ÖZYEĞİN UNIVERSITY

Sustainable Development Goals Report

2025

Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025



CONTENTS

Inside this report

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Executive Summary 3

Key Achievements 2025 4

Firsts in Türkiye 5

Research and Collaboration Impact 6

Our Approach to Impact 7

About This Report 8

How We Know This 9

CLOSING

Performance in the Rankings 99

Commitments to 2030 100

Acknowledgements 101

THE GOALS



No Poverty 10



Zero Hunger 15



Good Health and Well-being 21



Quality Education 26



Gender Equality 31



Clean Water and Sanitation 36



Affordable and Clean Energy 41



Decent Work and Economic Growth 46



Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 51



Reduced Inequalities 57



Sustainable Cities and Communities 62



Responsible Consumption and Production 67



Climate Action 72



Life Below Water 77



Life on Land 82



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions 87



Partnerships for The Goals 92

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What changed in 2025

Özyeğin University was founded on a single proposition: that a university earns its place by what it changes beyond its own walls. This report sets out what changed in 2025.

Three things distinguish this edition.

We mapped our own social impact and published the method.

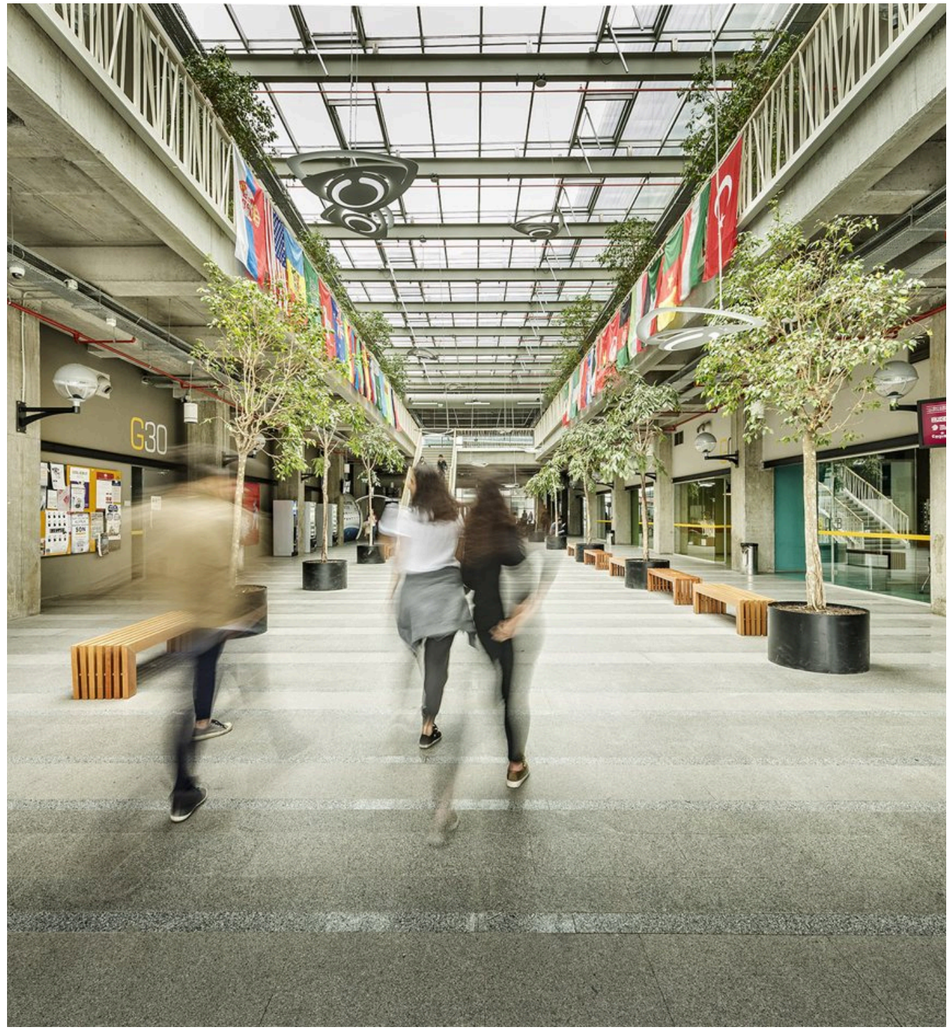
The Social Impact Mapping Research Report, completed in December 2025, drew on 31 in-depth interviews, 68 social impact cards, analysis of roughly a thousand institutional activities, academic publication analysis and media scans, framed against the AACSB societal impact standard, PRME and ISO 26000. It identified five impact themes and recommended that the University publish a social impact report annually. This report is the externally facing expression of that recommendation.

We were first in Türkiye, repeatedly.

The University holds the country's first university HSE Committee, was the first Turkish university to obtain the Zero Waste Certificate, and in the months following this reporting period became the first to hold TS ISO 46001 water efficiency certification and the first to receive the Blue Water Certificate. Its aviation programmes are the first in Türkiye and Europe accredited by AABI, and in 2026 it became the only Turkish institution in the Duke-supported Future Universities Alliance.

Every goal reports its own progress.

Each of the seventeen chapters opens with the figures that matter for that goal in 2025, followed by the University's work in education, campus operations, community engagement and research.



The covered street at the heart of the campus

2025 AT A GLANCE

Key Achievements 2025

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE

- Coordination of **DE-CONSPIRATOR**, a Horizon Europe project — the University is the coordinating institution, not a partner
- **OppAttune**, a second Horizon Europe project, and **PLOTINA** under Horizon 2020
- Six identified COST Action participations across engineering, industrial engineering, materials and human rights
- Two Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges grants from the 2025 call: **AQUA Viva**, on water as living heritage, and **Fix-APro**, on integrating alternative proteins into food systems
- **ÖzÜBEX Industry Transformation Centre** opened on campus, 30 May 2025
- **OzU AI Platform** held its opening meeting in October 2025 with 24 member institutions, bringing together the private sector and academia; OzU AI Week held 13–17 October 2025

EDUCATION

- **AABI accreditation** for Aviation Management and Pilot Training — the first such programmes accredited in Türkiye and Europe, for a five-year term
- YÖKAK institutional accreditation continued following the 2025 interim review
- ISO 9001:2015 quality management certification obtained after independent audit
- **BRIDGE**, an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, announced December 2025, adding new courses and a Democracy Laboratory
- Out-of-classroom experiential learning through *Placeless Courses*, with routes in Istanbul (November 2025) and Cappadocia (December 2025)

PARTNERSHIP

- Three concurrent projects with the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**, including the GIAHS candidacy for the Söğle Highlands agricultural heritage system
- The first FAO Talks panel, held with FAO and Migros on campus, 17 October 2025
- **DOKA TR90 women's cooperatives** programme, Phases I–III
- Research collaboration agreed with **Fordham Gabelli School of Business**, 31 October 2025
- Membership of the **EUA sustainability task force**

OPERATIONS

- 100 per cent of electricity for 2024 and 2025 sourced from renewable generation, I-REC certified
- Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for 2024 and 2025 compensated with Gold Standard verified credits, **9,331.96 tonnes CO2e** in 2025
- Corporate water footprint for 2025 calculated under ISO 14046: **670,162 m³**, or 67 m³ per person
- **66,854 kg** of packaging waste separated at source and recycled in 2025
- Zero Waste Certificate renewed, June 2025
- 2025–2026 declared the **Year of Water**, with an action plan, training and technical implementation
- Corporate Water Footprint Report published for 2025
- Audio navigation for visually impaired users extended to all academic buildings, December 2025

ECONOMY

- Ventures accelerated at Girişim Fabrikası, the University's start-up accelerator: **Optiyol** raised $810,000, and **Flank Esports**, founded by an ÖzÜ graduate, was acquired by FUT Ventures
- Admission to the **TURQUALITY** branding programme at its highest tier, 12 November 2025

IN NUMBERS, 2025

- 17 new EU Framework Programme and TÜBİTAK ARDEB projects and 29 new university–industry projects
- 9 national and 9 international patent applications; 3 national and 5 international patents granted
- 1,395 undergraduates and 478 graduate students on full scholarships
- 169 students on exchange abroad and 100 incoming exchange students
- 439 publications mapped to SDGs 1–16 in 2021–2025, with a field-weighted citation impact of 1.07
- 71.4 per cent of Scopus outputs in 2016–2025 were interdisciplinary; in 2021–2025 these papers had a field-weighted citation impact of 2.16, against an institutional average of 1.29

LEADERSHIP

Firsts in Türkiye

First university in Türkiye with an HSE Committee

Governs ISO 50001, 14001, 45001, 9001 and 46001; reports to the Rectorate

First Turkish university with the Zero Waste Certificate

2020, renewed June 2025

First Turkish university accredited to ISO 14001 and ISO 45001

Recorded in the UN Global Compact Communication on Progress

First AABI-accredited aviation programmes in Türkiye and Europe

Aviation Management and Pilot Training

First member from Türkiye of the RINGS network

International network of gender research centres

Türkiye's first business accelerator

Girişim Fabrikası, founded 2011; TÜBİTAK 1512 BİGG implementing body since 2015

SINCE THE REPORTING PERIOD · 2026

First — and only — Turkish university in the Future Universities Alliance.
Duke-supported Innovation Sandbox; 49 institutions from 23 countries. The programme began in July 2026

First Turkish university with TS ISO 46001.
Water Efficiency Management System, 21 January 2026

First Turkish university with the Blue Water Certificate.
7 July 2026

Research and Collaboration Impact, 2021–2025

GOAL	SCHOLARLY OUTPUT 2021–2025	FWCI 2021–2025	CITATIONS 2021–2025	OUTPUT 2020–2024	FWCI 2020–2024
No Poverty	10	2.45	164	13	2.54
Zero Hunger	12	1.10	83	9	1.14
Good Health and Well-being	55	1.00	995	49	1.00
Quality Education	29	1.08	238	28	0.72
Gender Equality	15	1.02	98	14	1.21
Clean Water and Sanitation	4	1.30	122	5	1.53
Affordable and Clean Energy	95	0.84	823	96	0.92
Decent Work and Economic Growth	29	1.39	291	28	1.20
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	109	1.09	1,792	103	1.19
Reduced Inequalities	42	1.30	605	42	1.24
Sustainable Cities and Communities	86	0.98	819	76	1.09
Responsible Consumption and Production	33	0.71	314	33	0.75
Climate Action	36	1.36	723	32	1.31
Life Below Water	3	1.19	67	3	0.88
Life on Land	6	1.25	111	4	1.93
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	29	0.97	152	21	0.86
All SDG-mapped output	**439**	**1.07**	**5,589**	**404**	**1.10**

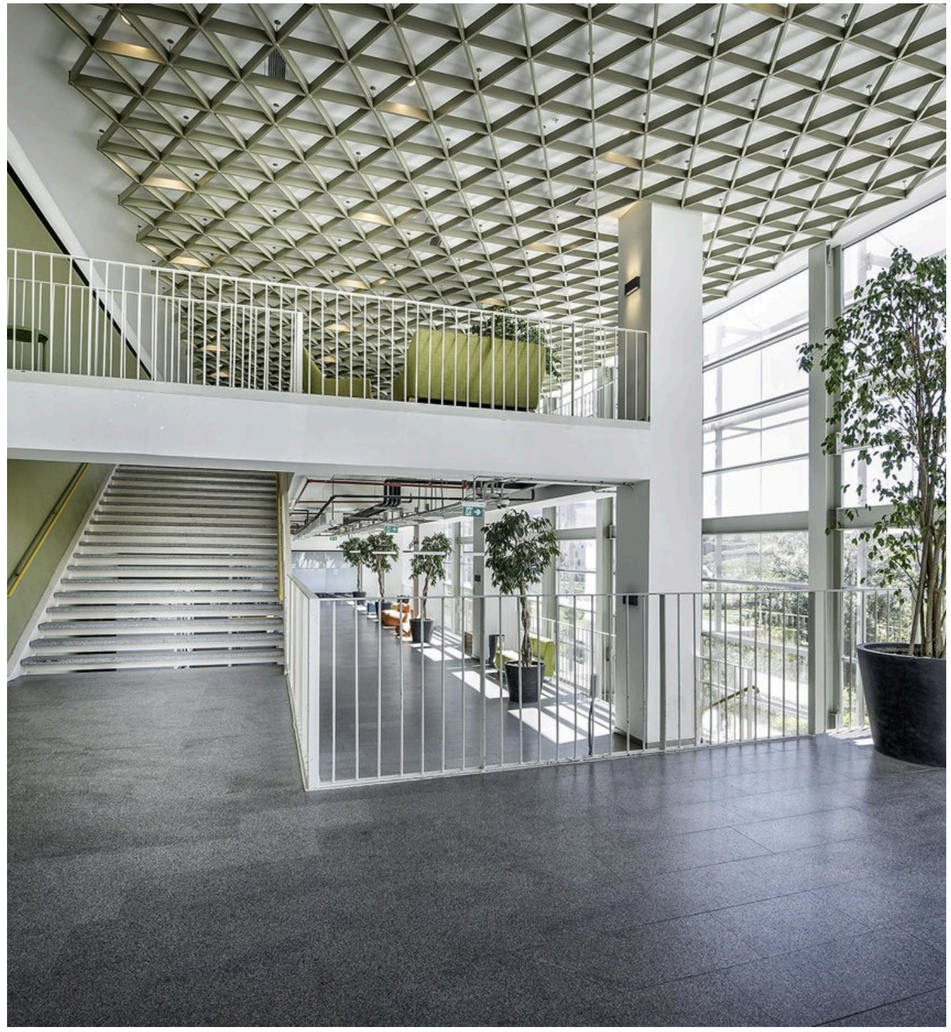
Source: SciVal (Scopus), THE SDG research mapping, Özyeğin University, all publication types, self-citations included, exported 27 October 2026. SciVal has no mapping for Goal 17. The 2020–2024 columns are last year's export (6 October 2025) and are shown for comparison only.

Our approach to impact

Özyeğin University defines impact as the concrete, measurable value that the knowledge and experience it produces adds to society, the economy and the environment once it crosses the boundary of the campus. The definition is deliberately demanding. It excludes activity that stays internal, and it requires that value be shown rather than asserted.

The University organises impact along two axes. **Four areas** describe the function through which impact is produced: research, which generates new knowledge; education, which builds competence and values; community engagement, which brings the University into direct contact with society; and governance, which shapes the structures, policies and systems that make the other three possible. **Five themes** describe where that impact concentrates: entrepreneurship, innovation and digital transformation; social justice, equality, well-being and inclusion; transformative education; environment and climate action; and social empowerment and local development.

Every intersection of an area and a theme is mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. That mapping is maintained as a living institutional matrix rather than assembled once a year for reporting, which is why this report can trace each claim it makes to a specific activity record.



Inside one of the academic buildings

About this report

Scope.

This report covers the calendar year 2025, from 1 January to 31 December. Where an activity spans an academic year it is reported in the calendar year in which the larger part fell, and the fact is stated. Developments after 31 December 2025 appear only where they are marked as such.

Coverage.

All seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are reported. Each goal has its own named chapter, including Goal 14, which the 2024 edition did not cover. The University's work on life below water runs through its wastewater and plastics practice, the Bosphorus Bluefish training with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, and marine technology ventures in its ecosystem.

Structure.

Each goal is reported across four dimensions, following the 2024 edition: education and student engagement; campus operations and infrastructure; community engagement and partnerships; and research initiatives. Reporting all four for every goal shows how the University's teaching, campus, partnerships and research work together on each goal.

Frameworks.

The University is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact, publishing its Communication on Progress in Enhanced CoP format aligned with GRI, CDP and ISAR, and to the Principles for Responsible Management Education. It has been a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network since 2015 and sits on the European University Association's sustainability task force.



The Özyeğin University campus

METHODOLOGY

How we know this

The evidence behind this report comes from three sources, each with known limits.

The institutional impact matrix.

A living register of University activity classified by impact area, theme and Sustainable Development Goal, maintained by the units that carry out the work rather than by a central reporting office. At the time of writing (27 October 2026) it holds 451 activities, published in Turkish and English on the University's impact website.

The Social Impact Mapping Research Report 2025.

Completed 8 December 2025. Method: 31 semi-structured in-depth interviews, 68 social impact cards, classification of roughly a thousand institutional activities, academic publication analysis, media scans, activity records for 2024–2025 and academic staff web profiles. Reference frameworks: the AACSB societal impact standard, PRME and ISO 26000.

Institutional data systems.

Publication data from the Planning and Analysis Office, environmental data from the QHSE Office under certified management systems, and the activity record system.

Limits we accept and state.

Most of this data sits at output level rather than outcome level. Attribution is the central unsolved problem of impact measurement and this report does not claim to have solved it. The impact-card method was applied only to units judged to have high impact potential, which means research-heavy goals with few public events are systematically undercounted by it — Goals 2 and 7 are the clearest cases, and both are corrected in their own sections. Publication data lags by approximately one year.



NO POVERTY

Poverty limits who reaches higher education and who completes it. Özyeğin University widens access through needs-based scholarships with academic support attached, and works with cooperatives, development agencies and local communities on livelihoods in regions in economic transition, turning field research into training and policy advice.

10
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

2.45
Citation Impact (FWCI)

5
European and National Projects

4
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **13th Local and Rural Development Specialisation Programme**, held on campus on 25–29 August 2025 with a focus on cooperatives. The certificate programme has reached more than 500 public, civil society and academic experts since 2014.
- **Local and Rural Development Programme in Şanlıurfa**, run in December 2025 for public sector experts at the request of the GAP Regional Development Administration.
- **DOKA women's cooperatives study** (2025), funded by the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency in Trabzon, Rize, Artvin, Gümüşhane, Ordu and Giresun. The University's cooperative support work now reaches 45 women's cooperatives in the region.
- **"University Empowering the Future of Women" award** presented to the University's Gender Equality Office in 2025.
- **#YükOlmasın national study** with more than 2,600 white-collar employees: 31 per cent of women had left a job at some point because of care responsibilities and mental load.
- **1,395 undergraduates and 478 graduate students on full scholarships** in 2025, up from 1,267 and 426 in 2024, and 120 students on scholarships funded by organisations.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Özyeğin University treats poverty first as a question of who reaches higher education and who completes it, and second as a question students should learn to see for themselves. Every first-year student takes SEC 101 Introduction to University Life, a compulsory course that introduces the Transformative Education Programme, academic integrity, AI literacy and environmental sustainability. Outside the classroom, the Duyarlı ÖzÜ volunteering programme, active since 2011, runs field projects with children, older people and disadvantaged groups, so that students can meet economic hardship at first hand.

Later in the degree, the Responsible Citizenship and Impact courses ask students to design and deliver projects with external partners and to present them publicly at the end of term.

Duyarlı ÖzÜ.
The University's volunteering programme, delivering service-learning modules tied to need identified in the surrounding communities rather than chosen by the University. Across four flagship events in the reporting period the programme recorded one-to-one contact with 227 children and 54 older adults.

SEC 202 and SEC 204, *Responsible Citizenship and Impact*.
Credit-bearing courses in which students design and deliver field projects with external partners. On 14 March 2025 students on the course worked directly with middle-school pupils.



A class in session on campus

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND PROGRAMMES

Financial access is the University's most direct instrument against poverty. The Equal Opportunity in Education Scholarship Programme (EFEB) was launched in 2015 for applicants who ranked among the top one per cent in the national university entrance examination but could not take up a full scholarship elsewhere because of their family's financial situation. It is funded by donations, and the number of holders has grown steadily, from 103 in 2021–2022 to 118 in 2023–2024 on the University's own published figures.

What distinguishes EFEB is what surrounds the scholarship. A dedicated EFEB Office follows each holder academically and socially throughout the degree, manages donor relationships and organises cultural activities, including trips run with the Hüsnü Özyeğin Foundation. The Zeynep Alp Köseoğlu Scholarship Programme operates alongside EFEB, and the Social Impact Seed Fund finances early-stage projects with community partners.

EFEB — the Equal Opportunity in Education Scholarship Programme.
The University's principal instrument for widening access, with an explicit focus on first-generation university students. Support is not limited to fee remission: a dedicated EFEB Office provides academic and pastoral follow-up for the duration of the degree.

The Social Impact Seed Fund, one of three internal seed funding lines, supporting early-stage projects delivered with community partners. Nine projects funded in the 2025 round.

Scholarships in 2025.
1,395 undergraduates and 478 graduate students studied on full scholarships, up from 1,267 and 426 in 2024, and 120 students held scholarships funded by companies and organisations.



Students in the central campus courtyard

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Beyond the campus, the University's anti-poverty work concentrates on livelihoods and on access to basic services. Through the Özyeğin Rural Development Model, the Sustainability Platform's Community Engagement Programme provides capacity-building training and mentoring to cooperatives and associations in Kilis, Bitlis, Rize, Iğdır and Kayseri. The KADİM network matched thirteen women's cooperatives with mentor institutions from the public sector, private sector and civil society, and the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women programme was delivered in Türkiye for the first time in partnership with the University.

Access to services is the second strand. ÖzÜÇAM has provided free or low-cost couple and family therapy to the public since 2017, and most of its clients come from outside the University. The Pro Bono Legal Clinic, run under a protocol with the Istanbul Bar Association, lets law students follow public-interest cases alongside volunteer lawyers. In the neighbourhoods around the campus, the Yaklaş programme brings University members and residents of Nişantepe and Çekmeköy together on shared projects.

Yaklaş.
Local development projects in Çekmeköy and Nişantepe, the districts immediately surrounding the campus.

KEÇİ — Diversifying Education in the Village.
Extending educational provision into rural settings.

ÖzÜÇAM public therapy.
Free or low-cost couple and family therapy, open to the public since 2017: more than 10,000 sessions for over 1,000 people, most of them from outside the University.

Duyarlı ÖzÜ field projects, including the 23 April Children's Day festival delivered with SEC 202 students.

Reach.
The Social Impact Mapping Report records 350 to 400 people in vulnerable circumstances — people with special needs, nursing-home residents, women producers — engaged in sustained transformative work across the year, distinct from one-off event attendance.

Local and Rural Development Specialisation Programme.
The 13th edition was held on campus on 25–29 August 2025 and focused on cooperatives in sustainable local and rural development. In December 2025 a dedicated edition was run in Şanlıurfa for public sector experts at the request of the GAP Regional Development Administration. More than 500 experts have completed the programme since 2014.

Capacity building for cooperatives.
Training and mentoring for cooperatives and associations in Kilis, Bitlis, Rize, Iğdır and Kayseri under the Özyeğin Rural Development Model.

Yaklaş Nişantepe.
Launched in 2018, the programme connects the University with Nişantepe, the neighbouring district and home to around 2,000 Romani residents. It grew into the Nişantepe Social Empowerment Project (2020–2023), with the Nişantepe Educational Support programme, the Box of Hope for basic necessities and Cooking for Someone, in which gastronomy students prepared and delivered meals. Today it continues through Duyarlı ÖzÜ and the Responsible Citizenship course.



