

IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-6 CLEAN WATER and SANITATION**



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



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2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



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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/2025/>
<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 2025 as a result of these efforts. I thank everyone who have contributed to the creation of the report and especially Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK, Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR and Lect. Zehra SAVAN 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

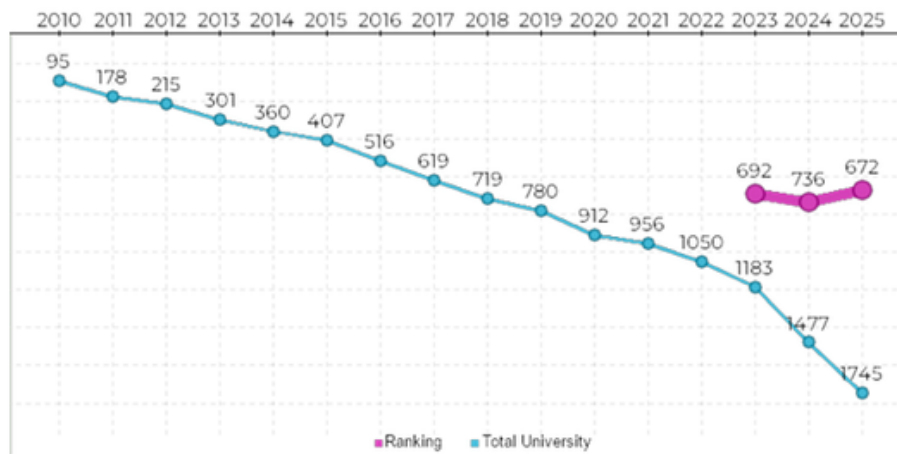
Another international index that assesses universities' performance in the field of sustainability is UI GreenMetric, which was launched by the University of Indonesia in 2010 and has since become the world's leading ranking for green campuses and environmental sustainability.

Participating in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings for the third time in 2025, Istanbul Medeniyet University ranked 672nd out of 1,547 universities worldwide and 72nd out of 142 universities nationally.

IMU achieved full marks in the "Waste" category – one of the six categories assessing universities' environmental initiatives – and was among the 33 universities worldwide to achieve first place in this category.

Following the Waste category, in which we ranked first both globally and in Turkey, our University achieved its second-best result in the "Water" category, scoring 737.5 out of 1,000 to rank 477th globally and 43rd in Turkey.

In the Education and Research category, our University scored 1,362.5 out of a possible 1,800, placing 501st globally and 50th in Turkey.



UI GreenMetric World University Rankings History Diagram

World Ranking	SI Ranking	EC Ranking	WS Ranking	Country Ranking	SI Ranking	EC Ranking	WS Ranking
672	1464	1002	33	72	129	89	5
	WR Ranking	TR Ranking	ED Ranking		WR Ranking	TR Ranking	ED Ranking
	478	1231	501		43	113	53

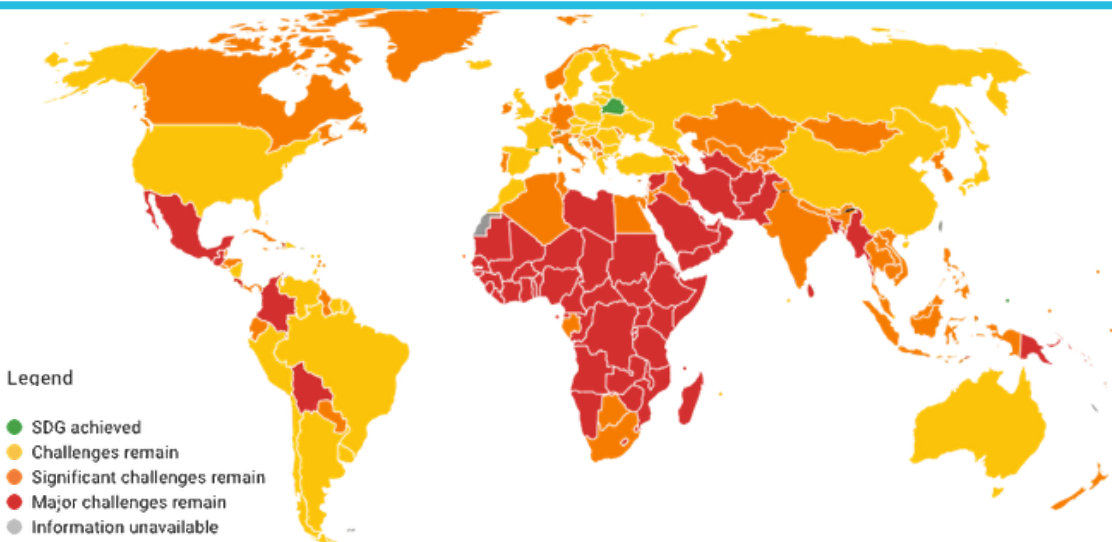
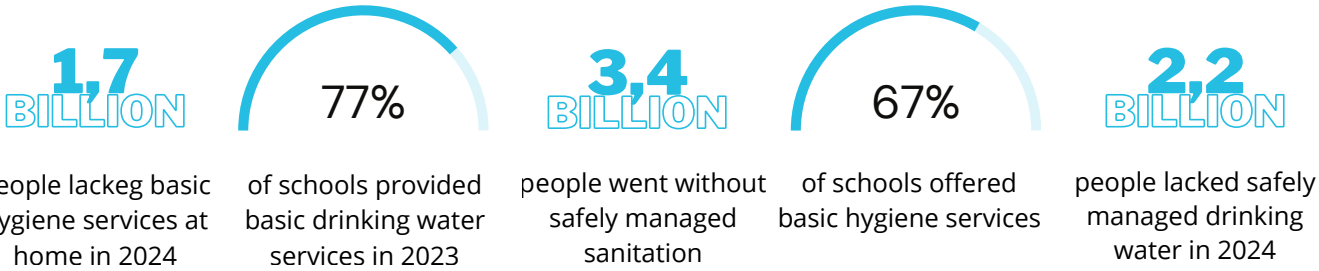
6

