

IMU SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-1 NO POVERTY**



1 NO POVERTY

An icon representing a diverse family. It includes a man with a cane, a woman, two children, and another man, all in white silhouette against a red background.

2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University
Sustainability Office**

Kuzey Kampüs BİLTAM No: 508, Unalan Mah. Unalan Sok. D-100
Karayolu Yanyol 34700 Usküdar/Istanbul/TURKEY



<https://sdg.medeniyet.edu.tr>
@surdurulebilir_imu

Published
October, 2026

Coordinated by
Prof.Dr. Yaşar BÜLBÜL

Written by
Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK
Res.Asst. Furkan ERUÇAR
Lecturer Zehra SAVAN

Designed by
Res.Asst. Ayça ÇELİKBİLEK

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

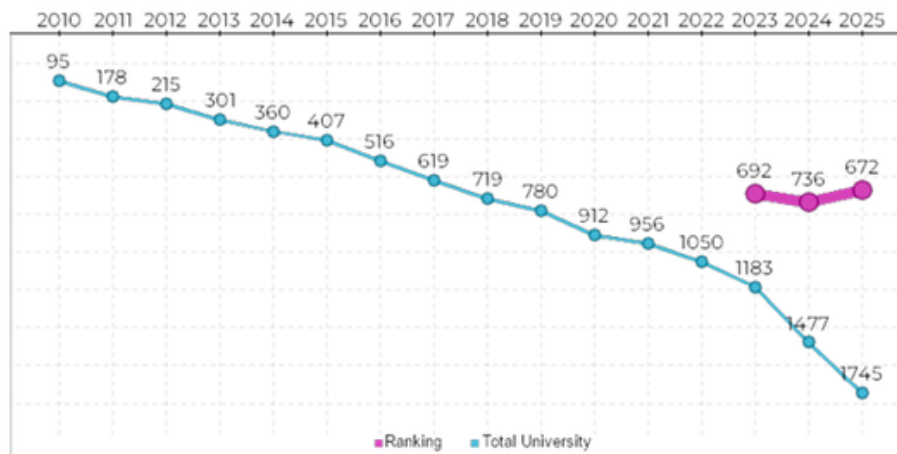
Another international index that assesses universities' performance in the field of sustainability is UI GreenMetric, which was launched by the University of Indonesia in 2010 and has since become the world's leading ranking for green campuses and environmental sustainability.

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	

1

NO
POVERTY



1 NO POVERTY



Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015, too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs.

As of 2015, about 736 million people still lived on less than US\$1.90 a day; many lack food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid growth in countries such as China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Women are more likely to be poor than men because they have less paid work, education, and own less property. Progress has also been limited in other regions, such as South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which account for 80 percent of those living in extreme poverty. New threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity, mean even more work is needed to bring people out of poverty.

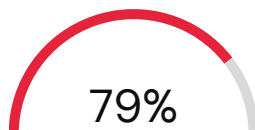
The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what we started, and end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters.

10%

One in ten people worldwide is still living in extreme poverty



only one in four countries will be able to halve national poverty by 2030



79,6% of people above retirement age benefit from old-age pensions



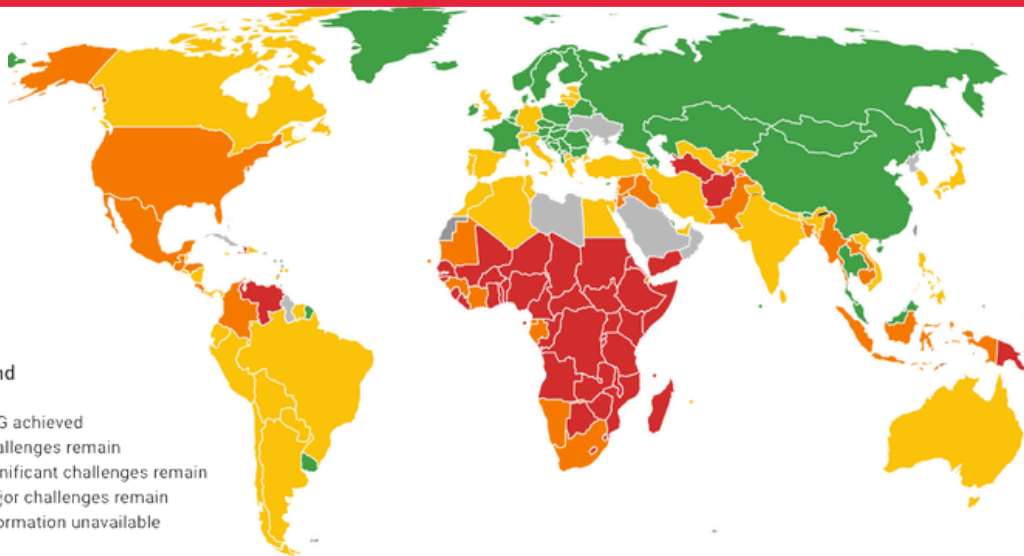
24% of people live below their national poverty line