Local and Rural Development Specialisation Programme

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- KIRKEP (Ministry of Industry and Technology)
- DOKA women's cooperatives study
- GAP district investment plans
- FAO Responsible Agricultural Investment Areas
- Iğdır women's cooperatives (Serhat Development Agency)

Research on poverty at Özyeğin is closely tied to policy. KIRKEP, carried out with the General Directorate of Development Agencies of the Ministry of Industry and Technology, analysed production, consumption and demography across 170 districts and produced policy proposals for integrating rural and urban economies. With the GAP Regional Development Administration, the University prepared integrated investment plans for five districts in the South-East, and in 2025 it ran a dedicated rural development programme in Urfa at the Administration's request.

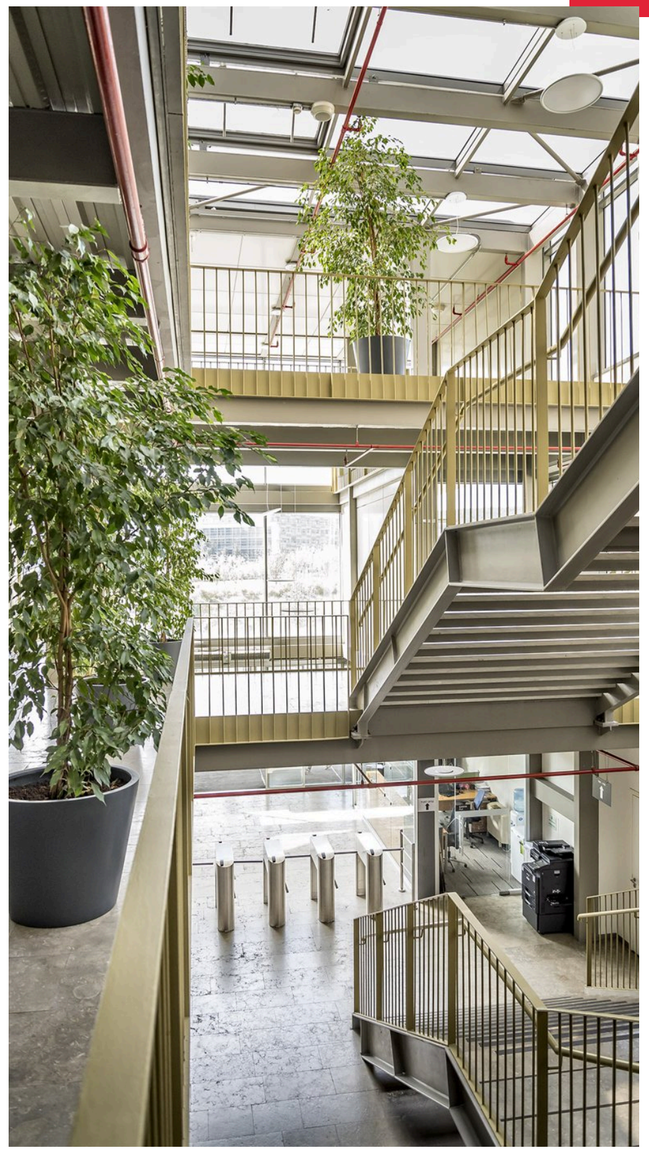
Women's economic participation is a recurring theme. The DOKA study surveyed 38 women's cooperatives in six provinces of the Eastern Black Sea, and a 2025 Social Impact Seed Fund project, run with International Women of Istanbul, combined skills workshops with field research among migrant women entrepreneurs. The Child Development and Learning Laboratory, founded in 2024, studies how poverty and social stress affect children's development, which links this goal to the University's work on education and health.

DOKA TR90 Women's Cooperatives.
Baseline analysis across Phases I–III, conducted with the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency, including the KADİM mentoring network in which 13 women's cooperatives were matched with mentor institutions from the public sector, private sector and civil society.

Social Impact Seed Fund projects, 2025 round.
Nine active projects led by Ayşe Ceren Bilge, Burcu Balcık, Ebru Tekin Bilbil, Ezgi Elçi, Ferhat Yıldırım with Ayşin Paşamehmetoğlu, Hannah Wen with Bochra Idris, Oya İklil Selçuk, Sevgi Usta, and Zeynep Reva.

Selected 2025 publications.
Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Time resourcefulness of children: from time poverty to time affluence*, Handbook on Child Poverty and Inequality.



Inside an academic building



ZERO HUNGER

Food systems are under pressure from climate, conflict and waste. Özyeğin University works on both ends of the chain: with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agricultural heritage and responsible investment, and on campus through zero-waste food practice and a gastronomy programme that teaches sustainable food as part of the degree.

12

Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.10

Citation Impact (FWCI)

10

European and National Projects

6

Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **FAO Talks**, 17 October 2025: a World Food Day panel for young people, held on campus with FAO Türkiye and Migros as part of FAO's 80th-anniversary "365 Days of Action" campaign.
- **Agricultural heritage training in Antalya**, 2 June 2025: a training and conservation action plan workshop for public bodies, NGOs, farmers and shepherds under the Söğle Highlands GIAHS project with FAO Türkiye and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- **Two new EU-funded projects in 2025:** Fix-APro (Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges, alternative proteins) and AGRINEXT (Horizon Europe, 21 partners in 12 countries).
- **Two 2025 Societal Impact Seed Grant projects** on food: the resilience of agricultural supply chains to climate risk, and the resilience of alternative food initiatives, run with the Yerküre Local Studies Co-operative and the Fair Food Community.
- **Zero Waste Certificate renewed** on 11 June 2025, covering food and other waste on campus and in the residences.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Food is taught at Özyeğin as a system rather than a product. The Gastronomy and Culinary Arts programme, run with Le Cordon Bleu, brings sustainable food systems into the degree itself, and the University marks World Food Day each year with a student seminar on the right to food held with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Students also meet the social side of food. The Food, Migration and Social Cohesion workshop, hosted on campus, connected research on cooking and community among migrant women with practice. In the SEC 180 Sustainable Campus Practices course, research action teams of students, academics, staff and suppliers take on real campus problems, food waste among them. The Ecological Living and Food Club adds permaculture training, zero-waste workshops and visits to small producers during planting and harvest.

Gastronomy and culinary arts curriculum.

Sustainable food systems content is delivered within the degree programmes rather than as extracurricular provision. Le Cordon Bleu marked 130 years with a gastronomy trends programme on campus, 30 June 2025.



Culinary arts and service training

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

On campus, the University's food work starts with growing and ends with waste. Students of architecture and gastronomy established the Campus Garden, a natural food-growing area used as a living laboratory. Waste on campus, including food waste, is managed within the Zero Waste system for which the University was first certified on 14 February 2020 and re-certified on 11 June 2025 after inspection of both the Çekmeköy campus and the student residences.

The Food Waste Has Lost Its Taste panel in November 2024 opened an exchange between public bodies and the University on circular food systems, and the conversation continued into the reporting period through the Sustainable Gastronomy events run with Le Cordon Bleu. Purchasing is governed by a Sustainable Procurement Policy aligned with ISO 20400.

Food Waste Has Lost Its Taste.
The awareness component, delivered as a panel on 20 November 2024 and continued into the reporting period.

ÖzÜ Bostan, from seed to table.
The campus garden, run by the Department of Architecture and the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department, is part of the Le Cordon Bleu curriculum and practises organic growing and permaculture. It works with local producers such as the Şile Earth Market.



Lunch in the campus dining hall

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University's strongest partnership on this goal is with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. On 17 October 2025, as part of FAO's 80th-anniversary "365 Days of Action" campaign, Özyeğin hosted the first session of the FAO Talks panel series with FAO and Migros. The panel, organised by the Sustainability Platform's community programme, discussed agricultural and cultural heritage, climate change, food security, digital transformation and the empowerment of women producers.

Three FAO projects run alongside. For the GIAHS candidacy, led by Assoc. Prof. Faik Gür with Özyeğin as service provider, the team prepared Türkiye's first application to register the villages of Büyüksöğle, Küçüksöğle and Geçmen in Antalya's Elmalı district as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System. The Green Transition in the Olive Oil Sector project works with the Ministry of Trade, and Responsible Agricultural Investment Areas analyses agri-food investment on the Adana–Şanlıurfa axis. The intergenerational seminar series The Legacy and Future of Turkish Agriculture brings young researchers together with leading figures in the field.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations — three concurrent projects.

- **GIAHS candidacy for the Söğle Highlands**, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, seeking recognition of the highland system as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System
- **Green Transition in the Olive Oil Sector**, with the Ministry of Trade
- **Responsible Agricultural Investment Areas**

The Agricultural Heritage Systems Workshop and the intergenerational seminar series *The Legacy and Future of Turkish Agriculture*.

Agricultural heritage training in Antalya, 2 June 2025.

As part of the Söğle Highlands project with FAO Türkiye and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a training and conservation action plan workshop brought together public institutions, academics, local NGOs, farmers and shepherds.



A World Food Day event at the University

4

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- FAO GIAHS Söğle Highlands
- FAO Green Transition in Olive Oil
- FAO Responsible Agricultural Investment Areas
- Fix-APro (Horizon Europe MSCA)
- AGRINEXT (Horizon Europe)
- TÜBİTAK 1001: zero-waste food supply chains
- TÜBİTAK 1001: laser weed control
- TÜBİTAK 1001: new peasants and rural gentrification
- TÜBİTAK 1001: food and cohesion among Syrian women
- TÜBİTAK 3005: endangered local grape varieties

Food research at Özyeğin spans the laboratory, the supply chain and the countryside. An interdisciplinary team combining laser technology, photonics, artificial intelligence, plant science and food research works under two TÜBİTAK projects, one on pulsed fibre-laser weed control in greenhouses and one on AI analysis of laser effects on seed germination. Another TÜBİTAK 1001 project builds analytical models for zero-waste food supply chains.

The social science of food is equally developed. The LOAF laboratory, founded in 2021, works on agroecology, fair access to healthy food and local government capacity. Funded projects study new peasants and rural gentrification, endangered local grape varieties in the Aegean and the South-East, and the resilience of alternative food initiatives. In 2025 the University joined two EU-funded projects: Fix-APro, an MSCA Staff Exchanges project coordinated by METU on alternative proteins, and AGRINEXT, a 21-partner Horizon Europe project in which Özyeğin leads the work on lifelong learning systems.

LOAF — the Agri-Food Studies and Local Development Laboratory.

TÜBİTAK 1001 portfolio:

- *Towards Zero Waste: analytical models for sustainable food supply chains*
- *Smart pulsed-fibre-laser weed control for greenhouses*



Gastronomy and culinary arts students in the teaching kitchen

CONTINUED

Further projects:
resilience of agricultural supply chains · resilience of alternative food initiatives · endangered local grape varieties in the Aegean and the Southeast, with Urla and Midyat case studies · new peasants, agrarian transformation and rural gentrification in Türkiye · KIRKEP, on the integration of rural and urban economies · food, home cooking and social cohesion among Syrian women.

Horizon Europe.
Fix-APro, an MSCA Staff Exchanges project from the 2025 call coordinated by METU, on integrating alternative proteins into food systems, with industry partners including BİTKİDEN, Tat Gıda and Yayla Agro. *AGRINEXT*, a 54-month project with 21 partners in 12 countries on skills for competitive and sustainable agriculture, in which Özyeğin leads the work package mapping lifelong learning systems.

Commercialisation:
Pacha, a collagen-based food venture founded by Dr Aslı Zuluğ with support from Girişim Fabrikası.

Societal Impact Seed Grant projects, 2025 round:
Resilience of the agricultural supply chain, on early warning and parametric insurance against climate risk, and *The story of alternative food initiatives in the face of multiple crises*, carried out with the Yerküre Local Studies Co-operative and the Fair Food Community.

Selected 2025 publications.
Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Entrepreneurial back-to-landers: Neo-farmers in Turkey*, Journal of Rural Studies.
- *Agroecology and back-to-land migration in Turkey: asset or obstacle?*, Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.
- *Bee bread incorporated Chitosan films for food packaging: enhanced physical properties, antioxidant, and antibacterial activities*, Journal of Food Measurement and Characterization.

SINCE THE REPORTING PERIOD · 2026

The Zero-Waste Turkish Cuisine Protocol, agreed on 27 April 2026 to reduce food waste and build sustainable gastronomy into teaching. It falls after the reporting period.

AGRICOLAB, Yenişehir.
Climate-resilient agriculture with Yenişehir Municipality under the EU–Türkiye Climate Change Grant Programme, with a budget of about €464,000. The University's own announcement dates the project to 2026–2028, so it falls after the reporting period.



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health and well-being depend on care, prevention and the conditions people live and work in. Özyeğin University supports its own community through on-campus health, counselling and sports services, opens therapy and sport to its neighbours, and researches health technologies, child development and the mental load of work.

55
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.00
Citation Impact (FWCI)

6
European and National Projects

18
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Automated external defibrillators at 17 locations** across the campus and residences, increasing emergency response capacity.
- **Care labour and mental load study** with 2,628 white-collar employees, a nationwide two-phase study whose report was published in 2025.
- **British Safety Council International Safety Award 2025**, received by Özyeğin as the only university in Türkiye.
- **Earthquake Simulation Truck**, 27–29 May 2025, giving students and staff hands-on disaster response training.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Well-being at Özyeğin is supported student to student as much as by professionals. The Peer Counselling Programme trains students in problem solving and decision making and runs an information portal. The 360 Counselling workshops cover academic, social and personal development.

Health literacy is taught directly. The twenty-first-century competencies series includes a course on addiction in the contemporary world, offered in Turkish and English, and mental health information materials reach all students. Duyarlı ÖzÜ meetings have brought experts on peer bullying and on healthy relationships to campus. Student sports clubs in sailing, rowing and diving, inter-faculty tournaments, and arts events organised by student societies complete a picture of well-being that is not limited to clinical care.

Earthquake Simulation Truck on campus, May 2025.



Students supporting one another on campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The campus has its own health infrastructure. The Health Centre provides health services and emergency response, the Psychological Development Unit offers counselling for student mental health, and the Sports Centre gives students and staff access to extensive sports facilities. Automated external defibrillators are in place at 17 locations across the campus and residences. Staff well-being is organised as a set of practices: use of the sports facilities, regular pilates and swimming sessions, access to health services and HR arrangements that improve working conditions. Residence hall staff are trained in psychological first aid and crisis management, and the University's crisis intervention guide has been revised.

Occupational health and safety is certified and governed. The University holds ISO 45001:2018 and is overseen by an HSE Committee, the first at a Turkish university, which reports to the Rectorate.

International Safety Award, 2025. The British Safety Council recognised the University's safety performance, as the only university in Türkiye.

Staff mental and physical health. From their first day, employees are covered by private health and life insurance that extends to spouses and dependent children. The leave framework includes menstrual leave, leave for a child's first day of school and caregiving leave.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin's health outreach reaches people who would otherwise be hard to reach. Beyond Adventure has run every year since 2019, pairing children with special needs one-to-one with student volunteers in sports and arts workshops. ÖzÜÇAM, the Couple and Family Centre, has delivered more than 10,000 free or low-cost therapy sessions to over a thousand people since 2017, most of them from outside the University.

Sport and health campaigns are used as a bridge to the neighbourhood and to schools. The ÖzÜ Cup inter-high-school sports festival brings teams to campus, and the Yaklaş 2030 Nişantepe sports project connects residents with active living. *Yeşertip Yaş Alıyoruz* works on healthy ageing, and the ÖzÜ and AÇEV Marathon is run as a joint public event.

Kızılay blood and stem cell donation drives, 9–10 April 2025, with the Turkish Red Crescent.

Public expertise.
On 11 June 2025 Prof. Ayşenil Belger spoke publicly on chronic stress in children and young adults.



OzU students with Nişantepe Middle School pupils

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- TÜBİTAK 1001: personalised cervical orthosis
- TÜBİTAK 1001: autonomous suturing for surgical robots
- TÜBİTAK 1001: reusable instruments and operating room scheduling
- TÜBİTAK 1001: Syrian refugee adolescents' well-being
- Co-Ex exoskeleton (TÜBİTAK 1001)
- ILO workplace violence and harassment study

Health research at Özyeğin sits where engineering meets medicine. ÖzÜ HealthTech (DİSAM) is the University's interdisciplinary health technology centre. TÜBİTAK 1001 projects are developing a patient-specific cervical orthosis, autonomous suturing for surgical robots, and management systems for reusable surgical instruments integrated with operating-room scheduling. The Co-Ex exoskeleton project, running since 2015, and the AnkleMech rehabilitation mechanism address mobility.

The behavioural and social side is equally active. A TÜBİTAK project studies risk and protective factors in the psychosocial well-being of Syrian refugee adolescents, and the Child Development and Learning Laboratory works on executive function and the effects of social stress. With the International Labour Organization, the University surveyed 3,007 people in Istanbul on violence and harassment at work, the first study of its scale in Türkiye, and a separate study with 2,628 employees, reported in 2025, measured the mental load of care work.

Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

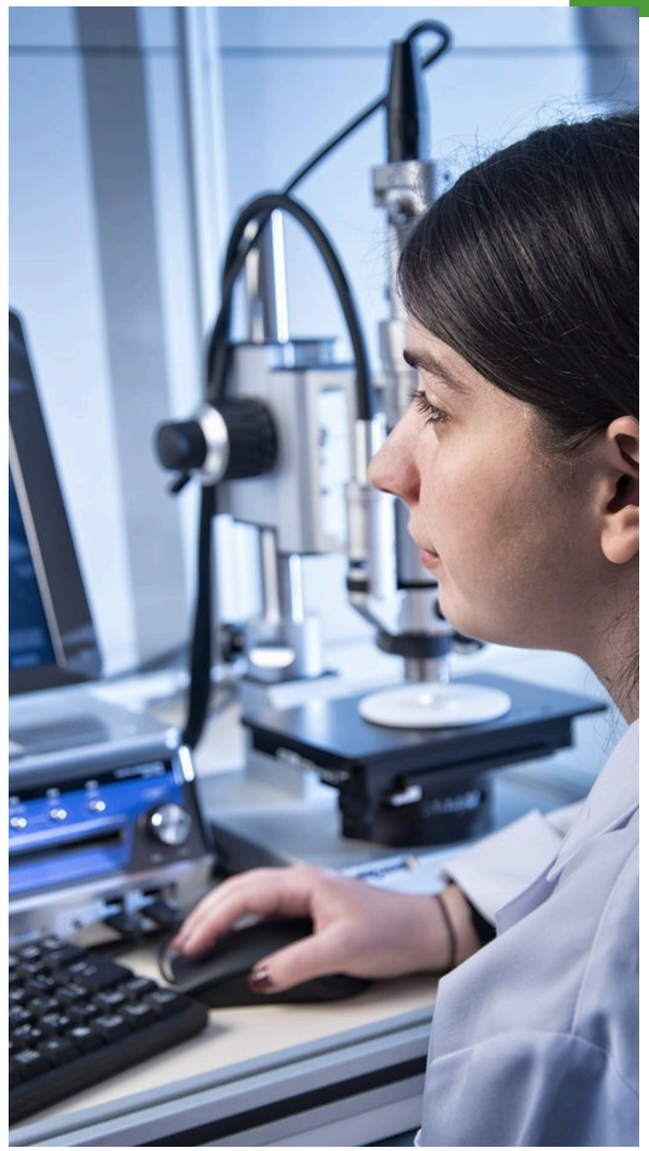
- *Biomedical Applications of Metal-Organic Frameworks Revisited*, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research.
- *Improved drowsiness detection in drivers through optimum pairing of EEG features using an optimal EEG channel comparable to a multichannel EEG system*, Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing.
- *Joint analysis of sQTL and Hi-C reveals spatial proximity between sQTLs and target genes in cancer tissues*, Scientific Reports.

SINCE THE REPORTING PERIOD · 2026

The Authorised Family Medicine Unit, giving students and staff access to primary care within the campus from May 2026.

Heltia.
From 2026, the Heltia platform gives employees online access to psychologists and dietitians, extendable to up to three family members.

Collaboration with the Çekmeköy Healthy Life Centre and the District Health Directorate, including an organ donation awareness event and a healthy living event for neighbourhood residents.



Research in a University laboratory



QUALITY EDUCATION

Quality education is the University's founding purpose. Özyeğin University builds competences as well as knowledge through its Transformative Education Programme, measures what its student programmes actually produce, and opens learning to schools, teachers, professionals and its neighbourhood.

29
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.08
Citation Impact (FWCI)

3
European and National Projects

64
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **443 of 1,142 courses** carried sustainability content in the 2024–25 academic year, and students rated the University's success in building sustainability awareness at 3.1 out of 4.
- **Responsible Citizenship in the neighbourhood:** in 2024–2025, 320 students from seven faculties worked with 85 pupils of Nişantepe Middle School on exam preparation, English and sport.
- **Undergraduate satisfaction rose to 74.1** (from 69.9 in 2024), and **84 per cent of instructors** scored 4 or above in student course evaluations, up from 79 per cent.
- **Fewer students leaving:** the undergraduate withdrawal rate fell to 3.0 per cent in 2025, from 5.4 per cent in 2024.
- **169 students went abroad on exchange** in 2025 (150 Erasmus+, 19 global exchange), **100 exchange students arrived**, and 26 students did internships abroad.
- **Courses Without Walls:** eight faculty-led learning trips in 2025–2026 drew 508 applications, including routes through Istanbul (November 2025) and Cappadocia (December 2025).
- **YÖKAK institutional accreditation continued** after the 2025 interim review.
- **Education for the community:** maker camps for children and young people, CELTA teacher certification with International House Türkiye, and a TÜBİTAK Science High School SDG panel on 14 May 2025.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Transformative Education Programme is the backbone of learning at Özyeğin. It defines ten core and thirty sub-competencies that every student should gain and delivers them through common courses, TRL courses and other activities. Progress is recorded on a Transformative Education Transcript and Portfolio, so that competencies such as responsible citizenship and teamwork are visible alongside grades.

The programme keeps renewing itself. New TRL courses teach learning with artificial intelligence and change management. Placeless Courses took students out of the classroom on routes through Dolmabahçe, Taksim and Galata in November 2025 and through Cappadocia in December 2025. Maker programmes such as MAKEntas, MAKEngineer and MakeGTT give design, engineering and gastronomy students hands-on project work, and applied education partnerships with Dedeman, Bonna Porselen, Pegasus and Turkish Airlines bring industry problems into courses.

TRL 101 and 102, and SEC 101.
Foundation courses with an impact report on file. Timely completion of SEC 101 carries the effects above, together with 2.07 times the rate of participation in student life and satisfaction 8.43 points higher.

TRL 202 and 204, *Responsible Citizenship*.
Field-project courses.

The one-ECTS twenty-first-century competency course series.

The Peer Support Programme, with LibCal usage analysis.

Language Circles, the **Undergraduate Summer Research Programme** and the **High School Summer Research Programme**, reaching 2,500 to 2,800 prospective students annually through summer schools and research internships.

The Law Faculty moot court programme, **MakeTogether**, and student society training in debate, CV preparation and career development.

The Sandpit crowdfunding simulation, supported by the Transformative Education Seed Fund, embedded into BUS 102 and ENTR 305.

Student experience in numbers.
In 2025, 150 students went abroad through Erasmus+ and 19 through global exchange, 100 exchange students came to Özyeğin, and 26 students did internships abroad. Undergraduate satisfaction rose from 69.9 in 2024 to 74.1 in 2025, and 84 per cent of instructors scored 4 or above in student course evaluations. In 2025–2026, 43 active student clubs organised 465 events. Courses Without Walls ran eight faculty-led learning trips, which drew 508 applications. Erasmus+ blended intensive programmes and collaborative online international learning added joint courses with partners abroad.