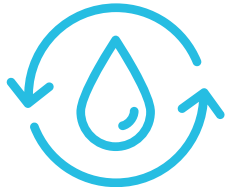
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent. More and more countries are experiencing water stress, and increasing drought and desertification is already worsening these trends. By 2050, it is projected that at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages.

Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential. Ensuring universal safe and affordable drinking water involves reaching over 800 million people who lack basic services and improving accessibility and safety of services for over two billion. In 2015, 4.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services (with adequately disposed or treated excreta) and 2.3 billion lacked even basic sanitation.

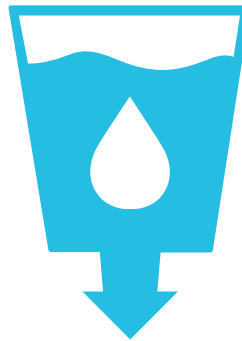




gray water
recovery system



waste water filtration system



promoting conscious water
usage both on campus and in
wider community



water-saving solutions for all
wet floor volumes

“ **99,521 M³**
WATER
consumed in our campuses in
2025 ”



Water Consumption Tracking

With the awareness that water is the foundation for life and is not an unlimited resource, IMU created a comprehensive water conservation strategy and tracks the level of consumed water regularly.

In order to maintain the water conservation strategy, IMU primarily analyses the water consumption numbers. In IMU the consumed water amount is analyzed through the smart water meters and meter reading bill slips. The official water consumption information documented in these slips is uploaded to the **IMU Water Monitoring System**, which is accessible to all authorized units on the IMU server, by the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department in order to provide real-time tracking. At the end of the year, the IMU Sustainability Office analyses and reports the water consumption of the relevant year with data analytics tools. The IMU Sustainability Office evaluates the annual water consumption data in the database and produces various strategies to reduce the water use for the following year.

“ **99,521 M³**
WATER
consumed in our campuses in
2025 ”

The amount of water consumed in all campuses of our university in 2025 was **99,521 m³**.

Wastewater Treatment

Istanbul Medeniyet University cleans the wastewater inside the campus areas using certain *filtering systems* before discharging it. For instance, we have oil filters installed in the dishwashing sites in our campus kitchen and other facilities to prevent the oily wastewater from polluting the discharged water.

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



İSKİ Tuzla Advanced Biological
Wastewater Treatment Plant



Preventing Water System Pollution

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

Also, IMU signed a technical specification for 'food production, distribution and service including materials with its catering service contractors. And according to this specification, our catering service contractors are obligated to have contracts with the licensed waste oil recovery facilities and collectors with temporary storage permits and are to deliver all the waste vegetable oils they collect to these licensed facilities and firms. They are also obligated to dispose of non-recoverable waste oils in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on the Control of Waste Vegetable Oils and the Environment Law Nr. 2872. The oil waste collected in our dishwashing sites are delivered to ISTAC Inc., an affiliation of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality that is in charge of waste management.

Waste batteries (including zinc batteries, alkaline batteries and lithium-ion batteries), which pose a risk of toxic substances passing into the soil and water due to the heavy metals they contain, are collected in a separate box in our university areas and delivered to authorized municipalities for special disposal.

IMU Sustainability Office and IMU Sustainability Club organizes various events every July (Plastic Free July) to draw attention to the environmental problems and water pollution caused by **single-use plastic waste** and to encourage our students and staff to adopt habits that will reduce usage of single-use plastics.

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

OPERATIONS

Promoting Conscious Water Usage on Campus

IMU carries out different awareness raising practices to promote responsible water use on campus.