248
MILLION

workers globally were still living in extreme poverty in 2025

Legend

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



801-
1,000

"No Poverty" category
2025 ranking

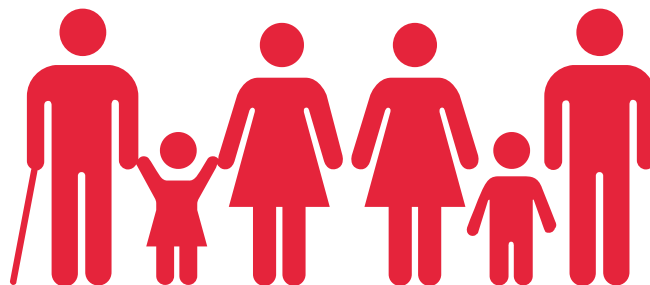


144
STUDENTS

from low-income countries
studied at our university in 2025

496
PEOPLE

benefited from free psychotherapy
services in 2025



113
STUDENTS

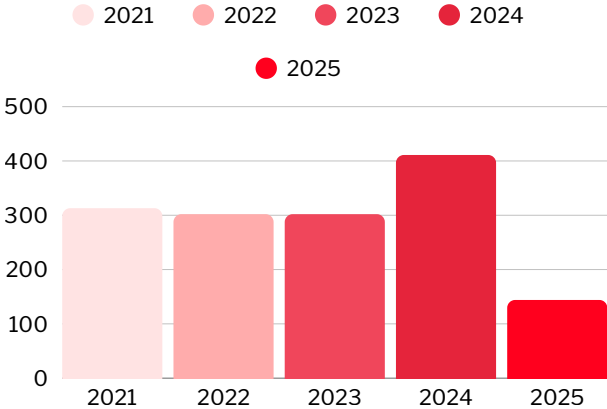
received a 100% food stipend
in 2025

25
STUDENTS

were supported as
IMU's part-time employees



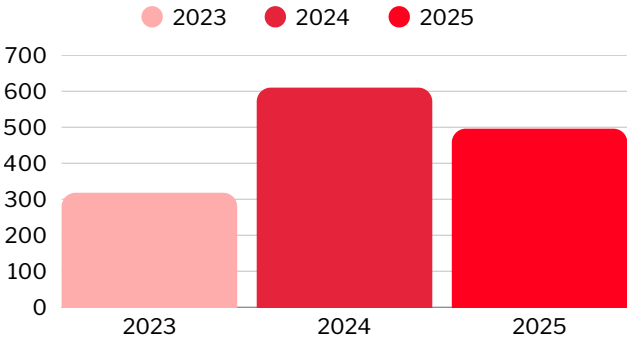
Students from Low-income Countries



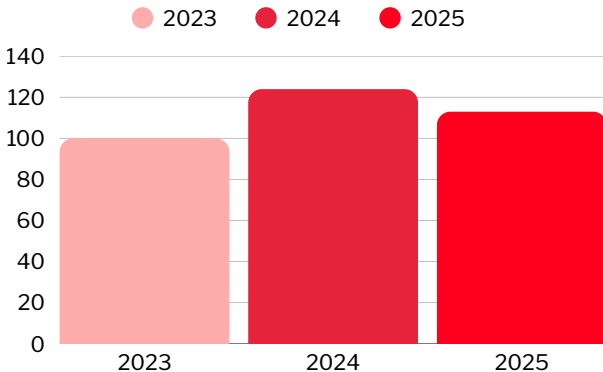
The number of students from low-income countries decreased from 411 in 2024 to 144 in 2025, representing an approximately 65% **decline**. This sharp decrease may partly reflect annual changes in the World Bank’s country income classifications, as some countries may move out of the low-income category. IMU remains committed to promoting equitable and inclusive access to higher education for students from diverse socioeconomic and geographical backgrounds