Sustainability across the curriculum.
Every first-year student takes SEC 101 and TRL 101/103, compulsory courses that introduce the Transformative Education Programme and environmental sustainability, and ENG101 and ENG102 have been taught in the context of the SDGs since 2020–2021. In the 2024–25 academic year, 443 of the University's 1,142 courses carried sustainability content, with a target of 600 by 2029. In the student satisfaction survey, students rated the University's success in building sustainability awareness at 3.1 out of 4.

Responsible Citizenship.
In 2024–2025, 320 students from seven faculties worked with 85 pupils of Nişantepe Middle School on high school entrance exam preparation, English and sport, as part of the TRL202 Responsible Citizenship course.



Students studying together on campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Teaching quality is supported by dedicated structures. The Office of Learning and Teaching Excellence (OLTE) supports pedagogy and teaching practice and runs the OzU TLT grants for teaching and learning research. The Student Development and Experience Department designs the transformative student experience. The Transformative Education Seed Fund finances course and programme designs aimed at measurable change; recent examples embedded a crowdfunding simulation in business courses and built experiential learning into a law course through court visits and simulations.

Quality is externally checked. Özyeğin has held YÖKAK institutional accreditation, with continuation confirmed at the 2025 interim review, and has published an Institutional Internal Evaluation Report every year since 2016. A Quality Commission of all deans and directors manages the quality cycle, and the University obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification in 2025. Programme accreditations include AACSB for business, MÜDEK for engineering, MİAK for architecture, ACPHA for hotel management, EAQUALS for the School of Languages, and AABI for aviation management and pilot training, the first such programmes accredited in Türkiye and Europe.

ÖGDB — the Student Development and Experience Department, designing the transformative student experience and running the volunteering and development programmes.

The Academic Quality Assurance Office, carrying international accreditation and quality processes.

The Institutional Internal Evaluation Report (KİDR), published annually without interruption since 2016, and the **Quality Commission** of all deans and directors that maintains its evidence base.



The University library



Reading in the library

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin opens learning to people who are not its students. OzU AI Week, held from 13 to 17 October 2025, offered more than twenty public panels and workshops on artificial intelligence in fields from finance and agriculture to gender equality. The Continuing Education Academy designs programmes for companies and public bodies, the ÖzÜ Façade Academy trains professionals with European partners, and SustainHUB Academy, run with SKD Türkiye, began its second cohort in September 2025.

Schools are a particular focus. AI@K12 taught high school students to learn effectively with AI, and AI@PDR trained school guidance counsellors. OpenFab runs maker training in coding, 3D design and electronics for children and young people from outside the University, and in 2025 held a workshop with thirty children from Nişantepe. The High School Summer School, campus visits from more than two hundred institutions and the OzU Open debating tournament bring secondary students into university life. With Sabancı and Boğaziçi universities, a TÜBİTAK 2237-A programme trained thirty lecturers from twenty-one universities in using AI in higher education.

AI@K12.
Effective Learning with Artificial Intelligence, delivered to high-school students, covering AI literacy and common tools.

AI@PDR.
Artificial Intelligence in Designing Learning Environments and Experiences, delivered to school guidance counsellors, including prompt engineering.

TÜBİTAK 2237 training project.

The **23 April Children's Day festival**, delivered by SEC 202 students with Duyarlı ÖzÜ.

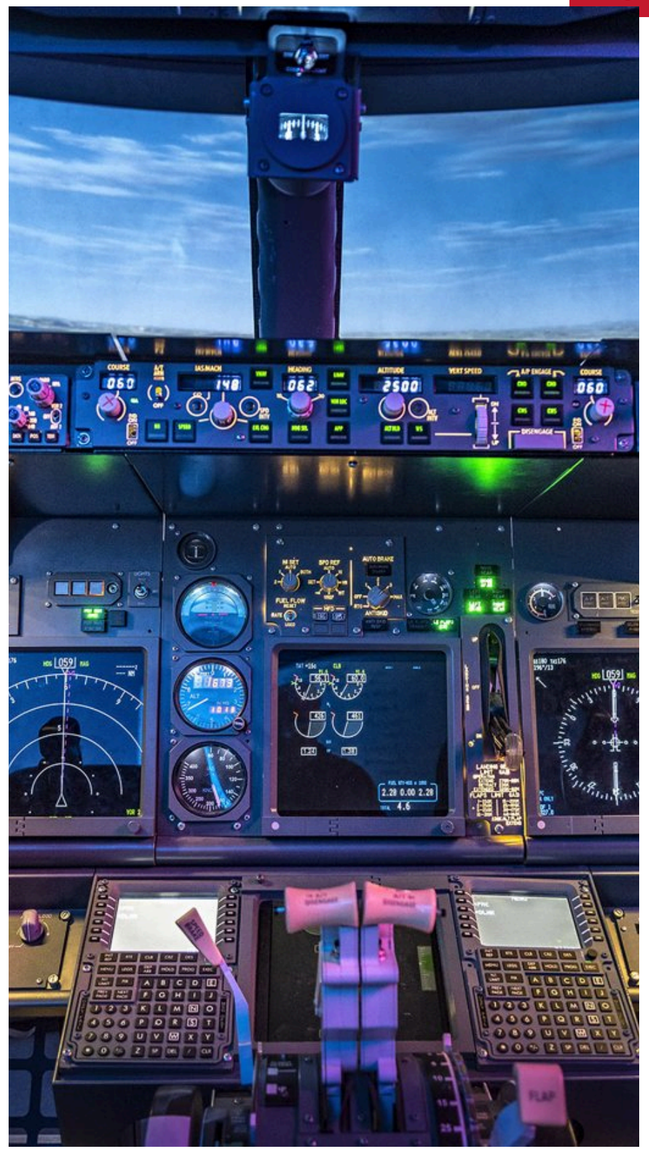
KEÇİ, diversifying education in the village.

Maker training for children and young people.
OpenFab teaches coding, 3D design and printing, laser prototyping and electronics to children and young people from outside the University, and in 2025 ran a production workshop with 30 children from Nişantepe.

The Global Leadership Academy, established with the Global Turks Foundation, 28 November 2025.

Reach.
The high-school network, including outreach and guidance, reached 9,998 students across 185 institutions in the period.

Teachers and schools.
Under a memorandum of understanding with International House Türkiye, the School of Languages hosts Cambridge CELTA teaching certificate courses. OpenFab's maker camps teach coding, 3D design and prototyping to children and young people from outside the University. On 14 May 2025 the University shared its campus sustainability practice with the community of a TÜBİTAK Science High School, and on 30 May 2025 it held the SADE Sustainability Workshop on corporate sustainability practice.



Flight simulator used in pilot training

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- BRIDGE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (Erasmus+)
- ATTUNE (Erasmus+)
- TÜBİTAK 2237-A: AI in higher education

Özyeğin studies its own teaching. The OzU TLT grants fund research on teaching and learning, and the Transformative Education Seed Fund funds experiments in course design, each with a closing presentation of results.

Further research addresses specific groups and settings: an academic needs analysis of international students, an evaluation of OLTE's AI training, and a TÜBİTAK 4005 programme that developed innovation competences among teachers. The Undergraduate and High School Summer Research Programmes bring students into research early, building research culture from the first year.

OzU TLT Grants.
Teaching and learning research grants awarded across the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 cycles, each closing with a presentation of results to colleagues.

BRIDGE, an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence announced in December 2025, adding new courses and a Democracy Laboratory. **Placeless Courses**, experiential learning outside the classroom, with routes through Dolmabahçe, Taksim and Galata (November 2025) and Cappadocia (December 2025).

Further work:
the International Student Academic Needs Analysis · a joint project with Sabancı University, ethics approval on file · the evaluation report on OLTE's AI training programmes · an innovative education programme in facade design, 17 February 2025.

Selected 2025 publications.
Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Embracing the unknown and the novel: Can personality traits shape a teacher's approach to ChatGPT?*, Journal of Pedagogical Sociology and Psychology.
- *Technology-Mediated Collaboration among Children with Special Educational Needs: Definitions and Measurements*, Proceedings of the 24th Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.



Students in a computer laboratory



GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is a question of governance as well as culture. Özyeğin University has implemented a Gender Equality Plan since 2017, supports working parents beyond what the law requires, and produces national evidence on violence, care work and women's employment with international partners.

15
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.02
Citation Impact (FWCI)

4
European and National Projects

17
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Gender Ideathon 2025**, run with Fiba Group, focused on care work and mental load, with 36 participants.
- **Gender Equality Plan v2 (2024–2028)** in its second year of implementation, with gender-sensitive data collection and reporting strengthened.
- **Women in the University:** 51 per cent of faculty members, 54 per cent of administrative staff and 47 per cent of the Senate are women, according to the latest Gender Equality Report (2023–2024).
- **Support for working parents:** a nursery allowance, breastfeeding leave extended by institutional practice until the child is two, and one day off a week for mothers until the child is 24 months old.
- **"University Empowering the Future of Women" award** presented to the University's Gender Equality Office in 2025.
- **#YükOlmasın national study** with more than 2,600 white-collar employees: 31 per cent of women had left a job at some point because of care responsibilities and mental load.
- **ZAKBP scholarships** supporting women undergraduates to take part in international exchange and internships.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Gender equality is part of what students learn and do. The elective Safe Sport and Gender brings the subject into the curriculum, and Gender Equality Plan v2 names curriculum and students among its seven key areas. The Gender Ideathon asks participants to develop solutions to social problems; its 2025 edition focused on care labour and mental load.

Role models and peer networks carry much of the work. On 8 March, 72 students met 22 women leaders from business, and the Her Story Our Glory panel brought women executives to talk about their careers. The Equality Ambassadors network gives students a structured space to lead discussion, the Women's Studies Club runs consciousness-raising sessions and film talks, and students also organise women's self-defence training and the Non-Violent Society Summit on rights-based awareness. Breaking Gender Stereotypes, run by the Social Change Volunteers with a lawyer from the We Will Stop Femicide Platform, produced an equality board now displayed on campus. Workshops with TEVİTÖL high school students examined gender stereotypes in career choice.

Gender Ideathon 2025, run with Fiba Group on care work and mental load, with 36 participants.



Students and faculty on campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Özyeğin has treated gender equality as a governance question since 2016, when the Horizon 2020 PLOTINA project began with an internal gender audit. The first five-year Gender Equality Plan was published in 2017. Its second cycle, GEP v2 for 2024–2028, was approved by the Senate in May 2024 after an evaluation of the first plan, strengthens data-driven monitoring with annual reporting, and widens the key areas from five to seven: governing bodies and decision-makers, career development, recruitment and work-life balance, research and researchers, curriculum, students, and knowledge transfer.

The Gender Equality Office, established in 2021 with two gender experts and an advisory board, implements the plan, collects gender-disaggregated data with the Planning and Analysis Office every year and publishes it in the Gender Equality Reports. The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Policy prohibits discrimination on grounds including gender and gender identity and names hiring practice among its six action areas, and the Unit for the Prevention of Discrimination and Violence supports anyone affected. The Working Parent Rights Guide, part of the *ÖzÜ'nde Biz Varız* series, sets out rights the University provides beyond statutory requirements. Employees receive a nursery allowance, breastfeeding leave is extended by institutional practice from one year to two, and mothers may take one day off a week until the child is 24 months old. Work to expand breastfeeding rooms and to agree nursery discounts is under way.

"University Empowering the Future of Women" award, received by the Gender Equality Office in 2025.



The campus grounds

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University's gender work reaches deep into the private sector. The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women programme was delivered in Türkiye for the first time with the University, and a gender equality seminar was later given to members of the 10,000 Women Entrepreneurs Association at their request.

Public conversation and field work are the other channels. The Equimundo workshop with AÇEV explored young men's role in equality. The University supports women's cooperatives in Iğdır and trains trainers on business models for cooperatives, and through a collaboration with Women in Renewable Energy works to increase women's participation in the energy sector.

A gender equality event hosted on campus, 13 February 2025.

Empowering migrant women entrepreneurs in Türkiye, a 2025 Societal Impact Seed Grant project with International Women of Istanbul, combining skills workshops with field research.

Distinguished Leaders at OzU, whose equality and inclusion sessions in 2025 brought leaders with global impact to the University community.

#YükOlmasın: care labour and mental load.

What began as Fiba Group's awareness campaign, with the "Equal Care and Equal Mental Load Awareness Guide" co-developed by the University, became a national study with more than 2,600 white-collar employees, reported in 2025. It found that 31 per cent of women had resigned from a job at some point because of care responsibilities and mental load, evidence that companies now use to change their HR policies.



The Özyeğin University campus at dusk

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- TÜBİTAK 1001: cultural life scripts and system justification
- TÜBİTAK 1001: food and cohesion among Syrian women
- ILO workplace violence and harassment study
- DOKA women's cooperatives study

Özyeğin produces large-scale evidence on gender and work. With ILO Türkiye, researchers surveyed 3,007 people in Istanbul on violence and harassment at work, the first study of its scale in the country, published as *Workplace violence and harassment: perceptions and experiences*. A two-phase national study with 2,628 white-collar employees measured the mental load of care work, and its report was published with Fiba Group in 2025. Also in 2025, a study with the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA) examined 38 women's cooperatives in six provinces and developed tailored development plans. The Work, Inclusion and Social Equity Research Centre (WISE) turns this work into data and policy outputs.

Other projects study cultural life scripts and system justification among women, and food, home cooking and social cohesion among Syrian women in Istanbul, Gaziantep and Hatay. PLOTINA, the Horizon 2020 project with ten European institutions, is where the University's Gender Equality Plan began. Özyeğin was the first institution from Türkiye to join RINGS, the international network of gender research centres, and the ÖzÜ–WiRE collaboration studies women's participation in the renewable energy sector. Dr Başak Ozan Özparlak was named among *100 Inspiring Women in 6G*.

Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Domesticity and dwelling in displacement: home-making practices of Syrian women in Istanbul houses*, Gender, Place and Culture.
- *Between Right and Resistance: A Quantitative Analysis of Women's Self-Defense and Legal Legitimacy in Turkey*, Violence Against Women.
- *Fertile debates, circumventive pursuits: Reproductive governance and gamete donation in Turkey*, Social Science and Medicine.

SINCE THE REPORTING PERIOD · 2026

Women's Leadership Programme.
Designed for women undergraduates, especially those facing intersecting disadvantages, with targets of 25 mentees, 15 leadership workshops for 100 students, Experience Days with three companies for 75 students, and international mobility and internship support for 10 students. Mentoring starts in December 2026.

The Care Equality Corporate Network, Türkiye's first, convened by Özyeğin with TÜSİAD and with Fiba Group as principal supporter, turning invisible care work into a measurable corporate agenda.

IFC Equality in Education and Employability (E3), an eighteen-month international peer-learning platform on equality in education and employment, run with the International Finance Corporation.

The *İşin İçinde Kadın* podcast, produced with AÇEV, in which eleven academics discuss women in working life.



Engineering students in a laboratory



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Water scarcity is one of the defining risks for Türkiye. Özyeğin University declared 2025–2026 its Year of Water, measures its full water footprint, manages water under certified management systems, and shares its practice with students, suppliers, schools and public bodies.

4

Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.30

Citation Impact (FWCI)

1

European and National Projects

3

Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Year of Water declared** on 29 September 2025 for the 2025–2026 academic year, with an action plan, training, technical visits and student projects.
- **Corporate Water Footprint Report 2025** calculated under ISO 14046: a total water footprint of 670,162 m³ in the standard's scope, or 67 m³ per person.
- **Water withdrawal measured on campus:** 64,028 m³ at the campus meter in 2025, 9.33 m³ per person.
- **ISO 46001 water efficiency management system** implemented in 2024–2025.
- **Water efficiency training** for faculty, staff, students and contractor staff, and **Journey of Water** seminar with İSKİ on World Water Day, 20 March 2025.
- **Sharing practice beyond campus:** the University presented its water management to the TÜBİTAK Science High School community on 14 May 2025, and students visited the Ömerli treatment plant on 18 December 2025.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Water became a curriculum theme in 2025. On 29 September 2025 the University designated the 2025–2026 academic year as the Year of Water, in line with the Water Efficiency Mobilization launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Water Efficiency Regulation of December 2024. The plan included Journey of Water seminars, visits to treatment facilities, water-themed student projects, and water content on digital screens, the learning management system and social media.

Earlier in the year, on 20 March 2025, the Journey of Water seminar marked World Water Day with a guest instructor from İSKİ, Istanbul's water and sewerage administration, as part of SEC 101 and the OzU Cares volunteering programme. It was the first seminar at the University delivered carbon-neutral. Students visited the Ömerli treatment plant on 18 December 2025, and QR codes around campus link to a personal water footprint calculator.

The QR-coded water awareness campaign.

Water saving and water footprint campaigns, including the Water Saving CSR Campaign.

The Ömerli Treatment Plant field visit, taking students to municipal water infrastructure.

Sumetre, the digital tool through which individuals measure their own water footprint.



A Year of Water seminar on campus



Students at a Year of Water seminar

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Water on campus is managed as a system. ISO 14001, held since 2014, frames environmental management, and the University calculates its institutional water footprint under the ISO 14046 standard; it was the first university in Türkiye to publish a water footprint report, in 2023. The Sustainability Policy directs the University to promote efficient water use and to maximise reuse, and a Campus Energy and Water Resources User Manual and an Environmental Management Plan set out the measures in detail.

During 2025 the University implemented an ISO 46001 water efficiency management system with a Water Efficiency Action Plan, and trained faculty, staff, students and on-campus contractor staff in water conservation. Smart irrigation and drought-resistant landscaping reduce demand, with reporting carried out under the national communiqué on drought-resistant landscaping. Reducing water consumption is now among the University's strategic goals.

2025–2026 declared the Year of Water.
Water efficiency was managed as a single institutional priority combining the ISO 46001 management system, an action plan, training, technical implementation and awareness activity.

The Corporate Water Footprint Report 2025, providing measured institutional water accounting.

Xeriscape landscaping.
A campus planting inventory and the use of low-water species to reduce irrigation demand.

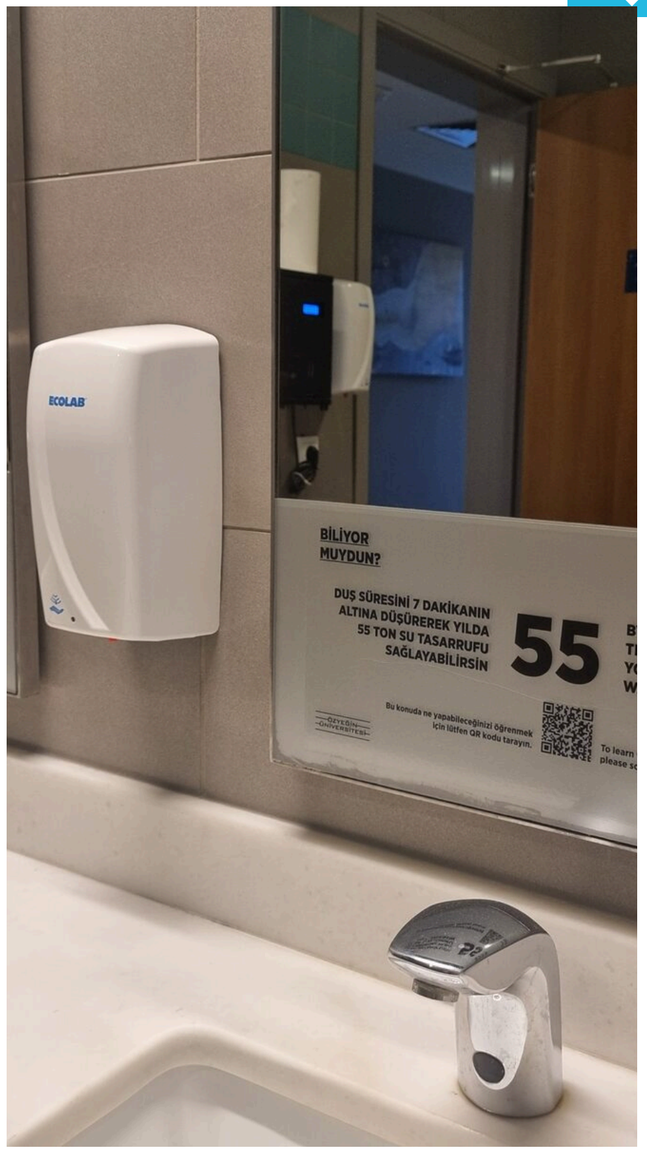
Environmental open data.
Water data is published through the University's open-data practice.

Measured in 2025.
The Corporate Water Footprint Report for 2025, calculated under ISO 14046, records a water footprint of 670,162 m³ in the standard's scope (blue 256,819 m³, grey 412,579 m³, green 764 m³), or 67 m³ per person for a campus population of 10,000. Including the virtual water in purchased goods, the total is 2,303,416 m³. The campus meter recorded 64,028 m³ of water withdrawal, 9.33 m³ per person for a campus population of 6,866. The University has set a target of reducing total water consumption by 8 per cent over four years.

Free drinking water.
As of October 2026, 91 mains-fed drinking water units with built-in filtration serve the campus: 58 water dispensers in the academic buildings, the Student Centre, the Sports Centre and the dormitories, and 33 under-sink purifiers in shared kitchens. Each unit is serviced and its filters are changed every six months, and the water at each unit is checked monthly. New students receive a steel water bottle in orientation week.

Wastewater.
All campus wastewater is treated at the Paşaköy Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant before treated effluent is discharged.

Management.
ISO 46001 was implemented for the first time in 2024–2025, and water data feed the annual ISO 14046 water footprint.



Water awareness panels installed in campus washrooms

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin works with public water institutions and shares its own practice with others. İSKİ, Istanbul's water and sewerage administration, delivered the Journey of Water seminar on campus on World Water Day, and students studied the treatment process at the Ömerli plant in December 2025. On 14 May 2025 the University presented its campus water management to the community of a TÜBİTAK Science High School, with FAO, as part of a panel on the Sustainable Development Goals.