For example, **posters on water efficiency and water conservation** are placed near wet areas to make people think about the amount of water they are about to use; IMU Sustainability Office shares informative content on protecting water resources and reducing water footprint through its social media accounts.



IMU Water Efficiency Information Poster Hung on the Walls

Promoting Conscious Water Usage in the Wider Community

IMU believes that everybody can take an action in their lives to protect the environment and water resources. For that, different offices in our university such as the IMU Sustainability Office, and various student clubs such as IMU Sustainability Club (IMUSUS) prepare **posters and fact sheets** on important days that are related to water conservation announced by the UN and suggestions that help people to reduce their water consumption, use water efficiently and protect water resources. By sharing them on our social media networks, we reach many more people from our campus community.



Awareness Post on Reducing Water Footprint Published on IMU Sustainability Office Social Media Account



Free Drinking Water Provided

Istanbul Medeniyet University has started developing projects to provide free water for everyone as a human right. We installed a water treatment system in our Ziraat Bank Library building to provide our campus community with free drinking water.

Water-Conscious Building Standarts

IMU implements solutions to reduce water use in all its buildings and chiefly in its newly constructed buildings. Censored hand washing taps in the washing basins, dual flushing toilets and water saving recessed toilets are among these solutions.

Also when it comes to cleaning, we try to minimize the water we use. To achieve that, we use buckets and water efficient cleaning machines instead of washing the whole area with water. And in our kitchens we use water efficient dishwashers instead of washing plates in hand.

In IMU we regularly control our water appliances in our university against water loss due to fractures, leakages etc. At the same time, our staff and students can report any kind of faults or leakages via an online platform called IMU Bridge. With this effort, we aim to minimise our water loss.

Water-Conscious Planting

IMU does not want to fill its campuses with vegetation that requires a lot of water. Instead we avoid interfering with the **natural vegetation** as much as possible. In our campuses we prefer natural vegetation over grass and use **plants that do not require a lot of water** such as clovers. Similarly, in landscape design, we take care to plant plants that are compatible with the climate of our campuses and do not consume a lot of water.

All the green spaces in our campus areas are **irrigated by sprinkler systems** in order to reduce water consumption for irrigation. Irrigation system is activated in the early morning and evening hours when evaporation is the lowest, thereby saving water.

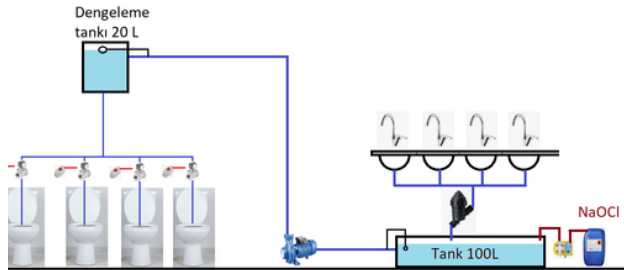
In addition, in areas where underground water usage is available, as in our Göztepe North and South Campuses, well water is also used as complementary to green space irrigation.



Sprinkler Irrigation Systems for Green Areas

Water Reuse Policy

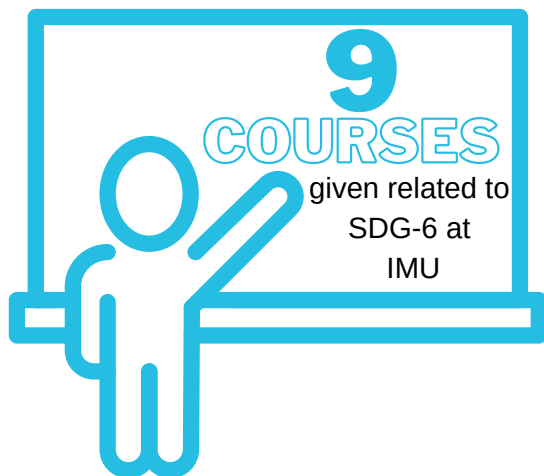
As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are developing projects for waters within our campus area that we can reuse after treatment. In 2021, the **"Greywater Recovery Project"** was initiated under the leadership of Prof.Dr. Erkan ŞAHİNKAYA and Asst.Prof.Dr. Yasin KARAGÖZ from IMU Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences. With this project, a system was designed that allows reusing the sink water in the restrooms for toilet flushing to reduce water consumption in our campuses. Designed system was implemented in the toilets in the North campus Block B Classroom Building in 2022.