IMU offers free psychotherapy and counseling services to all students and staff. In 2025, IMU provided free Health, Psychological Counseling and Guidance services to a total of 496 campus community members, compared to 610 in 2024. This represents an approximately **19% decrease in the number of people benefiting from these free services.**

Number of People Benefited from Free Psychotherapy Services



Number of Students Received a 100% Food Stipend



To ensure that its students can easily access our food services in an affordable way, all IMU students are given an 80% discount on the regular lunch prices each year. In addition, **113 low-income students received a 100% food stipend in 2025**. This figure remained broadly comparable to the 124 students supported in 2024, demonstrating the University’s continued commitment to supporting students in financial need.

OPERATIONS

University Anti-poverty Programmes

As per the state laws and regulations that apply the principles of inclusive education, Istanbul Medeniyet University (IMU) as a public higher education institution supports access to higher education for all students from all segments of society, including those from low-income households. In line with these principles, our Turkish students are not required to pay any tuition fees and education is free for all.

“ **144** STUDENTS from low-income countries studied at our university in 2025 ”

Although students are admitted through the national higher education entrance exam based on the sole criterion of academic success, low-income students admitted in IMU are assisted through discounts in housing in the university dormitory, part-time work opportunities, free health, psychology counseling and guidance services and food stipends,.

To address the **accommodation** needs of our students, we have a dormitory that is open to all low-income students in Istanbul and our students are given a 15% discount in our dormitory.

Low-income students are also offered **part-time work** in various departments of the university outside their class hours. Our part-time student-employees are selected based on their household income and in addition to a monthly income, their insurance costs are also covered by our university throughout their work period. In 2025, we supported a total of 25 students as our part-time employees.

Through a protocol signed between Istanbul Medeniyet University and Kadıköy District Directorate of the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), the **İŞKUR Youth Programme** was launched to support students' transition from education to working life and enhance their employability. Within the scope of the programme, 237 students were provided with work opportunities across different units and areas of the University, enabling them to gain practical work experience while continuing their studies.

İSTANBUL MEDENİYET
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

2025-2026 Eğitim-Öğretim Yılı

**KİSMİ ZAMANLI
ÇALIŞMA PROGRAMI**

Başvuruları Başladı

Başvuru Tarihleri:

**21-27
Ekim 2025**

Detaylı Bilgi:

sks.medeniyet.edu.tr



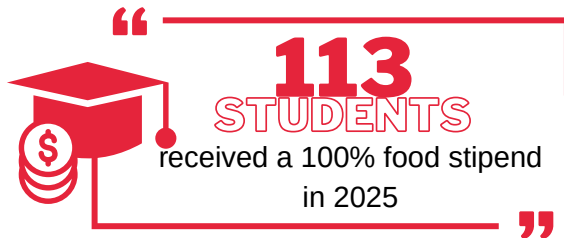
IMU Part-time Working Program

OPERATIONS

In addition to the free medical care provided by the state, we also offer free psychotherapy and counseling services to all our students and staff. In 2025, we provided free Health, Psychology Counseling and Guidance services to a total of 496 campus community members.



To ensure that our students can easily access our food services in an affordable way, all our students are given an 80% discount on the regular lunch prices each year. Also, 113 low-income students received a 100% food stipend in 2025.



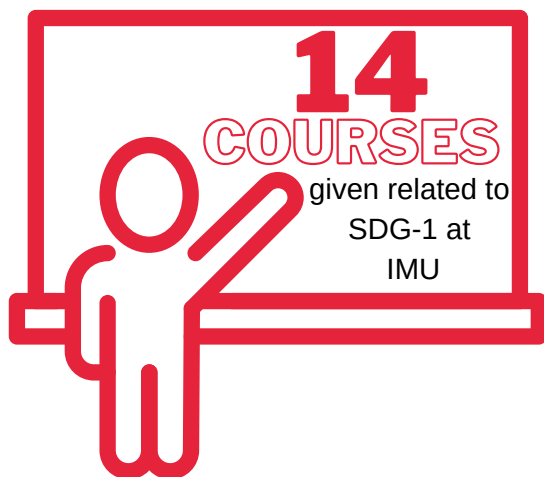
IMU has added a new program to the free food support programs it provided for its students. Free tea/coffee and cakes have been offered to our students, thanks to the vending machine system installed in our University Ziraat Bank Library. In IMU continued to provide food support packages to our students with this support program.