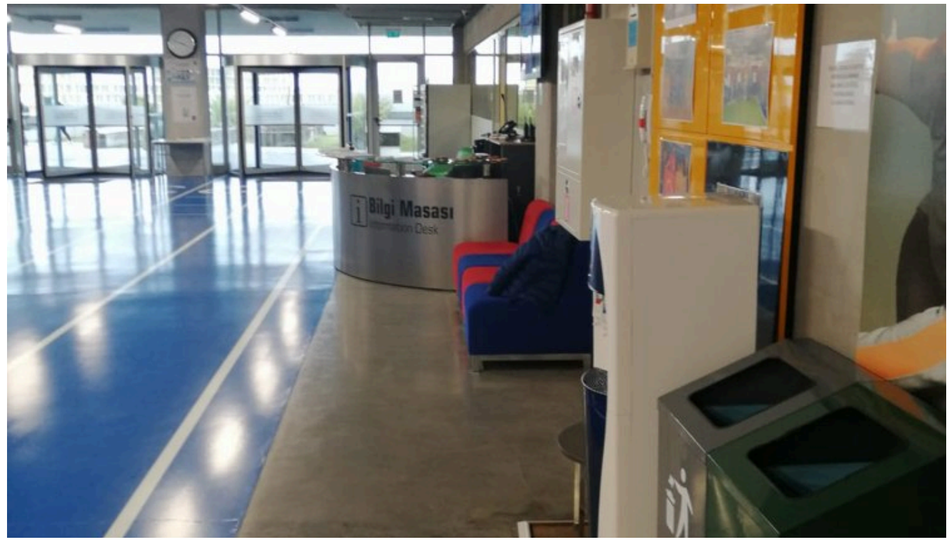
The supply chain is part of the effort. In 2025 the staff of suppliers and campus businesses were trained in water, energy and waste management, and a Water Efficiency Training Module prepared during the Year of Water is planned to be opened to the general public. The Year of Water plan commits the University to events with public institutions and NGOs and to sharing transparent data on campus water consumption, which it does through its annual water footprint report.

The Ömerli Treatment Plant technical trip, 18 December 2025, and the **QR-coded water awareness campaign** with the Sumetre water footprint tool.

Supplier and campus business training in water, energy and waste management, 2025.



Participants of a Year of Water event



Drinking water fountain on campus

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- AQUA Viva (Horizon Europe MSCA)

AQUA Viva, which won a Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges grant in the 2025 call, treats water as living cultural heritage and documents the practices communities build around it. It is the University's first externally funded project with water at its centre and connects researchers in Türkiye with partners abroad.

The campus itself is a source of water data. The Corporate Water Footprint Report, first published in 2023 and prepared under ISO 14046, measures blue, grey and green water and the virtual water embedded in purchases, and the Sumetre tool lets individuals measure their own footprint. SciVal maps four of the University's 2021–2025 publications to SDG 6, with a field-weighted citation impact of 1.30, above the world average.

SINCE THE REPORTING PERIOD · 2026

TS ISO 46001 Water Efficiency Management System, certified 21 January 2026 — the first Turkish university to hold it.

The Blue Water Certificate, 7 July 2026 — again the first Turkish university, registering the University's integrated water management approach at national level.

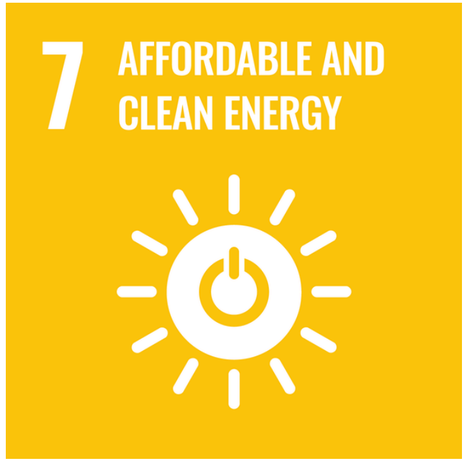
WaterLab.
With support from the 2026 Societal Impact Seed Grant Programme, students run bilingual, AI-supported water literacy workshops for fourth graders at Nişantepe Primary School.



A smart irrigation station on the campus landscape



Drought-tolerant planting on campus



AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Clean energy is central to tackling climate change. Özyeğin University met all of its 2025 electricity demand from certified renewable sources, manages energy under ISO 50001, and has run European energy research from FP7 to Horizon Europe, from efficient buildings to battery storage.

95

Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

0.84

Citation Impact (FWCI)

3

European and National Projects

2

Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **100 per cent renewable electricity** for 2025, verified through I-REC certificates.
- **ÖzÜBEX Industry Transformation Centre** opened on 30 May 2025 to support the digital and green transformation of SMEs.
- **Energy storage agreement** between the Centre for Energy, Environment and Economy and Vestel Mobility, 25 February 2025.
- **LEGOFIT**: a battery energy storage system integrated into a residence hall under a Horizon Europe project.
- **89th of 1,745 universities** in the 2025 UI GreenMetric ranking and Türkiye's top foundation university for the seventh year running, with strong scores for renewable energy and sustainable transport.
- **Energy target set:** a 10.57 per cent cut in energy use per person by 2029, to 0.481 TEP a year, managed under ISO 50001, and the Carbon Meter app launched in 2025 for personal footprints.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Energy is taught through doing. The TRIBE project, the University's first Horizon 2020 research and innovation action, used a social game to train behaviour for energy efficiency in pilot public buildings. Incoming students receive a sustainability orientation that covers energy alongside waste and water, and environment, energy and climate content runs through courses and design studios.

Carbon itself became a teaching tool in 2025. On 21 March 2025 the FE101 Being an Engineer course hosted representatives of Committed, a carbon offsetting firm, and the Sustainability and QHSE Department presented the University's institutional carbon footprint. The session was the first course at Özyeğin delivered carbon-neutral. The Sustainability Ideathon and Future Greens encourage students to develop climate and energy solutions and sustainable business models.

TRIBE, behavioural training for energy efficiency, delivered as a research-linked education programme.



Engineering students at work

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 2024, all electricity purchased by the University has come from renewable sources, documented through I-REC certificates, and solar energy is also generated on campus. Energy use is managed under ISO 50001, certified in March 2024, which requires energy reviews and objectives. Three buildings hold LEED Gold certification at building level.

Research has shaped the campus. The ScOLa building was built as the Turkish application of the EU NEED4B project on energy efficiency in new buildings and won a national productivity award in 2019. Through LEGOFIT, a battery energy storage system was integrated into a residence hall with Vestel Mobility. Karbonmetre lets individuals measure their own carbon footprint, and environmental data are shared openly.

100 per cent renewable electricity.
All electricity consumed in 2024 and in 2025 was sourced from renewable generation and certified through I-REC.

ISO 50001 Energy Management System, certified March 2024, under which campus energy performance is measured and improved.

LEED Gold certification.
Specified buildings on the Çekmeköy campus — AB1, AB2 and the Student Centre — hold LEED Gold. The certification is held at building level.

Recognition.
In the 2025 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings the University placed 89th of 1,745 universities and was Türkiye's top foundation university for the seventh consecutive year, with renewable energy and sustainable transport among its strongest areas.

Energy management and targets.
Energy is managed under ISO 50001 by the Sustainability and QHSE Directorate with Technical Services, which set baselines and monitor energy performance indicators. Part of the campus electricity comes from on-site solar panels. The 2029 target is a 10.57 per cent cut in energy use per person, to 0.481 TEP a year. The web-based Carbon Meter, launched in 2025, lets students and staff calculate their own footprints, and a Campus Holiday energy-saving programme reduces use when buildings are quiet.

Efficiency works completed in 2025.
Real-time energy monitoring of every campus building through SCADA; conversion to LED lighting in all classrooms of AB2, all but one classroom of AB1, the car park fire stairs and the AB3 covered car park lift halls and stairs; battery energy storage integrated with solar panels; load balancing in electrical panels to cut line losses, with compensation and reactive power optimisation; stronger monitoring and reporting through building automation; and internal energy-saving awareness and training meetings.



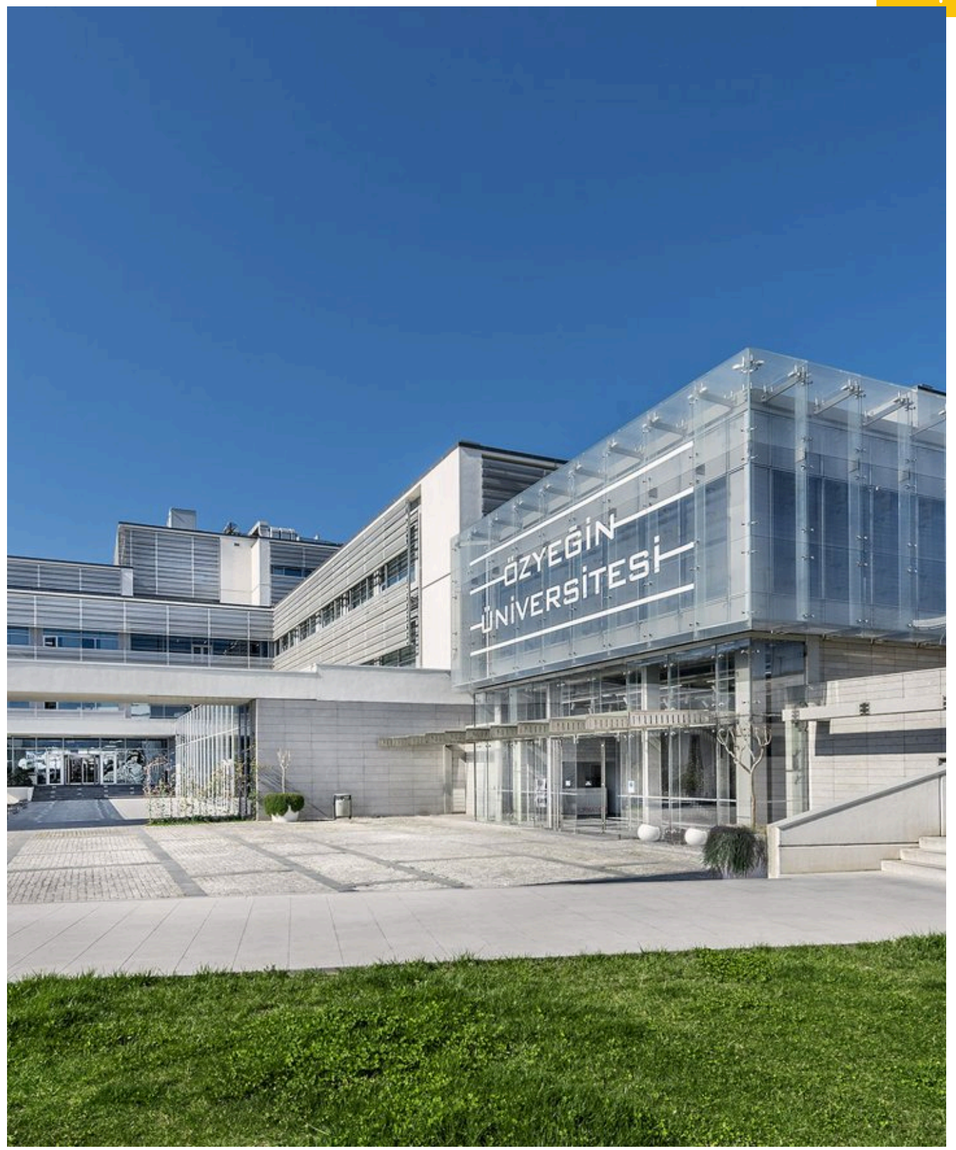
Solar panels on a campus building

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin's energy engagement is aimed mainly at industry. The ÖzÜBEX Industry Transformation Center was inaugurated on 30 May 2025 in the presence of the Minister of Industry and Technology. Established with the White Goods Suppliers Association (BEYSAD) under an EU and Türkiye co-funded project, it occupies 1,000 square metres on campus and provides SMEs with training, consultancy, R&D, prototyping and testing for their digital and green transformation.

EÇEM signed an energy storage agreement with Vestel Mobility on 25 February 2025, and with TÜSİAD produced Türkiye's Industrial Energy Efficiency Outlook on industrial efficiency potential and policy. The TRAFORM project worked with eight electricity distribution companies to improve grid efficiency through transformer data. SustainHUB Academy brings energy and climate content to business, and the University works with Women in Renewable Energy to widen women's participation in the sector.

ÖzÜ–WiRE, collaboration with Women in Renewable Energy on visibility and participation of women in the sector.



Academic buildings on campus

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- LEGOFIT (Horizon Europe)
- ReBuild-3D (EU, coordinator)
- PRECISE (EU CONNECT-NM)

EÇEM, founded in 2009 as the University's first research centre, works where energy, environment and economy meet, alongside the Integrated Energy Initiative and the EVATEG centre for energy-efficient electronics and lighting. European projects have run from FP7 through Horizon 2020: NEED4B on energy efficiency in new buildings, TRIBE on behaviour, and LEGOFIT on storage.

ReBuild-3D, coordinated by Özyeğin with EU funding and partners including SINTEF and CARTIF, develops circular, low-carbon construction materials and digital production. PRECISE, within the EU CONNECT-NM consortium, uses physics-informed AI to predict corrosion in nuclear materials. With 95 publications mapped to SDG 7 in 2021–2025, energy is the second largest goal in the University's research portfolio after industry and innovation.

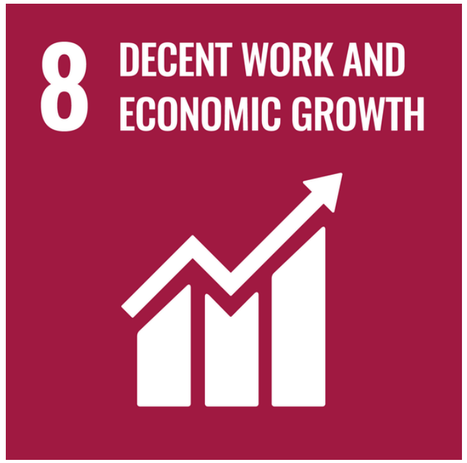
Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *A Systematic Review of Energy Efficiency and Lighting Control Interactions*, Health Environments Research and Design Journal.
- *Technical and financial analysis of energy efficiency measures taken for transforming of existing qualified residential buildings into nZEBs: The case of Istanbul*, Journal of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of Gazi University.
- *Minimum Operation Altitude for Self-Sustainable Operation of Solar-Powered Fixed-Wing AAVs in Airborne Networks*, IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society.



An engineering research laboratory



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Decent work and growth depend on skills, fair employment and new enterprise. Özyeğin University founded Türkiye's first business accelerator, prepares students for work through sector-based learning, and applies fair pay, equal treatment and freedom of association to everyone who works on its campus.

29
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.39
Citation Impact (FWCI)

4
European and National Projects

46
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **UN Global Compact commitment reaffirmed** by the President in August 2025, including fair labour practice and the prevention of corruption.
- **More than 78 per cent of employees** took part in sustainability-related learning, with an average of 14 hours of professional development each, as reported in the 2025 Communication on Engagement.
- **ÖzÜBEX** opened on 30 May 2025, and the University was admitted to the **TURQUALITY** branding programme at its highest tier on 12 November 2025.
- **65.4 per cent of 2025 undergraduate graduates** who responded were in work, in graduate study or running their own business within a year of graduating.
- **Staff satisfaction:** administrative staff 78.5 and academic staff 77.9 in the 2025 survey. Faculty departures fell from 17 in 2024 to 3 in 2025.
- **Pioneering AI Initiative:** 50 full-time and 100 visiting academic positions announced, with recruitment opening in September 2025.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Özyeğin trains students for work by putting them in contact with it. Sectoral Solutions (SEC) courses are built around real sector problems. Sectoral Orienteering replaces a conventional career day with a week inside sectors, and the Sector Meeting, held every December since 2015, drew more than fifty firms in its thirteenth edition.

Entrepreneurship runs through the degree. The Entrepreneurship Centre contributes to undergraduate courses, the Master's in Entrepreneurship has run since 2012–2013, and programmes such as the No-Code pre-incubation (the first of its kind in Türkiye, with an online summit), AI-supported entrepreneurship workshops and the Aspiring VC Challenge build practical skills. Girişim Fabrikası has been a TÜBİTAK 1512 BİGG implementing body since 2015 and has supported more than 60 entrepreneurs through it. Meet the Founder talks, Global Entrepreneurship Week (held every year from 2021 to 2025), CSCamp, a Blockchain Bootcamp with Trio and OzU IEEE technical training add to this. The SAYP programme, under which staff of Aselsan, Havelsan, Roketsan and C Tech study on ÖzÜ graduate programmes, shows the same link to industry.

AviAthon 2025, an aviation project competition held with İGA at Istanbul Airport, 5 May 2025.

The Accor Executive Development Programme, hospitality management training under protocol with Accor, and applied managerial development in tourism and hospitality, 23 June 2025.

The thirteenth hospitality and gastronomy sector leaders meeting, 15 December 2025.

Graduate outcomes, 2025.
Of the 2025 undergraduate graduates who responded to the graduate survey, 65.4 per cent were in work, in graduate study or running their own business within a year.



A practical session in hospitality education

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Özyeğin is Türkiye's founding home of university business acceleration. Girişim Fabrikası (Fit Startup Factory), founded in 2011 as the country's first accelerator, has received more than 4,000 applications, supported around 250 entrepreneurs and led to 61 businesses. The Entrepreneurship Centre and the Technology Transfer Office manage commercialisation, patents, licensing and industry collaboration; the TTO, ranked by TÜBİTAK among the top ten in Türkiye, has secured around 350 million Turkish lira in funding over ten years through public and private collaborations. OpenFab, the prototyping and digital fabrication infrastructure, has run 86 workshops for more than 2,000 participants since 2016.

Decent work starts with the University's own employment practice. The EDIB Policy prohibits discrimination in employment and names hiring among its action areas, the Gender Equality Plan covers recruitment, career progression, pay and work-life balance, and the Ethical Principles and Values provide a confidential route for raising concerns, with separate reporting addresses for students and staff, review by a designated Ethics Compliance Officer, an initial response within 24 hours and protection of the reporting party's identity. Occupational safety is certified to ISO 45001:2018 and governed by the HSE Committee. The Sustainable Procurement Policy is aligned to ISO 20400, with sustainability training delivered to suppliers directly.

The Pioneering Artificial Intelligence Initiative employment commitment.
50 full-time and 100 visiting academic positions announced, with recruitment opening in September 2025.

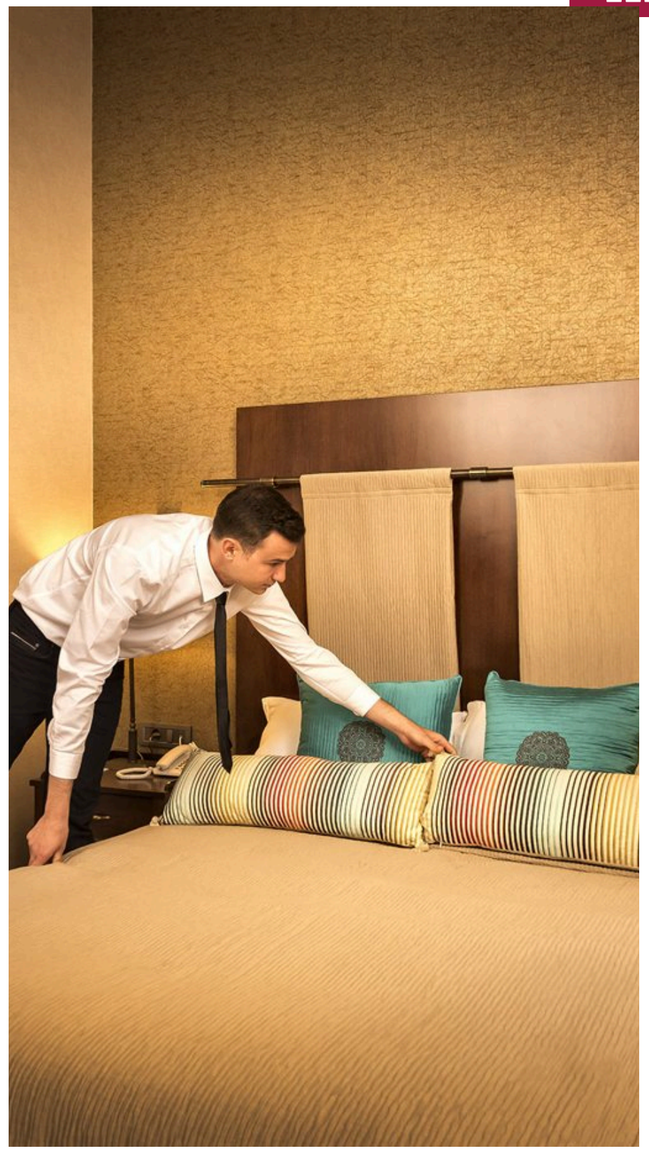
Fair pay.
Every directly employed member of staff is paid above the national minimum wage. Annual increases take into account official inflation, the minimum wage increase and sector benchmarks from Korn Ferry Hay Group. Full-time faculty are paid no less than colleagues of the same title at state universities, as Higher Education Law No. 2547 requires.

Freedom of association.
Employees may form and join trade unions and bargain collectively under the Constitution and Law No. 6356. The Human Resources Policy contains a dedicated policy on trade union membership, and union activity can never be a ground for different treatment. Employees elect their occupational health and safety representatives every year.

No forced or child labour, and equal rights for outsourced staff.
The Human Resources Policy contains forced labour and minimum age policies. The Code of Conduct and the Complaint Management Procedure cover contracted and subcontracted staff, who have the same complaint channels and the same protection from retaliation as the University's own employees. Suppliers are assessed on legal compliance, management systems and accident records.

Equal pay for work of equal value.
A job grading framework developed with Korn Ferry places every position by the content and value of the role, independently of the person who holds it, and salary offers follow the grade scales.

Appeals.
Under the Complaint Management Procedure, concerns about pay or treatment can be raised with Human Resources, the Wellbeing and Equity Office, the Rector's Office or the ethics line, in writing or anonymously, with protection from retaliation.



A practical hotel operations session

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

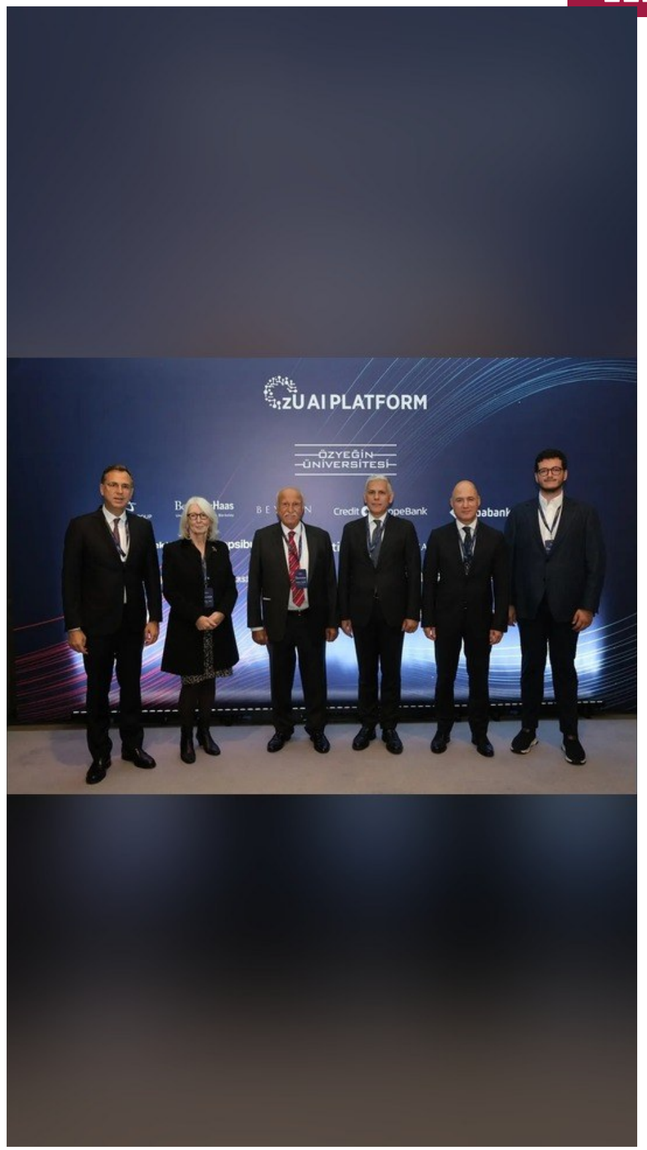
The University's ventures have reached the market. QUBITRIUM, a quantum technologies venture, raised €1.5 million. Optiyol, a cloud route optimisation venture accelerated at Girişim Fabrikası, raised $810,000. Counterfake, which detects counterfeit products and sellers, exhibited at CES. QuantWifi, in wireless network analytics, took investment from TT Ventures, and Flank Esports, a BİGG-supported venture founded by an ÖzÜ graduate, was acquired by FUT Ventures, the accelerator ecosystem's first exit. Earlier, Yuvarla became Türkiye's first social enterprise to be acquired, and eBrandValue the first Turkish start-up accepted to Y Combinator.

