and drew attention to the fact that changes in land use, fossil fuel consumption, global consumption patterns and fast consumption-oriented lifestyle rapidly increase greenhouse gas emissions. The second seminar addressed the compounding impacts of climate change on the environment and daily life and discussed the roles of different actors in creating and implementing net zero solutions. the third seminar focused on largerscale solutions such as lifestyle choices, practical tips and the pros and cons of switching to renewable energy that can be adopted to reduce carbon footprint.



IMU Sustainability Student Club hosted an outreach-based educational seminar titled "Doğal ve Yerel Tohumlarla Sürdürülebilirlik" as part of the 4th Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week, featuring Cenk Barer, the author of "Doğal Bahçe: Atalık Tohumla Kendi Gıdanı Üret."

The event took place on December 27, 2024, at the Ziraat Bank Library Bankkart Conference Hall, Göztepe North Campus, and was specifically designed as outreach education for local people to promote inclusive learning opportunities on sustainable agriculture. The seminar was held open to the public, ensuring broad community access to knowledge.

During his presentation, Cenk Barer offered an educational and accessible overview of how local heirloom seeds, traditional farming knowledge, and simple cultivation techniques can be used to support sustainable food production. His talk aimed to strengthen public understanding, equip participants with practical skills, and encourage individuals of all backgrounds to engage in lifelong learning about sustainable resource use. Barer emphasized the importance of building community knowledge systems where local wisdom and scientific insights work together to empower individuals.

The seminar also highlighted the importance of expanding educational opportunities on topics such as sustainable land use, responsible water management, and regenerative soil practices.

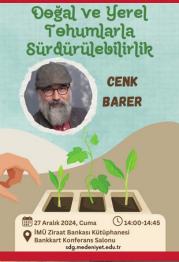
By making complex environmental concepts understandable to the general public, the event supported the development of environmental literacy, helping participants gain the knowledge needed to make informed decisions. These efforts contribute to strengthening community capacity and enhancing the skills necessary for sustainable development.

offering accessible inclusive Βv and environmental education, the event directly advanced the United Nations' SDG 4 (Quality Education), particularly goals related to ensuring equal access to education, promoting lifelong learning, and strengthening knowledge and skills needed for sustainable development. Through outreach activities emphasizing seed sovereignty, environmental stewardship, and the community awareness. programme contributed to building an informed and active society.

In alignment with its educational mission, the programme concluded with a local seed and flower exchange and distribution, participants an opportunity to apply what they learned through hands-on practice. This initiative enabled individuals to access heirloom seeds and encouraged them to begin their own smallscale cultivation efforts, transforming knowledge into action and supporting experiential learning. By combining educational outreach with interactive community engagement, the event played a meaningful role in expanding public knowledge, strengthening practical skills, and supporting quality education for sustainable development.













A workshop on renewable and clean energy production was organized by IMU Sustainability Office in cooperation with Sustainability Student Club on December 26, 2024, as part of the "4th Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week" activities. In the workshop conducted by our university Sustainability Office Research Assistant 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. The workshop was open to the participation of all Istanbul Medeniyet University students, staff and the public.

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

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

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





During the 4th Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Week, the IMU Sustainability Student Club organized an educational workshop titled "Finger Puppet Workshop with Upcycling" on December 25, 2024, at the Istanbul Medeniyet University Sustainability Office. The workshop was facilitated by Research ÇELİKBİLEK Ayça Assistant from the Sustainability Office and was open to all students, university staff, and the wider public, ensuring broad access to inclusive education and lifelong learning opportunities.

As part of the ongoing workshop series, participants created hand and finger puppets using collected waste fabric, felt, and various unused household materials brought from home. In addition to the materials provided by the Sustainability Student Club, previously gathered waste paper was used to draw the puppet templates, demonstrating a strong experiential example of learning, skills development, and knowledge sharing on sustainable production. By integrating reused materials throughout the process, the workshop promoted awareness on minimizing resource consumption and emphasized the learning-by-doing importance of within sustainability education.

Over the course of the five-hour session, participants successfully produced 35 finger puppets, all of which later delivered to preschool classrooms across Türkiye as meaningful gifts for children underlining the university's commitment to fostering quality education and learning opportunities for young expanding students.

The event enhanced educational outreach by helping participants gain new skills in upcycling and sustainable crafting. Through this initiative, the IMU Sustainability Student Club and the Sustainability Office project team reaffirmed their dedication to reducing waste on campus, promoting sustainability-focused learning, and developing institutional projects that support the university's zero-waste policy.





ElectriCITY: Energy Preferences Game" Workshop