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, 14 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-1 were given at IMU.

Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course
Arts and Humanities	SDG443- Poverty in Turkey
	SDG409-Social Inequalities
Education Sciences	GNKY202- Community Service Practices
	EBB061 - Sustainable Development and Education
Health Sciences	SHB451- Poverty and Social Work
	FTR213- Social Responsibility Projects I
	FTR 321 - Social Responsibility Projects II
	FTR 314 - Social Responsibility Projects III
	HEM306 - Community Service Practices
Political Science	MLY417- Income Distribution and Poverty
	İKT327- Economic Development
	SBK326- Crisis and Disaster Management
All - Elective	IMU071-Introduction to Sustainability
	IMU055 - Society and Ethics
Institute of Graduate Studies	Income Distribution and Poverty

EVENTS

IMU

IMU Sustainability Club started a social responsibility project to eliminate inequalities in early childhood education of vulnerable groups such as children and to ensure that all children have equal access to quality pre-school education in 2024 and presented 8 sets containing a total of 100 puppets to 8 schools. IMUSUS continued **“Material Support to Village Schools”** social responsibility project which focuses on both waste management and educational equality in 2025. Play dough molds produced in PET recycling workshops and finger puppets produced through upcycling in workshops were presented to preschool education classrooms across Turkey as a gift for April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children’s Day.

The project, carried out by the IMU Sustainability Club, was realized in two phases. In the first phase, which focused on the reuse of resources and minimizing the consumption of new resources by upcycling waste, upcycling workshops were organized to design and produce puppets. In fabric upcycling workshops participants made puppet designs with waste fabrics, felt and unused materials they brought from their homes. Previously collected waste paper was used to make the puppet molds. With these workshops, over 100 finger puppets were produced and 10 sets of puppets with different themes were prepared.

Following the preparation of the puppets, the IMU Sustainability Club (IMUSUS) made an announcement on social media to reach pre-school classes in need of materials, and schools in need because of income inequality were asked to fill out forms with the necessary information. IMUSUS board members evaluated these applications at a meeting and determined the schools to which the puppets would be sent by considering the locations of schools and preferred schools located in areas dealing with extreme poverty. Furkan ERUÇAR, the club president, stated that in the selection of schools, regions with high socio-economic inequalities, earthquake zones and village schools were prioritized. After the evaluation of the applications, the IMUSUS team presented 10 sets containing a total of 100 puppets and 100 play dough molds to 10 schools in Afyonkarahisar, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Van, Siirt and Diyarbakır. The gifts, which were packaged with the work of the club members, were mailed to the schools.



Educational Material Support to PreSchools

200 donated **10**
EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL to DIFFERENT PRESCHOOLS

EVENTS

IMU

İstanbul Medeniyet University Political Science Club, in cooperation with Pingpong University, implemented the social responsibility project **"One Book, A Thousand Hopes"** to support children affected by the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes.

Within the scope of the project, more than 500 books and various educational intelligence games were collected and delivered to Şehit Ahmet Akdal Secondary School in Kahramanmaraş. IMU students also visited the school and spent time with the children through educational games, interactive activities, and conversations on education and future career opportunities. Beyond providing material support, the project aimed to contribute to the children's motivation, social well-being, and continued engagement with education. By reaching students in a disaster-affected community, the initiative also helped strengthen solidarity, social inclusion, and resilience among children facing the long-term consequences of the earthquake.



05 May 2025

One Book, A Thousand Hopes Project

On 19 March 2025, İstanbul Medeniyet University's Department of Art History organized the panel **"Reflections of the Concept of Benevolence in Ottoman Society on Art"** as part of Goodness Week. The panel brought together academics who examined historical mechanisms of charity, social assistance and support for disadvantaged groups in Ottoman society. Presentations addressed topics such as the waqf system, soup kitchens, orphanages, charity stones and other forms of social support that contributed to meeting basic needs and reducing poverty.

By presenting these historical practices from social, architectural and cultural perspectives, the event raised awareness of long-standing approaches to solidarity, philanthropy and support for vulnerable groups. It also provided a platform for discussing how community-based assistance and charitable institutions have historically contributed to social welfare and poverty alleviation.



Reflections of the Concept of Benevolence in Ottoman Society on Art Panel