Engagement with business is continuous. ThoughtFront is a quarterly panel series that brings research into contact with business practice. The Corporate Entrepreneurship Conference and Awards is Türkiye's first event series on intrapreneurship, and the Deep Technologies Demo Day covers biotechnology, optical wireless communication, AI, quantum communication, autonomous vehicles and space. Local economies are supported through the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women programme, free online food safety training with PAKMAYA for cooks, service staff and bakery and restaurant workers, the Local and Rural Development Specialisation Certificate Programme, YOUTHCOOP, and training and mentoring for cooperatives and associations in Kilis, Bitlis, Rize, Iğdır and Kayseri under the Özyeğin Rural Development Model.

The CVC Bosphorus conference on corporate venture capital, 2025.

The OzU AI Platform, launched in 2025, convening senior executives from its 24 member institutions, leading companies and universities in Türkiye and abroad, with academics on the business, ethical and regulatory dimensions of AI.

TURQUALITY.
Admission to the Ministry of Trade's state-supported branding programme at its highest tier, 12 November 2025.



Opening meeting of the OzU AI Platform, 2025

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- ENSURE 6G
- Twin Transformation (Istanbul Development Agency)
- ÖzÜBEX (EU and Ministry of Industry and Technology)
- TÜBİTAK 1001: university-to-work transition

Özyeğin describes itself as an entrepreneurial research university, and its research on this goal is broad. On the University's own count, more than 800 projects have been carried out, 450 of them with industry. Research centres include NGAI for next-generation AI, PAIR for physical AI and robotics, OKATEM for optical wireless communication, the Financial Engineering Centre, the Alp Alkaş Retail and Real Estate Centre, the Technology Products Research Centre and the Additive Manufacturing Alloys Research Centre. University–industry protocols with General Electric, BEYSAD and SAYP, and applied education partnerships with Dedeman, Bonna Porselen, Pegasus and Turkish Airlines, connect this research to employers.

The ENSURE 6G project brings law and engineering together on trustworthy 6G. On work itself, a TÜBİTAK project uses mixed methods to study the transition from university to working life, including career support and barriers, and the WISE centre studies inclusion and equity in employment. Faculty take part in COST Actions across engineering, materials and human rights, including CA22128, CA23137, ESIND and HIDDEN.

ÖzÜBEX, the Industry Transformation Centre, opened on campus 30 May 2025 to support the digital and green transformation of industry, and the umbrella for the Twin Transition Project supported by the Istanbul Development Agency.

Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *From hero to zero: Barriers to achieving IATA's 2050 sustainability targets*, Transport Policy.
- *Housing market convergence: evidence from Germany*, Applied Economics.
- *Measuring "sustainable development" in vernacular settlements: a case study Behramkale, Türkiye*, Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development.



Opening of ÖzÜBEX, 30 May 2025



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Innovation turns knowledge into infrastructure and industry. Özyeğin University combines a large portfolio of nationally funded engineering research with an entrepreneurship ecosystem, an industry transformation centre opened in 2025, and a public platform on the ethics and governance of artificial intelligence.

109
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.09
Citation Impact (FWCI)

9
European and National Projects

32
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

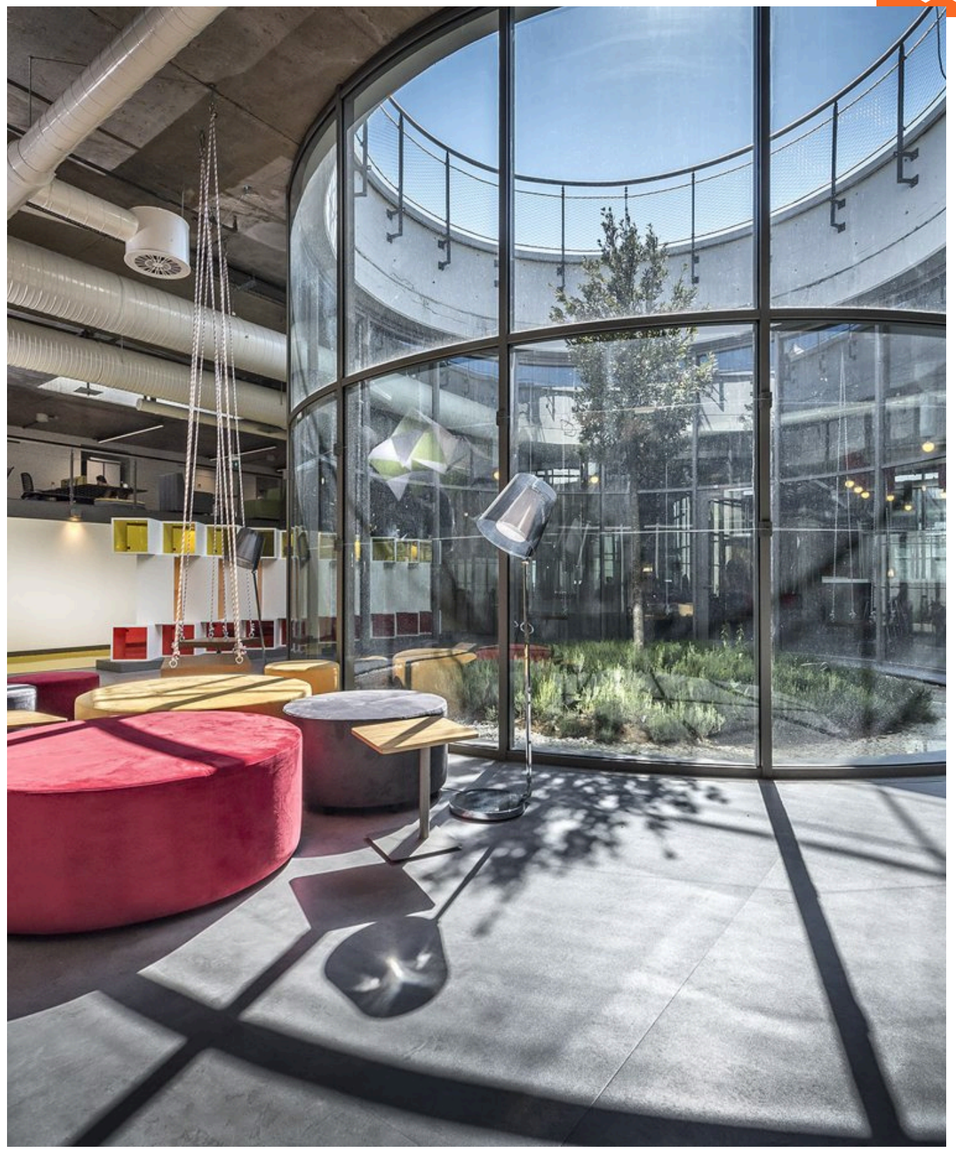
- **ÖzÜBEX** opened on 30 May 2025 with 1,000 m² of equipment, training and consultancy for SMEs.
- **OzU AI Platform** held its opening meeting in October 2025, and **OzU AI Week** (13–17 October 2025) offered more than twenty public panels and workshops.
- **AviAthon 2025**, an aviation project competition with İGA at Istanbul Airport, 5 May 2025.
- **Patents in 2025:** 9 national and 9 international applications filed, 3 national and 5 international patents granted.
- **29 new university–industry projects** in 2025, and 17 new EU Framework Programme and TÜBİTAK ARDEB projects won.
- **Seed funding that scales:** 34 research and 10 societal impact projects funded in the first two rounds; one seed project grew into the €464,000 EU-funded AGRICOLAB.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Engineering and technology students learn by building. OzU IEEE runs technical training including MATLAB for engineering with FİGES, Electronics and Data Science in Python. OpenFab supports courses and student projects with prototyping and digital fabrication, and MakeTogether, the interdisciplinary maker gathering, brings different student communities together to make things. MAKEngineer gives engineering students project-based practice across fields.

Students also compete. The ÖzÜ Rover planetary exploration vehicle team, and teams in the CFA Institute Research Challenge and the INFORMS analytics competition, test their work internationally. LeanLab, supported by the Istanbul Development Agency, turns academic knowledge into ventures through a camp and five weeks of mentoring, and intellectual property training and a student patent competition build an innovation culture.

AviAthon 2025, an aviation project competition with İGA at Istanbul Airport, 5 May 2025.



ÖzÜ-X, the University's innovation space

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The ÖzÜ-X building is the University's innovation infrastructure. It houses the Entrepreneurship Centre with Girişim Fabrikası and OpenFab, the Technology Transfer Office, the GE Türkiye co-innovation centre opened in 2018, and ÖzÜBEX, and is open around the clock.

Governance keeps pace with technology. An AI Committee coordinates internal AI processes, separate from the external AI Platform. An Intellectual Property Board decides on patent applications and commercialisation. The Pioneering AI Initiative committed the University to 50 full-time and 100 visiting academic posts. Business continuity is certified under ISO 22301, alongside the University's other management systems. Karbonmetre and Sumetre let staff and students measure their individual carbon and water footprints.

ÖzÜBEX, inaugurated on 30 May 2025, providing 1,000 square metres of equipment, training and consultancy for SMEs, and running the Twin Transition Project on digital and green transformation.



A digital transformation event at ÖzÜBEX

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin convenes the public conversation on artificial intelligence. The OzU AI Platform brings together senior executives from its 24 member institutions, leading companies and universities, and academics to explore sector applications and ethical governance.

The University also builds regional innovation capacity. The Istanbul Game Entrepreneurship Academy (9999in1 Space), supported by the Istanbul Development Agency and prepared by Çekmeköy Municipality with Özyeğin as partner and OYUNDER participating, has provided over 2,000 hours of training to around 400 people. The Istanbul Design Institute and ÖzÜBEX serve firms in the surrounding region directly. The Technology Transfer Office mentors other universities setting up their own offices under TÜBİTAK programmes, and briefs industry on TÜBİTAK support. IWROBOTX, an autonomous sea-surface cleaning vehicle from the ecosystem, won the Mercedes-Benz StartUP Jury Special Award.

Private sector and academia convened on AI, 13 June 2025.

The AI Platform opening meeting, October 2025, with technology leaders.

AI Week, 13–17 October 2025: more than twenty panels, workshops and talks opening the effects of artificial intelligence on education, ethics, entrepreneurship and social transformation to the public.



OzU AI Week, 13–17 October 2025

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

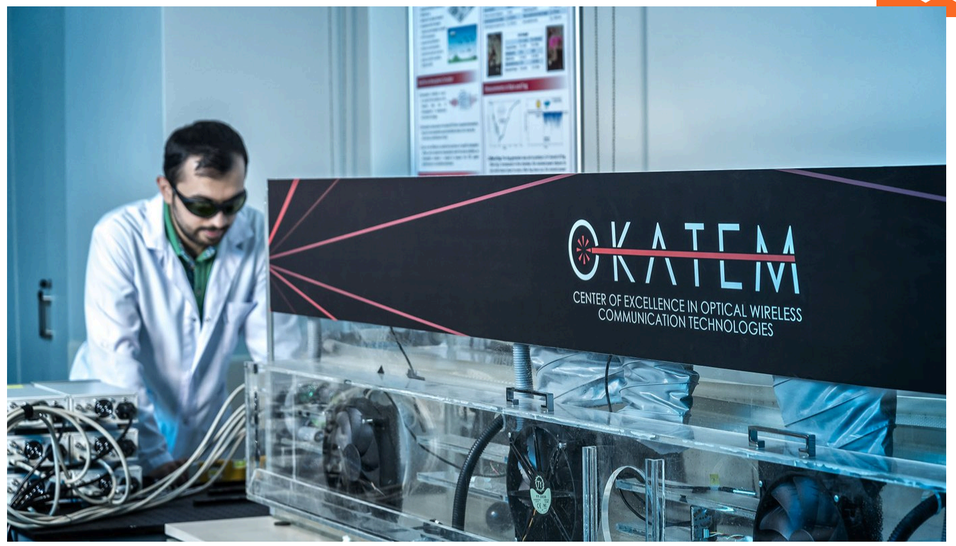
- TÜBİTAK 1001: 6G upper mid-band communication
- TÜBİTAK 1001: air and space networks
- TÜBİTAK 1001: multi-layer UAV systems
- TÜBİTAK 1001: multimodal image matching
- TÜBİTAK 1001: biological sequences and LLMs
- TÜBİTAK 1001: physics-informed turbulence modelling
- TÜBİTAK 1001: negotiating AI agent
- TÜBİTAK 1001: virtual machine placement
- TÜBİTAK 1005: 48V automotive control unit

Engineering research at Özyeğin is supported by an unusually large TÜBİTAK 1001 portfolio. Current projects cover 6G upper mid-band communication, air and space networks, multi-layer UAV systems, deep learning for image matching and biological sequences, physics-informed machine learning for turbulence, negotiating AI agents and bin packing for virtual machines. A TÜBİTAK 1005 project develops a control unit for 48V automotive architecture.

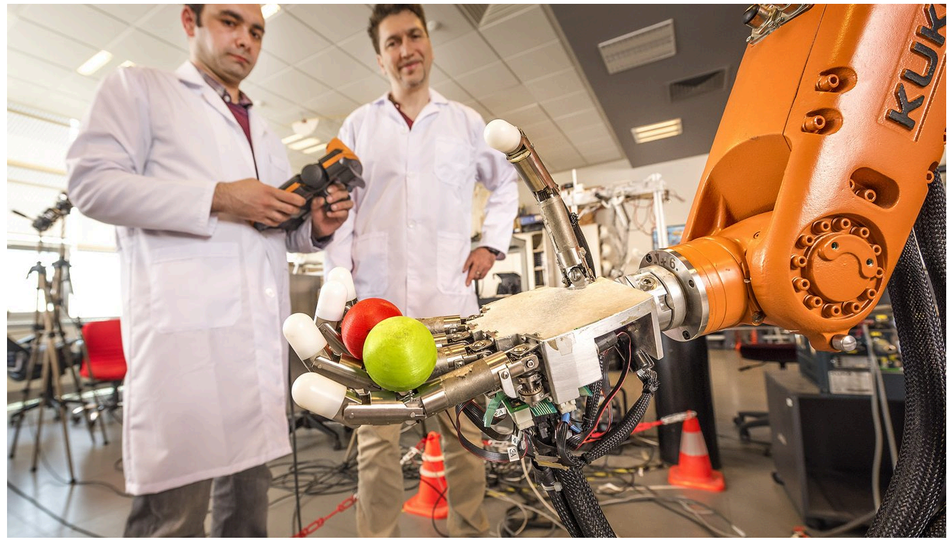
Research centres include NGAI, PAIR, OKATEM, the AI Law Laboratory, the Additive Manufacturing Alloys Research Centre, which hosted the 10th International Conference on Ultrafine Grained and Nanostructured Materials, and the Technology Products Research Centre, which works with Vestel Electronics. Research turns into companies: Hyperion Techs develops light-based wireless communication, and the University has commercialised LED and natural colouring technologies. HElght, under the EIT HEI Initiative, works on entrepreneurship provision for international students, and the Visiting Researchers Programme hosts academics from Amazon, OECD, Max Planck, Kyoto and other institutions.

Research and innovation output, 2025.

The University filed 9 national and 9 international patent applications and was granted 3 national and 5 international patents. It started 29 new university–industry projects and won 14 new TÜBİTAK ARDEB and 3 new EU Framework Programme projects. 51.1 per cent of faculty members had an active research project.



OKATEM, the Centre of Excellence in Optical Wireless Communication



Technologies

CONTINUED

Seed funding that scales.

Three internal seed funds launched in 2024–2025. The Seed Research Grant Program funded 34 of 65 applications in its first two rounds, and the Societal Impact Seed Grant Program funded 10 of 14. The seed fund budget for 2025 was ₺175,000. One seed project grew into AGRICOLAB, which won €464,000 from the EU–Türkiye Climate Change Grant Programme. In 2025, 54.7 per cent of the University's research projects (29 of 53) were explicitly aligned with the SDGs.

Interdisciplinary research.

2,620 of the University's 3,668 Scopus outputs in 2016–2025 (71.4 per cent) spanned two or more subject-area clusters. In 2021–2025 these interdisciplinary publications had a field-weighted citation impact of 2.16, against an institutional average of 1.29, and about 53 per cent of accepted research projects in 2023–2025 were classified as interdisciplinary by the Technology Transfer Office.

Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Use of AI in assembly line design and worker and equipment management: review and future directions*, Flexible Services and Manufacturing Journal.
- *A comprehensive review of multiple orifice synthetic jets for heat transfer and flow characteristics*, International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer.
- *Risk-Driven Deferral of Distribution Transformer Investments in the E-Mobility Era*, 2025 IEEE 19th International Conference on Compatibility, Power Electronics and Power Engineering (CPE-POWERENG).



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Inequality shapes who is heard, who is included and who can take part. Özyeğin University binds hiring, curriculum, research, campus climate, accessibility and financial access to one anti-discrimination policy, supports students with disabilities individually, and researches migration, belonging and equity at work.

42
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.30
Citation Impact (FWCI)

4
European and National Projects

28
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Individual support for students with disabilities:** 11 students supported directly in 2025, with 215 hours of personal assistant support and 9 accessible learning materials.
- **Accessible campus inventory 2025:** 56 lifts recorded, 48 with Braille buttons and 32 with voice announcements, and a building-by-building accessibility inventory carried out under YÖK monitoring criteria.
- **Audio navigation for visually impaired users** extended across academic buildings, the Sports Centre, ScOLa, ÖzÜ-X and outdoor routes.
- **Disability Awareness Week**, 1–5 December 2025, and the Disabled Students Unit Commission raised to strategic decision-making status in December 2025.
- **Yaklaş Nişantepe:** educational support, sport and mentoring for children of the neighbouring district, home to around 2,000 Romani residents.
- **An international campus:** 1,427 international students, 17.0 per cent of all students, and 47 international teaching staff in faculties and the School of Languages.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Inclusion is part of everyday campus learning. Language Circles bring international and local students together, the Intercultural Awareness and Support Office runs intercultural programming, and LMS-Next (ÖzÜ.Next) offers an informal learning platform. Disability awareness is built through experience: *Parmakların Dili* (The Language of Fingers) introduces students to sign language, and Autism Awareness Time runs each year.

Students take part in projects such as the Box of Imagery, which audio-describes campus visual material for visually impaired people after training from an audio description association. The Social Change Volunteers' *Cinsiyet Kalıplarını Kırıyoruz* (Breaking Gender Stereotypes) workshop, the 360 Counselling development workshops and the Peer Counselling Programme extend this work.

Disability awareness week, 1–5 December 2025: Duyarlı ÖzÜ and the Disabled Students Unit ran an awareness stand, a Radio ÖzÜ broadcast, a Braille writing workshop and a Faculty of Law talk on disability rights at work.

An international campus.

In 2025, 1,427 international students made up 17.0 per cent of the student body, and 26 international teaching staff in the faculties and 21 in the School of Languages taught on campus. Students rated the international learning and cultural environment at 76.4, up from 74.0 in 2024.



International students on campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Policy is the University's anti-discrimination framework. It prohibits discrimination on grounds including gender, age, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, socioeconomic background and disability, covers students, staff, third-party stakeholders, visitors and contractors, and binds six action areas: hiring, curriculum, research, campus climate, accessibility and financial access. Its principles include universal design, equal access to opportunity, psychological safety, transparency and data-driven accountability. The Wellbeing and Equity Office coordinates this work with preventive and interventive processes, and the Intercultural Awareness and Support Office (KFO) supports the international and multicultural community.

Engelsiz ÖzÜ delivers accessibility policy and disabled student support. Classrooms and meeting rooms have wireless sound systems, web pages are being adapted to accessibility criteria, and a pool of tactile materials supports visually impaired students. The Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility Policy covers applications, adjustments, residence arrangements, funding and monitoring, and OLTE's Peer Support Programme and individual support plans add peer mentoring. EFEB and ZAKBP scholarships, and the Dormitory Life Committee, which operates bilingually under a procedure approved by the Student Dean, complete the picture.

Accessibility moved into decision-making, December 2025.
The Disabled Students Unit Commission raised the unit from a support function to strategic decision-making status, and in the same month audio navigation for visually impaired users was extended to all academic buildings.

Support for students with disabilities in 2025.
The Disabled Students Unit supported 11 students directly, with 215 hours of personal assistant support and 9 accessible learning materials. Part-time student assistants can provide up to 15 hours a week, or 60 hours a month, for each student.

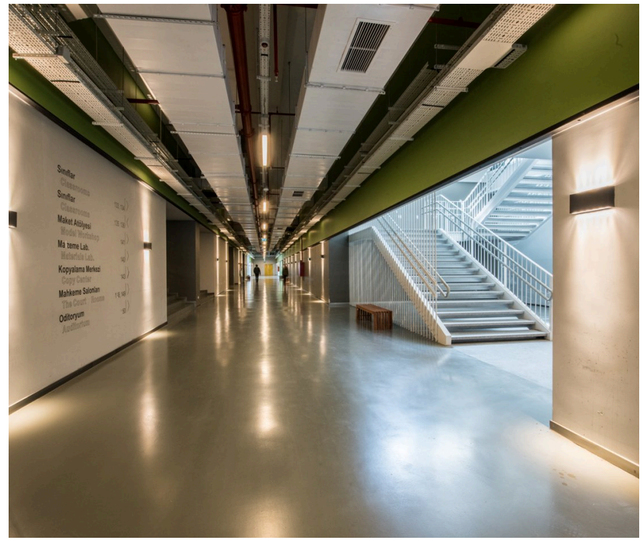
Accessible campus.
A 2025 inventory recorded 56 lifts, 48 of them with Braille buttons and 32 with voice announcements, and a building-by-building accessibility inventory was carried out under the Council of Higher Education's monitoring criteria. Audio navigation for visually impaired users works across the academic buildings AB1 to AB4, the Sports Centre, ScOLa, ÖzÜ-X and outdoor routes, so that routes between buildings are continuous.

Disabled Students Unit Procedure updated 12 February 2025.

ZAKBP scholarships, 2025–2026.
The Zeynep Alp Köseoğlu scholarship supports women undergraduates in international exchange, internship and short-term programmes.