IMU Greywater Recovery System

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 2025, 9 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-6 were given at IMU. Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course
Education Sciences	ECE007 - Environmental Education and Sustainability in Early Childhood
Engineering and Natural Sciences	INS058 - Water Resources Engineering
	INS461 - Water Supply and Environmental Health
	BYM416 - Micropollutants, Treatment and Effects on Human Health
Health Sciences	SYB313 - Public Health
Law	HUK342 - Environmental Law
Political Science	ULİ462 - Environmental Problems and the World
	ULİ466 - Water Problem in the International Arena
All- Elective	IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability

In order to draw attention to the critical importance of effective management of water, one of the most precious resources of our planet, for a sustainable future, a special event was organized within the scope of World Water Day 2025 with the theme **“Future Water Technologies: CNR-ITM’s Contributions”**. The event, organized in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Erkan Şahinkaya from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences of our University and Prof. Dr. Gökçen Çapar from Ankara University Water Management Institute, was held on March 20, 2025 at the Institute of Membrane Technology (ITM-CNR) in Italy.

In the event Prof. Dr. Alberto Figoli stated that World Water Day, which was declared by the United Nations in 1993 to draw attention to the importance of water, supports Goal 6 of the SDGs. He stated that the theme of this year’s World Water Day is “Glacier Preservation ” and that it is important to bring up the role of clean water, prevention of water waste and protection of water resources on this day. In the continuation of his speech, Figoli gave information about ITM-CNR, which specializes in membrane technologies, especially for the treatment and reuse of water.

Speaking about the use of membrane technologies in water-related fields, Dr. Lidietta Giorno explained the basic working principle of these technologies and emphasized that

membrane technologies offer innovative solutions, especially in the treatment of wastewater and desalination of seawater. Dr. Giorno also gave information about ITM-CNR’s research on membrane technologies and the projects they have carried out with different countries.

Addressing the role of membrane technologies as one of the innovative technologies that humanity needs to address major environmental challenges such as climate crisis and water scarcity that threaten our planet, Dr. Francesca Macediono underlined that in order to find a solution to the world’s clean drinking water problem, the amount of brine produced in brine treatment processes should be reduced as much as possible. Macediono said that currently, half a liter of drinking water can be obtained from 1 liter of seawater with the reverse osmosis system, but the remaining half liter of salty water is discard to the environment, which poses a significant problem.

UN WATER
22 MARCH
WORLD WATER DAY

ISTANBUL MEDENİYET
UNIVERSİTESİ

in collaboration with

Istituto per la Tecnologia
delle Membrane
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Searching for Scientific
Solutions to the Global
Water Crisis

Theme:
Future Water Technologies:
CNR-ITM’s Contributions”

Dr. Gökçen ÇAPAR
Ankara University
Water Management Institute
Türkiye

Dr. Erkan SAHINKAYA/
Istanbul Medeniyet Unive
Bioengineering Departm
Türkiye

Dr. Alberto FIGOLI Dr. Lidietta GIORNO Dr. Francesca MACEDONIO

Institute on Membrane Technology (CNR-ITM)
National Research Council of Italy

Date: 20 March 2025, Thursday
Time: 11:00 (Türkiye) – 09:00 (Italy)
<https://zoom.us/j/95568055023?pwd=OJPRPbRFl0lnNldWANrgqg4j7.1>
<https://youtube.com/@ankarauni>

20 March 2025

**“Future Water Technologies:
CNR-ITM’s Contributions” Event**

EVENTS

IMU Sustainability Student Club held the “Sustainability Games” event, specially prepared for World Play Day on June 11. World Play Day was marked this year at IMU with sustainability-focused content. Participants had the opportunity to experientially explore themes such as climate change, clean water and sanitation, adaptation, biodiversity, and SDGs through 3 different games. Hosted by our Sustainability Office, the event was open not only to students and staff but also to external participants. The most important point that stood out at the event was that the games were not only fun, but also had educational and thought-provoking content. Participants experienced different dimensions of sustainability by taking on different roles in each game.

The sustainability team provided environmental education with their self-designed **TABUSUS** and Waste Sorting games, and conducted an upcycling art workshop for three days. During the game, participants were asked to describe the keywords on the cards containing sustainability-related concepts and then determine which Sustainable Development Goal this keyword was associated with. Thus, a brainstorm was held about concepts related to sustainability.

During the event, participants were informed about the concepts of water management such as safe drinking water, affordable drinking water, sanitation, water quality, water management, water footprint, wastewater, grey water, water ecosystem, water resources, water right, purified water, water scarcity, water stress, water harvesting.

TabuSUS was designed by IMU Sustainability Office research assistant Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK and developed together with the IMU Sustainability Office team, as a word game where participants learn and discuss, and also teach key concepts about sustainability while having fun.

The design of the game goes beyond a word-telling game, the game is also an environmental education. The words presented as banned words on the game cards are actually the words we use to teach these concepts to the participants. For this reason, some cards actually contain words or statistical information that people may never use when describing the keyword. The purpose of this setup of the game is that we want to convey some information to people about those goals within the game. We aimed to convey information through gamification by reflecting the issues that are important on the cards in this way.



11 June 2025

“TabuSUS” Game Workshop at the “Sustainability Games” Event