Routes covered by audio navigation for visually impaired users



A campus building interior

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Reducing inequality outside the campus runs through volunteering, law and art. Duyarlı ÖzÜ, active since 2011, works throughout the year with children, older people and disadvantaged groups. Beyond Adventure pairs children with special needs with student volunteers. The ÖzÜ Pro Bono Legal Clinic gives law students real public-interest cases and gives the public legal support it could not otherwise access, and the Law Faculty trains members of the Civil Monitoring Boards of Penal Institutions under a Ministry of Justice and Council of Europe project.

Art carries the message to wider audiences: *Çocuk Beklemez* (Children Can't Wait), a children's rights painting exhibition and talks for World Children's Rights Day on 20 November, Human Rights in Cartoons with the Union of Turkish Bar Associations, and *18 Yaşıma Öğütler* (Advice to My 18-Year-Old Self), an intergenerational documentary. The DCA-E conference on Inclusiveness in Design brought participants from five continents to campus.

Social Sustainability Summer Camp, 21–24 July 2025, on equality, inclusion, well-being and social transformation.

Duyarlı ÖzÜ activity report, autumn 2025 term.

Food, Migration and Social Cohesion workshop, hosted on campus in 2025.

Empowering migrant women entrepreneurs, a 2025 Societal Impact Seed Grant project with International Women of Istanbul.

Yaklaş Nişantepe and Responsible Citizenship.
The University's long-term partnership with the neighbouring district of Nişantepe focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty for women and children. In 2024–2025, 320 students from seven faculties worked with 85 Nişantepe Middle School pupils on exam preparation, English and sport, and the pupils reported higher motivation and academic success.



An English session with Nişantepe Middle School pupils

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- OppAttune (Horizon Europe)
- TÜBİTAK 1001: Syrian refugee adolescents' well-being
- TÜBİTAK 1001: university-to-work transition
- ILO workplace violence and harassment study

The Work, Inclusion and Social Equity Research Centre (WISE) is the University's hub for research on inequality, alongside the Interdisciplinary Children's Rights Laboratory and the Violence and Law Laboratory. Migration is a strong theme: MENBELONG, led by Assoc. Prof. Susan Beth Rottmann, studies the belonging of single migrant men as the Turkish arm of an ERC Advanced Grant, and a TÜBİTAK project examines risk and protective factors in the psychosocial well-being of Syrian refugee adolescents.

OppAttune, a Horizon Europe project, tracks the development of oppositional political extremism and tests "attuned dialogue" to limit it, with the Özyeğin team contributing ethnography and participatory action research. Faculty take part in COST Action CA23149 on human rights, a TÜBİTAK project follows the transition from university to working life, including its barriers, and a study with the International Labour Organization documented workplace violence and harassment.

Selected 2025 publications.
Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Forced Migration and the Politics of Belonging: Integration Policy, National Debates and Migrant Strategies*, International Migration Review.
- *Sociospatial Dynamics of Workplace Discrimination Against LGBTI+ Employees in Turkey: Systemic Implications, Discursive Patterns, and Legal Considerations*, Sexuality Research and Social Policy.



OppAttune project partners at Panteion University, Athens



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Cities must become safer, more resilient and more inclusive. Özyeğin University runs a car-free, pedestrian-priority campus, organises disaster preparedness with national authorities, works with its neighbouring districts, and researches earthquake risk, urban transformation and urban heritage in Istanbul.

86
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

0.98
Citation Impact (FWCI)

5
European and National Projects

16
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

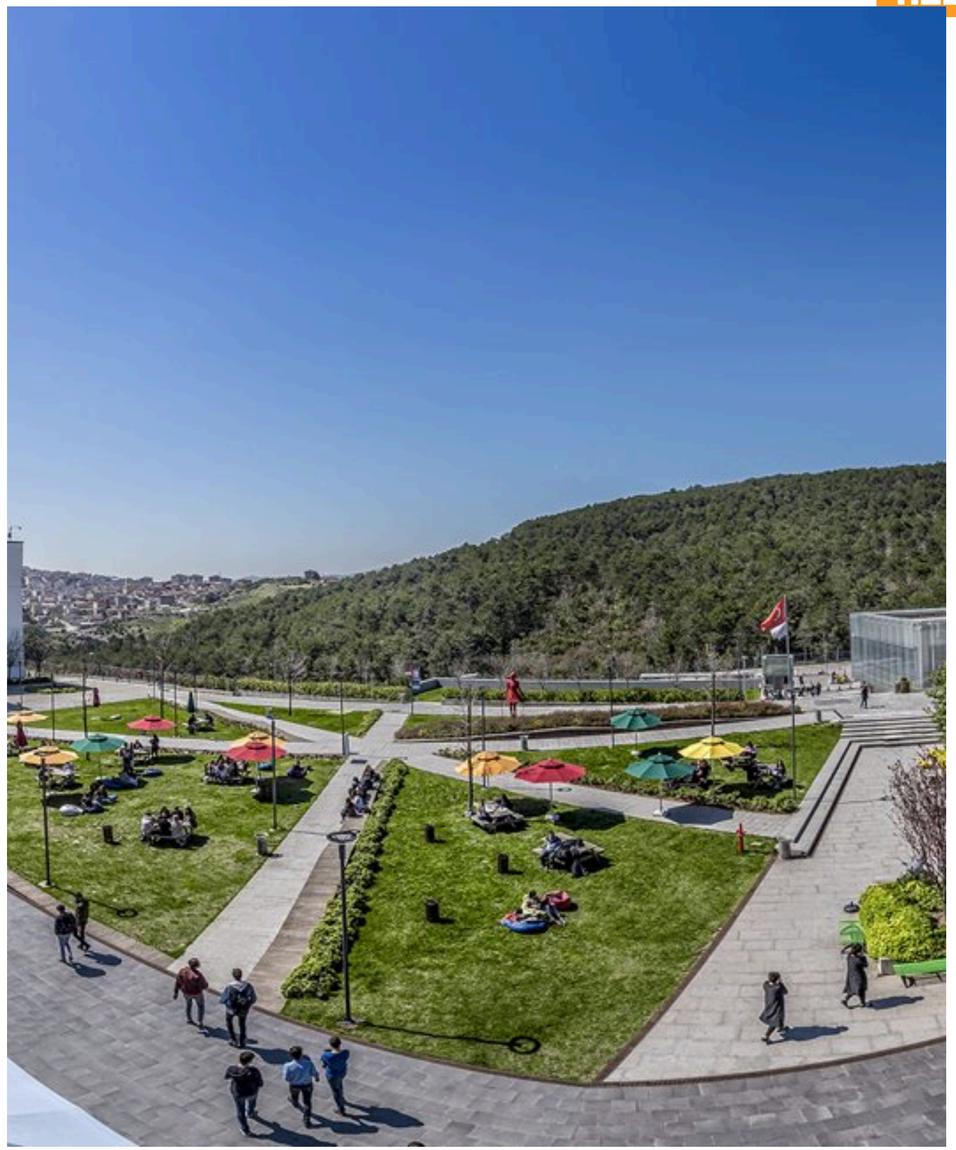
- **Risk perception and urban transformation in Istanbul**, a 2025 Societal Impact Seed Grant project with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Earthquake Risk Management Department.
- **Earthquake Simulation Truck**, 27–29 May 2025, and disaster preparedness training for students and staff.
- **Bosphorus Bluefish Ambassador training** (2025) with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, passing on the cultural heritage of the city's bluefish.
- **A car-free campus** with incentives for public transport, carpooling and electric vehicles, and **Responsible Citizenship** projects that brought 320 students into the Nişantepe neighbourhood in 2024–2025.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Students learn about the city by preparing for its risks. The Earthquake Simulation Truck came to campus on 27–29 May 2025, and QHSE training covers safe living, environment and disaster awareness, with drills. The Watch Your Step workshop on 14 November 2025 turned waste into a permanent footprint installation on campus.

Design students work directly on the city. The Urban Facade Istanbul Waterfront workshop, run with the University of Parma and four other Italian universities, focused on the Galata and Beyoğlu shoreline. The Urban Dialogue: Nişantepe board, made by architecture and law students with the Association for Spatial Justice, set out the urban issues of the neighbourhood next to the campus. Placeless Courses take students into the historic city itself.

The Earthquake Simulation Truck, 27–29 May 2025, giving students direct experience of seismic response.



Panoramic view of the campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Çekmeköy campus is car-free and pedestrian-priority. Pedestrian layout, sustainable transport and accessibility are treated as one design approach, and the QHSE impact report highlights it as a principal theme. Three buildings, AB1, AB2 and the Student Centre, hold LEED Gold certification at building level. Smart irrigation, drought-resistant planting and a formal procedure for the care of the campus's cats since November 2025 extend sustainability to the landscape.

Disaster preparedness has institutional form. The AFAD and YÖK Disaster Risk Management Coordination Unit, governed by an Institutional Disaster Management Policy, coordinates with the national disaster authority and the Council of Higher Education. Business continuity is certified under ISO 22301.

Xeriscape landscaping and the **Campus Cat Coexistence Procedure**, under which the care, feeding, health and living conditions of the campus's free-roaming cats are now managed by formal procedure.

Low-carbon mobility.
Internal vehicle traffic is not permitted for daily use. The University promotes public transport, carpooling, electric vehicle charging and walking and cycling, and is bringing commuting emissions into its carbon accounting.



The campus and its surroundings

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin works with its neighbours and with local government. Yaklaş 2030 brings the University together with residents of Nişantepe and Çekmeköy on shared projects, and OpenFab held a production workshop with thirty children from Nişantepe. With ÇEKÜT, the University sustains search and rescue capacity as an institutional commitment.

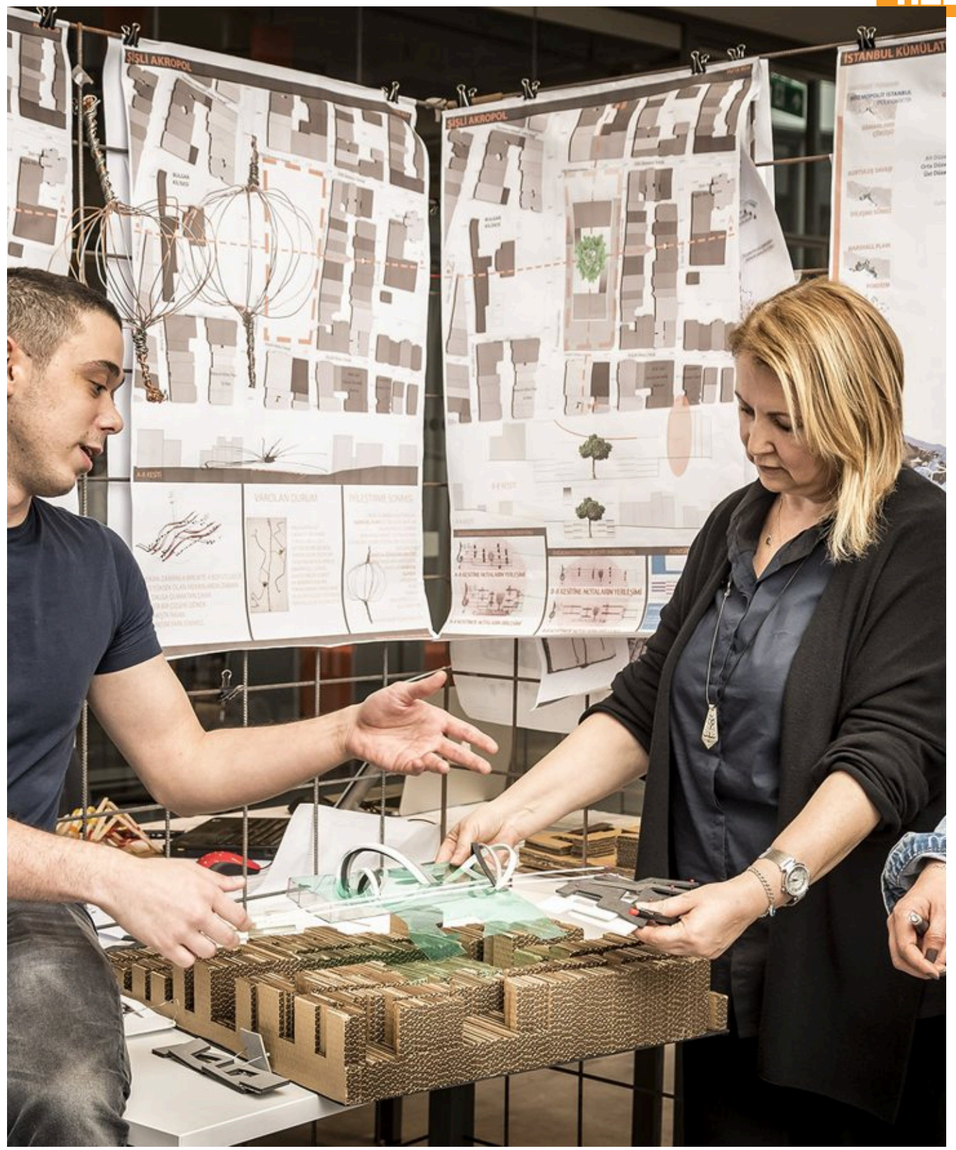
Cultural heritage and the arts are part of this goal. With the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, the University contributes to the restoration of the Panagia Paramythia church in Fener. The Istanbul Game Entrepreneurship Academy works with Çekmeköy Municipality, and the Boğaziçi Bluefish Ambassador training connects food professionals with the heritage of the Bosphorus.

Disaster preparedness with ÇEKÜT, sustaining search and rescue capacity as an institutional commitment.

***Yaklaş* Nişantepe**, the local development programme in the neighbouring district.

Social Sustainability Summer Camp, 21–24 July 2025, bringing together social sustainability, equality, inclusion, institutional culture, well-being and social transformation.

Distinguished Leaders at OzU, the local development and business sessions of the series.



An architecture studio session

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- TÜBİTAK 1001: earthquake road closure
- Panagia Paramythia restoration (US Ambassadors Fund)
- AQUA Viva (Horizon Europe MSCA)
- KIRKEP
- GAP district investment plans

Urban research at Özyeğin concentrates on disaster risk. In 2025 the Social Impact Seed Fund supported a study with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality's Earthquake Risk Management Department and the Istanbul Planning Agency on how risk perception shapes urban transformation decisions. A TÜBİTAK project estimates road closure probabilities in earthquakes, and the Post-Earthquake Emergency Shelter Model is being developed on campus.

Heritage research is the other strand. A field and photographic study of Istanbul's 20-kilometre city walls was published by ÖzÜ Press, and AQUA Viva, funded in 2025, treats water as living heritage. KIRKEP and the GAP district investment plans bring the same analysis to rural and regional settlements.

Estimating road closure probability in earthquakes and analysing the recovery process, TÜBİTAK 1001, Assoc. Prof. Bekir Bartın.

Istanbul city walls and urban heritage research, published by ÖzÜ Press as a field and photographic study of the present-day uses of the 20-kilometre walls. The University also contributes to the restoration of the Panagia Paramythia church in Fener, supported by the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.

KIRKEP, on the integration of rural and urban economies, and work with the GAP Administration on district investment plans.

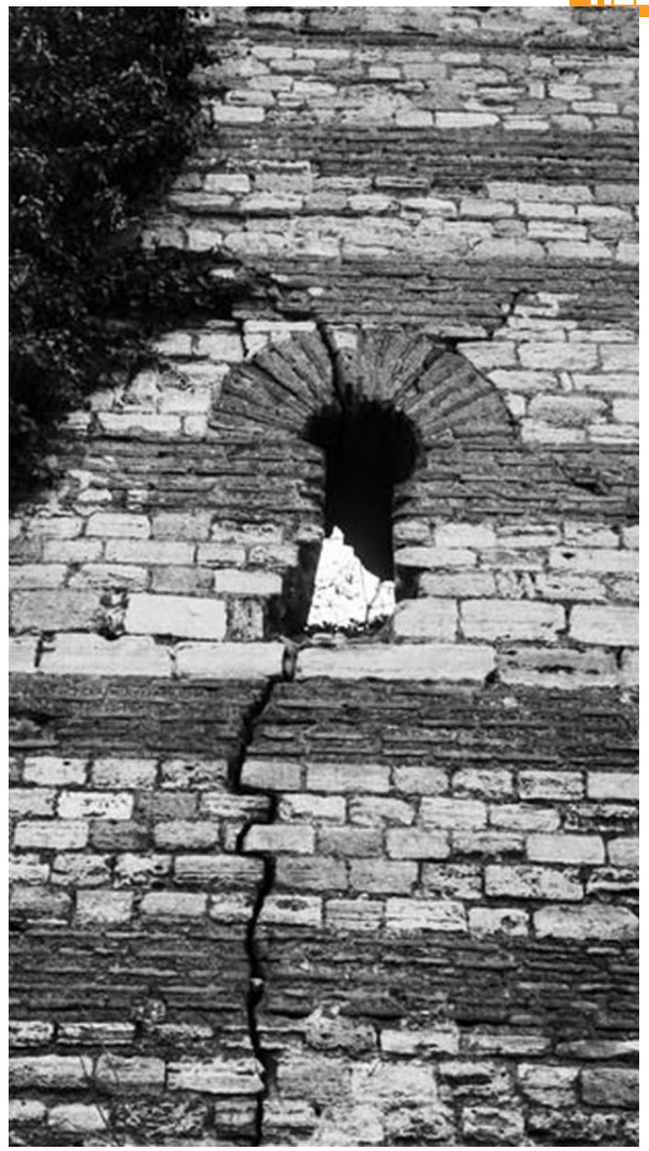
The Istanbul Design Institute, and **LOAF**, the Agri-Food Studies and Local Development Laboratory.

The resilience of alternative food initiatives.

Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Assessment of seismic liquefaction and structural instability in Adıyaman-Gölbaşı after the February 6, 2023, earthquakes in Türkiye*, Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering.
- *Seismic microzonation; past, present and future: Prof. Nicholas Ambraseys Award Lecture*, Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering.
- *Multifunctional Evaluation of Urban Green Infrastructure for Combating Climate Change: A Case of Sancaktepe District in Istanbul Metropolitan City*, Inzynieria Mineralna.



From Yüce ve Yalnız, ÖzÜ Press



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Production and consumption patterns remain unsustainable worldwide. Özyeğin University was the first Turkish university to hold the Zero Waste Certificate, renewed it in 2025, separates waste at source across its campus, and carries circular economy practice to suppliers, businesses and the food sector.

33
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

0.71
Citation Impact (FWCI)

4
European and National Projects

12
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Zero Waste Certificate renewed** on 11 June 2025 after inspection of the campus and residences.
- **Since July 2025:** single-use plastic and cardboard cups removed from campus kitchens, and individual bins in offices and classrooms replaced with dual-stream stations, with a target of cutting waste per person by 12.61 per cent by 2029.
- **1,480 tonnes of waste generated in 2025, 1,468 tonnes (99 per cent) sent for recycling or recovery**, measured with a new, more complete method based on container sampling and daily counts.
- **66,854 kg of packaging waste** (paper, plastic, metal and glass) separated at source in 2025.
- **Supplier sustainability training** in water, energy and waste management for supplier and operator staff in 2025.
- **SustainHUB Academy**, run with SKD Türkiye, began its second cohort on 11 September 2025.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Responsible consumption is learned through campus practice. We Melt What We Consume, held on 19 March 2025 for Global Recycling Day, informed students about the University's waste management and recycling, and was the first event at Özyeğin delivered carbon-neutral. It ran as part of SEC 101 and the OzU Cares volunteering programme with the HSE student community.

Circular design is taught by making: OpenFab reuses filament waste from its own 3D printing service. The SEC 180 Sustainable Campus Practices course puts students, staff and suppliers into research action teams on campus problems. Supplier and subcontractor staff received training in water, energy and waste management in 2025.

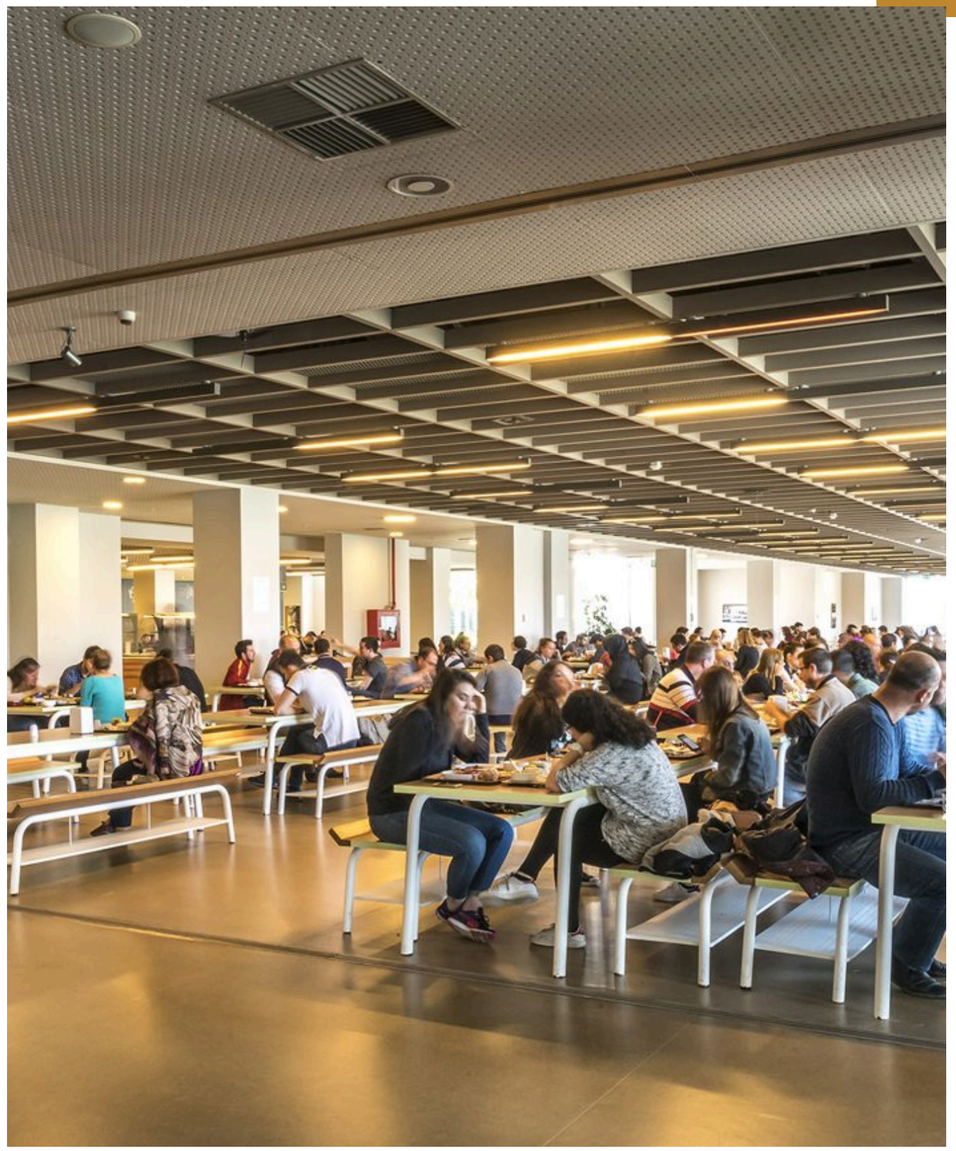
Tükettiklerimizi Eritiyoruz, held on 19 March 2025.

Supplier sustainability training, delivered to the University's own suppliers across 2024–2025.

The carbon-neutral *Being an Engineer* course, the first course at the University delivered on that basis.

The Circular Design talk, and **Future Greens**, encouraging sustainable business models.

We're Disposing of What We Consume! Since its first edition the campaign has reached around 600 students through workshops, campus clean-ups and sessions on the University's waste management, with students collecting waste alongside cleaning staff. Mandatory environmental awareness modules on the learning management system, digital screens and QR-coded messages reinforce the same habits.



Students in the dining hall

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Özyeğin was among the first higher education institutions to receive the national Zero Waste Certificate, on 14 February 2020. Following inspections, it was re-awarded the certificate on 11 June 2025 for waste management across the Çekmeköy campus and the student residences, covering efficient resource use, separation at source and recycling.

Operational changes followed in 2025. Individual office bins were removed in favour of dual collection in shared areas, with a target of reducing total waste by 12 per cent over four years, and forty single bins were converted without buying new equipment. ISO 14001 has governed environmental management since 2014, and the Sustainable Procurement Policy, aligned with ISO 20400, builds sustainability criteria into purchasing.

The Zero Waste Certificate, under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change programme. Özyeğin was the first Turkish university to obtain it, in February 2020; it was renewed in June 2025.

Circular conversion of waste equipment.
Forty single bins were converted to the dual system without purchasing new equipment.

The Sustainable Procurement Policy, aligned to ISO 20400, integrating environmental and sustainability criteria into procurement and extending the University's standards to its suppliers.

ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, certified since March 2014; the University is recorded in its UN Global Compact Communication on Progress as the first Turkish university accredited to it.

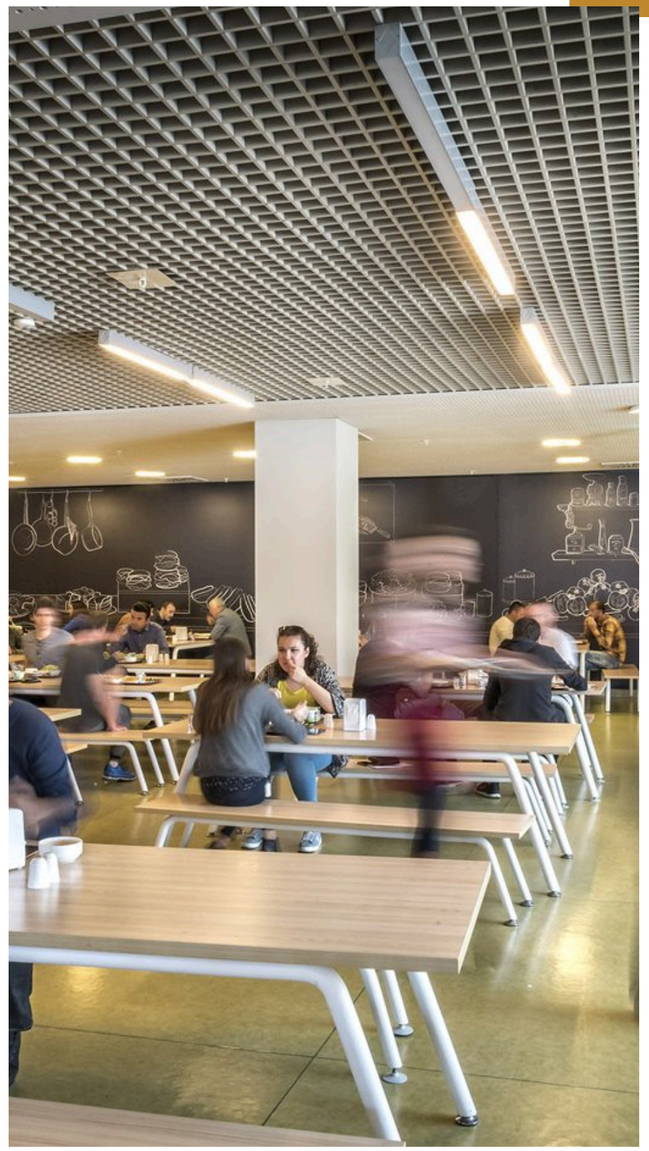
Secure paper disposal with TEMA.

Paper use cut by 40 per cent.
Paper use per person, including posters, brochures and other printed material, fell from 4.89 kg in 2024 to 2.91 kg in 2025, against a target of 4.08 kg. The University used 17.5 tonnes of paper in 2025, 8 tonnes of it copier paper.

Packaging waste in 2025.
66,854 kg of paper, plastic, metal and glass packaging waste was separated at source and sent for recycling. In total the University generated 1,480 tonnes of waste in 2025, of which 1,468 tonnes (99 per cent) went to recycling or recovery. The 2025 figures use a new, more complete method. Average container weights for the campus and the residences were measured by sampling, and Administrative Affairs counts full containers every day. Earlier years relied on a year-end estimate from Çekmeköy Municipality, so most of the rise from 202 tonnes is due to the change in method rather than to more waste.

Single-use plastic.
Most drinking water points on campus are mains-fed dispensers and kitchen purifiers with filtration, which replace bottled water coolers. Bottled dispensers remain at security posts, some offices and for events. Plastic and paper cups are no longer supplied in campus kitchens, staff receive glass bottles, and reusable materials are promoted at events.

Since July 2025.
Single-use plastic and cardboard cups were removed from campus kitchens, and individual bins in offices and classrooms were replaced by dual-stream stations in shared areas. Outdoor bins are being converted to dual compartments. The 2029 target is a 12.61 per cent cut in waste per person, to 215.58 kg a year. Selected waste streams, such as plastic caps, go to OpenFab for student prototyping.



The main campus dining hall

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin carries responsible production into business. SustainHUB Academy, run with SKD Türkiye, covers ESG, the circular economy and climate law in a six-module programme; its second cohort began on 11 September 2025. The Food Waste Has Lost Its Taste panel and sustainable gastronomy events with Le Cordon Bleu share practice with the food sector.

Public conferences keep the subject in view: the SÜR Sustainability Conference with TÜSİAD and Global Compact Türkiye.

SustainHUB Academy, delivered with SKD Türkiye, 11 September 2025, in its second cohort — a green transformation programme open beyond the University.

Food Waste Has Lost Its Taste panel.



The campus store

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- ReBuild-3D (EU, coordinator)
- Fix-APro (Horizon Europe MSCA)
- TÜBİTAK 1001: zero-waste food supply chains
- TÜBİTAK 3005: endangered local grape varieties

Research on this goal links materials, supply chains and heritage. ReBuild-3D, coordinated by Özyeğin with EU funding, develops circular, low-carbon construction materials. A TÜBİTAK 1001 project builds analytical models for zero-waste food supply chains, and Fix-APro, funded in 2025, studies how alternative proteins can enter food systems. The Additive Manufacturing Alloys Research Centre addresses material efficiency in advanced manufacturing.

Reporting is part of the University's accountability. Özyeğin was the first university in Türkiye to publish a carbon footprint report, in 2020, and the first to publish a water footprint report, in 2023. It publishes a Sustainability Report, this SDG Report and GreenMetric returns, and reports to the UN Global Compact, which it signed in 2018.

Towards Zero Waste: analytical models for sustainable food supply chains, TÜBİTAK 1001.

Sustainability reporting.

The University publishes a Sustainability Report, this SDG Report and GreenMetric returns, and has placed first among Turkish foundation universities in GreenMetric five times.

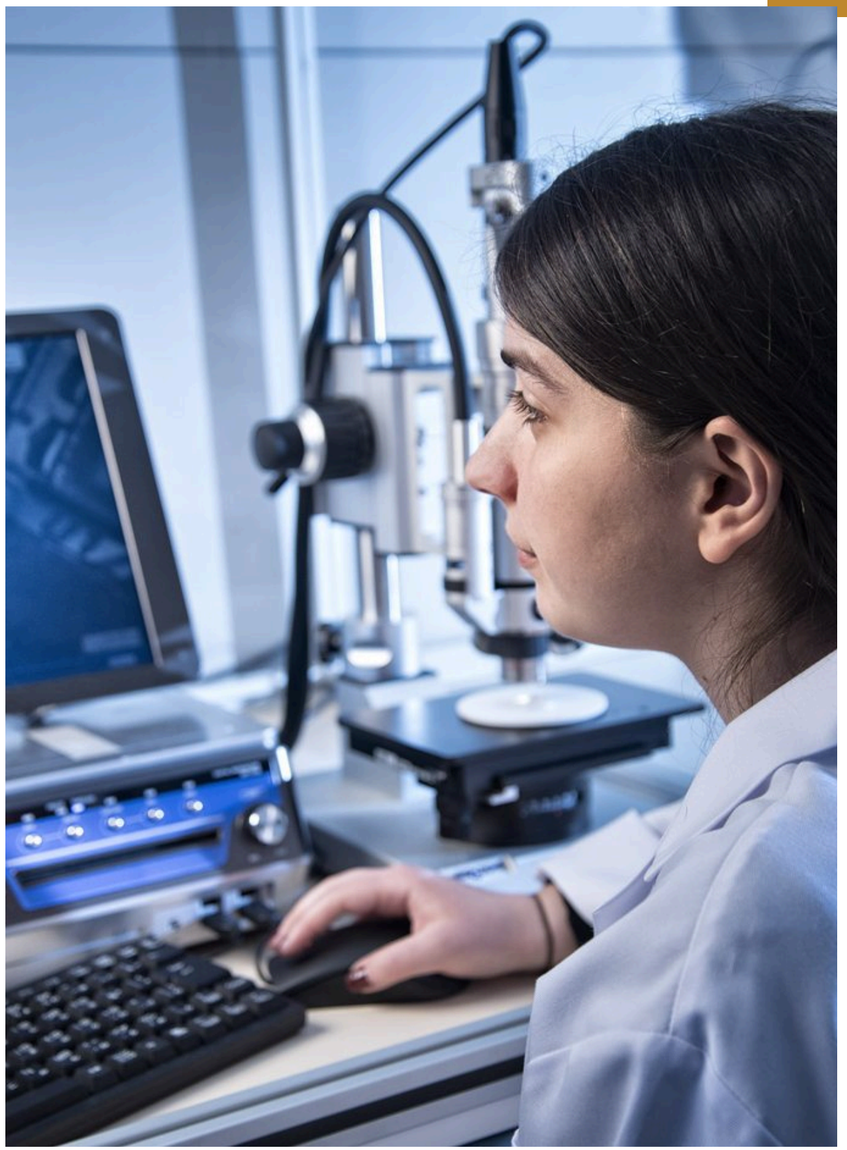
Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Extracting airline emission KPIs from sustainability reports using large language models (LLMs)*, Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives.
- *Enhancing the performance of 3D-printed fiber-Reinforced mortar: synergistic effects of clays and bacterial cells as viscosity modifying agents*, Journal of Sustainable Cement-Based Materials.
- *Airline sustainability reporting in Europe: Progress, compliance and challenges*, Environmental and Sustainability Indicators.

SINCE THE REPORTING PERIOD · 2026

Sustainable Procurement and Responsible Supply Policy, published 18 February 2026 and prepared in line with ISO 20400, covering life-cycle thinking, ethical sourcing, Scope 3 emissions and supplier development.



Laboratory research



CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. Özyeğin University measures its emissions across all three scopes, sources its electricity from renewables, compensates its remaining direct emissions, and brings climate research and climate education to students, business and public bodies.

36
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.36
Citation Impact (FWCI)

3
European and National Projects

11
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **9,331.96 tonnes of CO2e** from Scope 1 and 2 emissions compensated with Gold Standard verified credits for 2025.
- **100 per cent renewable electricity** in 2025, I-REC certified.
- **Campus microclimate research:** a six-month urban heat island measurement with sensors on campus trees from 8 May 2025, and a thermal comfort survey of five open spaces on 20 June 2025.
- **Three carbon-neutral teaching and campus events** in March 2025, each with its footprint calculated and compensated.
- **Carbon neutrality by 2040:** the Sustainability Report 2025 sets a phased reduction path across Scope 1, 2 and 3, with a 17.49 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions to 7,425.6 tCO2 a year by 2029.
- **Fiba Sustainability Meeting**, 17 December 2025: 45 participants from 12 institutions exchanged practice.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Climate is taught across programmes and through events that practise what they teach. In March 2025 the University held three carbon-neutral activities for the first time: the Being an Engineer course on 21 March, the Journey of Water seminar on 20 March and the We Melt What We Consume event on 19 March. For each, the carbon footprint was calculated and offset with a margin through Gold Standard-certified credits from a renewable energy project.

Students work on climate solutions through the Sustainability Ideathon, Future Greens and Sustainable Conversations with alumni. A biodiversity nature excursion on 1–5 October 2025 taught ecosystem protection in the field, and the sustainability orientation reaches every incoming student.

SustainHUB Academy, the green transformation programme, in its second cohort.

Future Greens, on climate-focused solution development and sustainable business models.

Environment, ecosystem and climate themed courses across the curriculum.



Trees and buildings on the campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Özyeğin measures its emissions, reduces what it can and compensates the rest. It was the first university in Türkiye to publish a carbon footprint report, in 2020, and now calculates its footprint under ISO 14064 across Scopes 1, 2 and 3. Since 2024 all purchased electricity has come from renewable sources documented by I-REC certificates, and solar energy is generated on campus.

For 2024 and 2025, Scope 1 and 2 emissions were offset with Gold Standard verified credits, 9,331.96 tonnes of CO2e in 2025. The University's sustainability strategy is organised around five impact pillars, including Environment and Climate Action, and is aligned with its 2024–2029 Strategic Plan. It is coordinated through the Sustainability Platform, the QHSE Department and the Social Impact Committee.

Emissions compensation.
Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for 2024 and 2025 were compensated with Gold Standard verified carbon credits: **9,331.96 tonnes CO2e in 2025.**

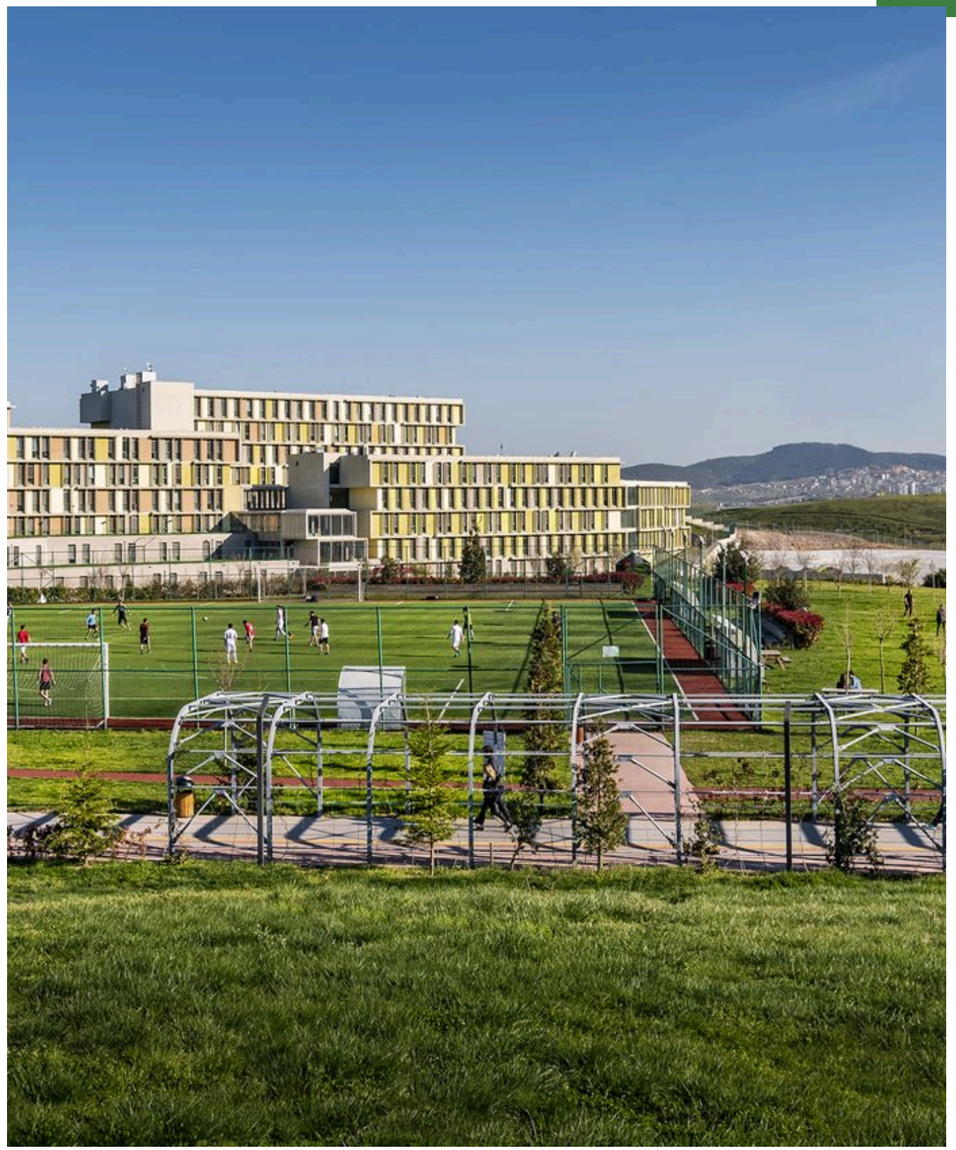
ISO 14064 corporate carbon footprint, calculated across Scopes 1, 2 and 3. Scope 3 calculation is listed as a concrete output in the QHSE impact report.

100 per cent renewable electricity, I-REC certified, for both 2024 and 2025.

Karbonmetre and Sumetre, the environmental metering tools.

Environmental open-data practice.

Carbon neutrality by 2040.
The Sustainability Report 2025 commits the University to carbon neutrality by 2040 through phased reductions across Scope 1, 2 and 3. Its 2029 milestones are a 17.49 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions, to 7,425.6 tCO2 a year, and a 10.57 per cent cut in energy use per person. Offsetting is treated as a transitional measure; priority goes to efficiency, renewable energy and operational change. A formal Climate Action Plan and carbon neutrality roadmap are being prepared.



Green open space on the campus

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Özyeğin works on climate within international networks. It sits on the European University Association's sustainability task force and has been a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network since 2015. It signed the UN Global Compact in 2018 and reports in Enhanced CoP format aligned with GRI, CDP and ISAR.

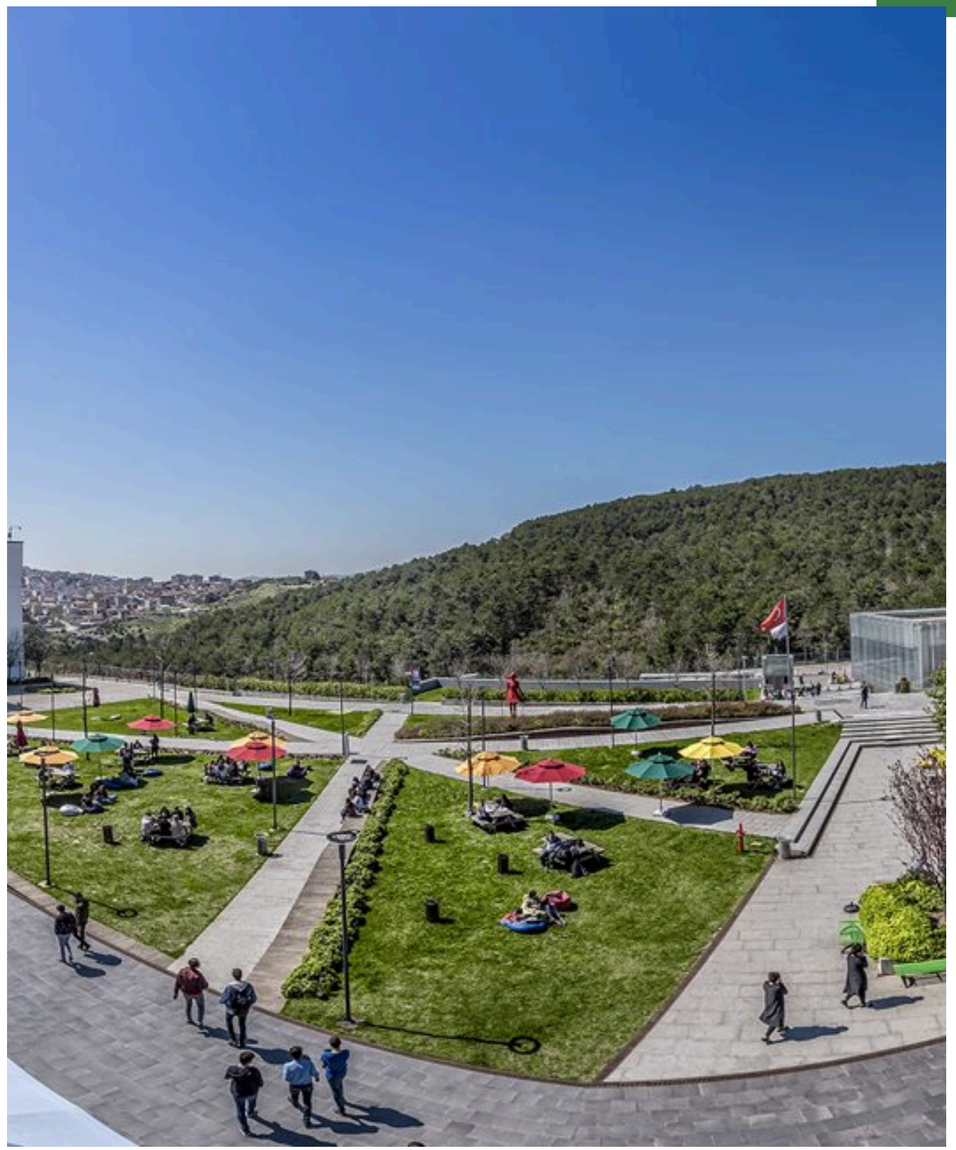
At home, the University took part in the Fiba Sustainability Meeting on 17 December 2025, where 45 people from twelve affiliated institutions and three external stakeholders exchanged practice. It supports environmental camps run by the Simurg youth association, and ATTUNE, an Erasmus+ partnership started in 2023, mobilises universities on climate change.

The EUA sustainability task force. Özyeğin University is a member of the group of experts working on the post-2030 sustainability agenda of European universities.

The International Sustainable Campus Network, member since 2015, through which campus practice is benchmarked internationally and published as case material.

The UN Global Compact. Signatory, with the Communication on Progress published in Enhanced CoP format aligned with GRI, CDP and ISAR, and the commitment declared publicly by the Rector.

The Fiba Sustainability Meeting, 17 December 2025, where 45 people from 12 affiliated institutions and three external stakeholders exchanged good practice.



Panoramic view of the campus

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- ReBuild-3D (EU, coordinator)
- LEGOFIT (Horizon Europe)
- PHOENIX (Belmont Forum, TÜBİTAK)

Climate research at Özyeğin spans energy, construction, agriculture and disaster risk. EÇEM and the Integrated Energy Initiative lead energy work, ReBuild-3D develops low-carbon construction materials, and LEGOFIT and NEED4B have tested storage and building efficiency on campus. A Seed Fund project studies early warning and parametric insurance to make agricultural supply chains resilient to climate risk.

The campus is itself a laboratory. From 8 May 2025, sensors on campus trees measured the urban heat island for six months, and a thermal comfort survey covered five open spaces on 20 June 2025. Disaster research, from emergency shelter models to earthquake risk perception, links climate adaptation with urban resilience.

EÇEM — the Centre for Energy, Environment and Economy, and **iEi**, the Integrated Energy Initiative.

AGRICOLAB, climate-resilient agriculture in Yenişehir under the EU–Türkiye Climate Change Fund.

Campus Tree Sensor Research, run as a living laboratory.

The Post-Earthquake Emergency Shelter Model, on climate and disaster resilience in the built environment.

PHOENIX (Belmont Forum, 2023–2026, funded in Türkiye by TÜBİTAK) studies climate-related mobility and social tipping points in nine countries, with Asst. Prof. Susan Beth Rottmann as one of its coordinators.

Selected 2025 publications.

Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Societal happiness and corporate cash holdings: The contingency role of climate policies*, Journal of Environmental Management.
- *Rheological enhancement of high-volume fly ash mixes using ternary mineral blends and chemical additives*, Rheologica Acta.
- *Sustainable aviation fuels: Evaluating environmental and operational impacts*, Environmental Research and Technology.



Solar panels on a campus building



LIFE BELOW WATER

The seas around Istanbul carry both natural and cultural heritage under pressure. Özyeğin University works to protect them by treating and discharging its wastewater responsibly, reducing single-use plastic on campus, training food professionals on the Bosphorus bluefish, and supporting marine technology ventures.

3

Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.19

Citation Impact (FWCI)

1

European and National Projects

1

Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Bosphorus Bluefish Ambassador training** (2025): with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Le Cordon Bleu Istanbul trained young chefs and vocational high school students on the bluefish and its heritage.
- **All campus wastewater treated** at the Paşaköy Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant before discharge, with grey water calculated against national discharge limits in the 2025 Water Footprint Report.
- **Single-use plastic reduced:** filtered water dispensers in place of most bottled water coolers, single-use cups removed from campus kitchens in July 2025, and 66,854 kg of packaging waste separated for recycling in 2025.
- **Marine technology ventures** from the University ecosystem: IWROBOTX, an autonomous sea-surface cleaning vehicle, and Wave Aero, a compact engine for seafarers.
- **AQUA Viva**, a Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges project from the 2025 call, treating water as living heritage.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Life below water enters teaching through food and culture. In 2025 Le Cordon Bleu Istanbul, the University's gastronomy partner, ran the Bosphorus Bluefish Ambassador training with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce for young chefs from hotels and restaurants and for vocational high school students. Announced on 18 November 2025, the programme responds to the decline of the Bosphorus bluefish by passing on its cultural heritage to the people who cook and serve it.

The Year of Water connects students to the water cycle that ends in the sea. The Journey of Water seminar followed water from source to user and back, and students visited the Ömerli treatment plant in December 2025.

The Boğaziçi Lüferi Ambassador training programme.
Delivered with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, training participants to advocate for the conservation of the Bosphorus bluefish.



Drought-tolerant planting on campus

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The campus protects the seas downstream through how it treats water and waste. All campus wastewater goes through the sewer system to the Paşaköy Advanced Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant before treated effluent is discharged, and the 2025 Water Footprint Report calculates the University's grey water against the discharge limits of the national Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulation. ISO 14001 has governed environmental management since 2014, and ISO 46001 was implemented for water efficiency during 2025.

Plastic is reduced at source. Filtered water dispensers have replaced most bottled water coolers on campus, single-use plastic and cardboard cups have not been supplied in campus kitchens since July 2025, staff receive glass bottles, and waste is separated at source with recycling bins throughout the campus. In 2025 the University separated 66,854 kg of packaging waste, including plastic, for recycling.



The campus and its surroundings

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Bosphorus Bluefish is the University's principal engagement for life below water. Announced with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce on 18 November 2025, the partnership addresses the decline of the Bosphorus bluefish by passing on its cultural heritage to the people who cook and serve it.

Technology from the University's ecosystem reaches the sea as well. IWROBOTX develops an autonomous vehicle that cleans the sea surface and won the Mercedes-Benz StartUP Jury Special Award. Wave Aero, founded by a mechanical engineering graduate with a faculty member, develops a portable compact engine for seafarers. AQUA Viva connects water to cultural and ecological heritage.

***Boğaziçi Lüferi* — "Bosphorus Bluefish will live for generations".** A conservation partnership with the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce addressing the decline of the Bosphorus bluefish, announced 18 November 2025.

IWROBOTX, an autonomous marine cleaning vehicle developed as a venture within the University's accelerator ecosystem.



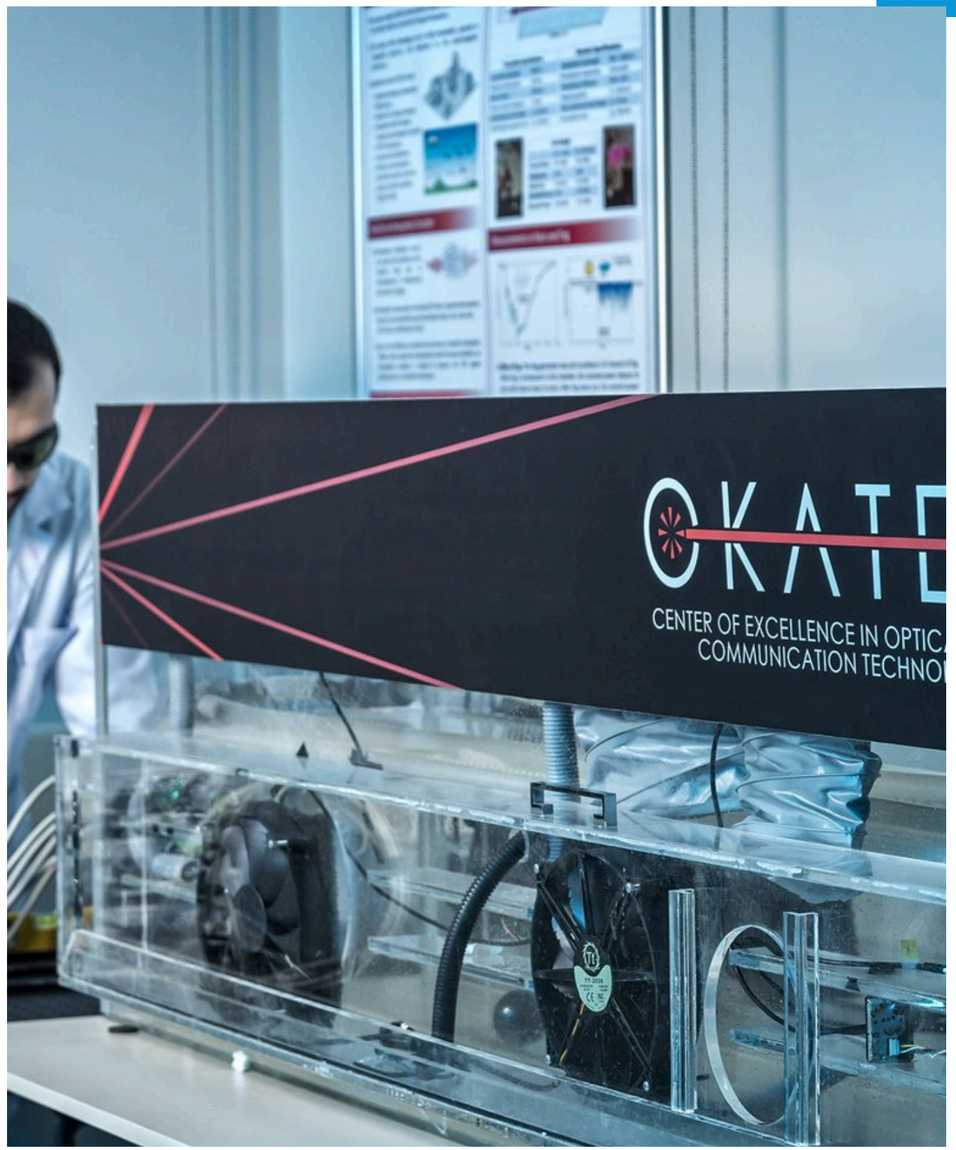
Participants of a Year of Water event

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- AQUA Viva (Horizon Europe MSCA)

Research connected to life below water spans heritage, technology and water management. AQUA Viva, a Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges project from the 2025 call, treats water as living heritage and documents the cultural practices built around it. The University's accelerator ecosystem has produced two marine technologies: IWROBOTX, an autonomous vehicle that cleans the sea surface, and Wave Aero, a portable compact engine for seafarers. SciVal maps three of the University's 2021–2025 publications to SDG 14, with a field-weighted citation impact of 1.19, above the world average.



Engineering research facilities



LIFE ON LAND

Biodiversity loss and land degradation are urgent global issues. Özyeğin University manages its campus landscape for water efficiency and biodiversity, uses it as a living laboratory for climate research, plants with its students, and supports agricultural heritage landscapes with the Food and Agriculture Organization.

6
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

1.25
Citation Impact (FWCI)

4
European and National Projects

5
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Tree planting with students**, 7 November 2025: Duyarlı ÖzÜ volunteers, QHSE and Technical Services planted 15 saplings after training by a forest engineer.
- **Local and adapted species** planted across more than half of the campus landscape, protecting the Nişantepe forest ecosystem and the campus stream corridor.
- **Campus Cat Coexistence Procedure** in force from 5 November 2025.
- **More than 18,000 trees planted** on and around the campus over the past decade, with a tree planting event every year since 2014.
- **89th in the world in UI GreenMetric 2025**, with green space among the University's strongest areas.
- **Biodiversity nature excursion**, 1–5 October 2025, on ecosystem protection and wildlife.
- **Söğle Highlands agricultural heritage** training and conservation action plan workshop in Antalya, 2 June 2025, with FAO Türkiye.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Learning about land happens outdoors. The biodiversity nature excursion on 1–5 October 2025 gave participants hands-on learning about ecosystem protection and wildlife. The Ecological Living and Food Club runs permaculture training, a trip to Permaturk and regular visits to small producers during planting and harvest. Environment and ecosystem themes run through courses and studios, and the Agricultural Heritage Systems Workshop teaches traditional land use.

A tree planting tradition.
Since 2014 the HSE Committee and the Dean of Students' Office have organised a tree planting event at the start of every academic year, and more than 18,000 trees have been planted over the past decade to enhance biodiversity.

Tree planting with students, 7 November 2025.
Duyarlı ÖzÜ volunteers, the QHSE Office and Technical Services planted 15 saplings in pairs after training by forest engineer Ercan Akbıyık.



Trees and buildings on the campus

2 CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

On campus, biodiversity is managed through landscape and procedure. Drought-resistant landscaping, based on a planting inventory and low-water species, and smart irrigation reduce pressure on water and soil. Since 5 November 2025 the care, feeding, health and living conditions of the campus's free-roaming cats have been governed by a formal procedure. Students built the Campus Garden as a natural food-growing area, and the campus tree inventory supports sensor research.

Xeriscape landscaping, based on a campus planting inventory and the use of low-water species.

The Campus Cat Coexistence Procedure, in force from 5 November 2025, under which the care, feeding, health and living conditions of the campus's free-roaming cats are governed by formal procedure.

Water-wise irrigation and organic growing.
Campus landscaping is irrigated with drip and sprinkler systems and smart irrigation, and ÖzÜ Bostan, the campus vegetable garden, is managed organically with crop rotation, composting and natural pest control, without synthetic pesticides or fertilisers.

Recognition.
In UI GreenMetric 2025 the University ranked 89th of 1,745 universities worldwide, with green space among its strongest areas.

Protecting the local forest ecosystem.
Local and adapted species are planted across more than half of the campus landscape, which preserves the Nişantepe forest ecosystem and reduces the need for fertilisers and irrigation. The Campus Stream Project keeps the stream as a corridor for local fauna and a living classroom where students follow freshwater health.



Drought-tolerant planting on campus

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University's land work reaches far beyond Istanbul. With FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a team led by Assoc. Prof. Faik Gür prepared Türkiye's first application to register the agro-silvo-pastoral system of Büyüksöğle, Küçüksöğle and Geçmen villages in Antalya's Elmalı district as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, preserving traditional knowledge, landscapes and cultural values.

Closer to home, paper destroyed for data security is directed to reforestation through the TEMA Foundation, and the University supports environmental camps run by the Simurg youth association. A public conference on street animals discussed the legal side of animal rights violations.

Collaboration with the TEMA Foundation, including secure paper disposal.

The FAO GIAHS candidacy for the Söğle Highlands, seeking recognition of the highland agricultural system as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

The intergenerational seminar series on the legacy and future of Turkish agriculture.

Agricultural heritage training in Antalya, 2 June 2025, with FAO Türkiye and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, preparing a conservation action plan for the Söğle Highlands landscape with farmers, shepherds, NGOs and public bodies.



The campus and its surrounding landscape

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- FAO GIAHS Söğle Highlands
- TÜBİTAK 1001: laser weed control
- TÜBİTAK 1001: new peasants and rural gentrification
- TÜBİTAK 3005: endangered local grape varieties

Land research is concentrated in agriculture and rural change. TÜBİTAK projects study new peasants and rural gentrification in Türkiye, endangered local grape varieties in Urla and Midyat, and laser-based, non-chemical weed control for greenhouses. The campus microclimate study, running from May 2025 with sensors on campus trees, uses the University's own landscape as a living laboratory.

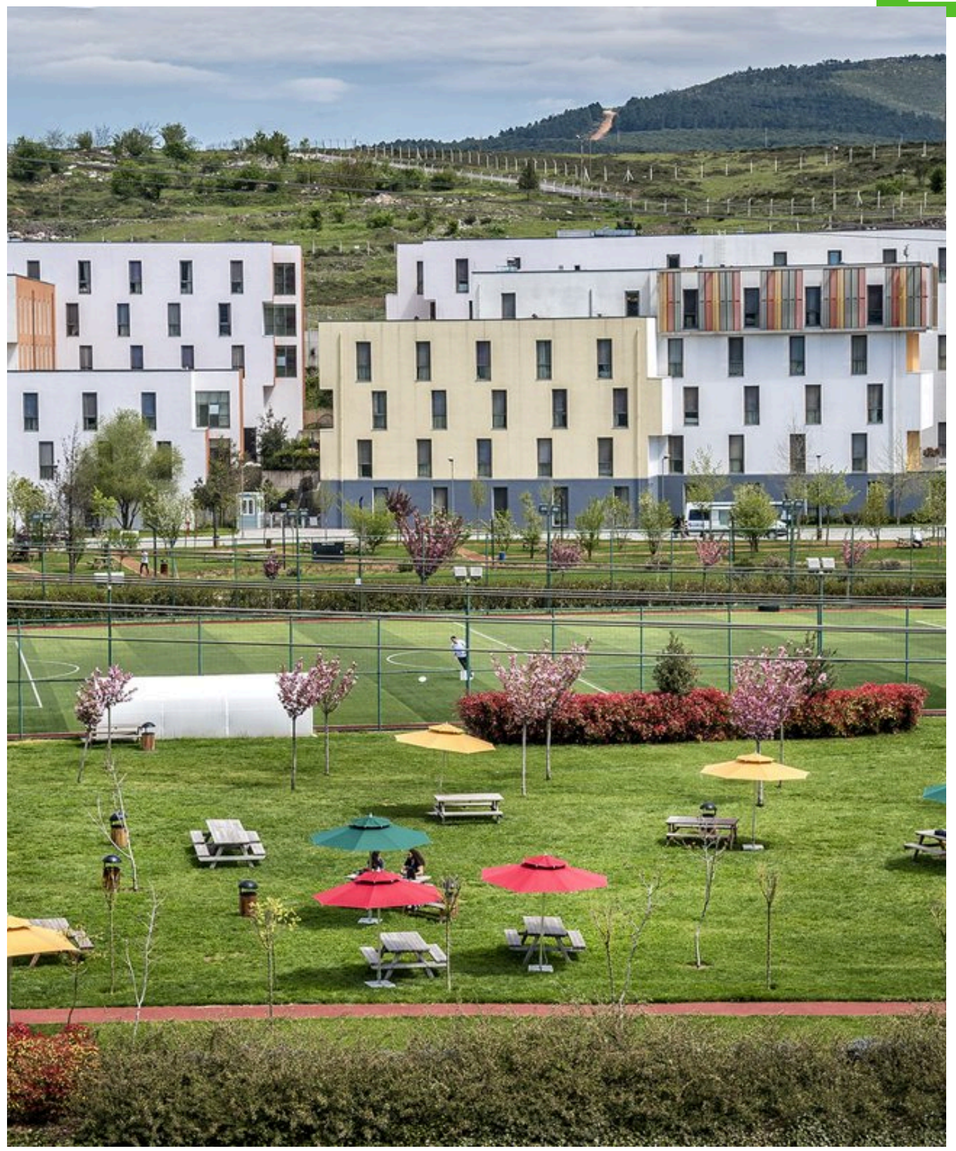
Campus Tree Sensor Research, run as a living laboratory on the campus itself: a six-month urban heat island microclimate measurement from 8 May 2025 and a thermal comfort survey across five open spaces on 20 June 2025.

Endangered local grape varieties in the Aegean and the Southeast, with Urla and Midyat case studies.

Smart pulsed-fibre-laser weed control for greenhouses, TÜBİTAK 1001, Dr Parviz Elahi — a non-chemical approach to weed management.

Selected 2025 publications.
Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *A First Process-Oriented Characterization of Eriolobus trilobatus (Labill. ex Poiret) Bark from Turkey: Chemical, Morphological and Energy Properties*, Processes.
- *Multifunctional Evaluation of Urban Green Infrastructure for Combating Climate Change: A Case of Sancaktepe District in Istanbul Metropolitan City*, Inzynieria Mineralna.



Campus grounds and open fields



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Peace and justice depend on strong, transparent institutions. Özyeğin University governs itself through written ethics, zero tolerance of corruption and participatory bodies, coordinates a Horizon Europe project on information manipulation, and gives the public access to legal support.

29
Scholarly Publications (2021–2025)

0.97
Citation Impact (FWCI)

4
European and National Projects

17
Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

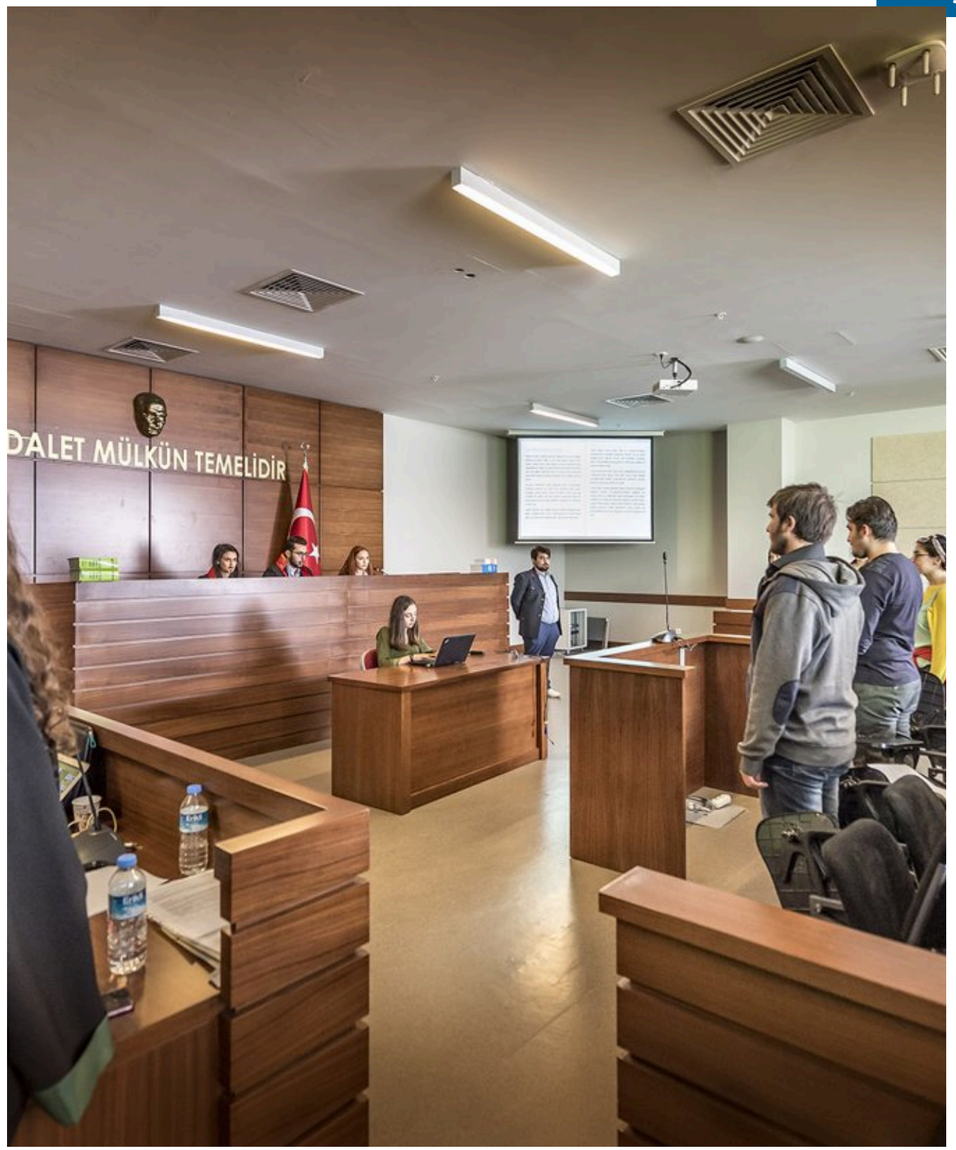
- **UN Global Compact commitment reaffirmed** in August 2025, including Principle 10 against corruption in all its forms.
- **ISO 9001:2015 certification** obtained after independent audit in 2025, and 17 ESG indicators now tracked institution-wide.
- **BRIDGE**, an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, announced in December 2025, adding new courses and a Democracy Laboratory.
- **DE-CONSPIRATOR**, a Horizon Europe project coordinated by the University, measuring foreign information manipulation in 25 EU countries and three partner countries.
- **Experiential learning in the judiciary**, a 2025 Transformative Education Seed Grant course built on courthouse visits, hearing observation and simulation.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Law and justice are taught through practice. The Law Faculty's moot court programme works through cases on domestic violence, custody and union compensation. An experiential learning model built into a course on the judicial process uses court visits, hearing observations, reflective journals and simulations. Theme-day talks, such as access to justice on the Day of the Girl, bring rights-based questions into campus life, and Information Technology runs a seminar on cyberbullying.

The OzU Open debating tournament, open to participants from across Türkiye, and the Non-Violent Society Summit build the skills of public reasoning.

BRIDGE, an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence announced in December 2025, adding new courses and a Democracy Laboratory to the curriculum.



The moot court of the Faculty of Law

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

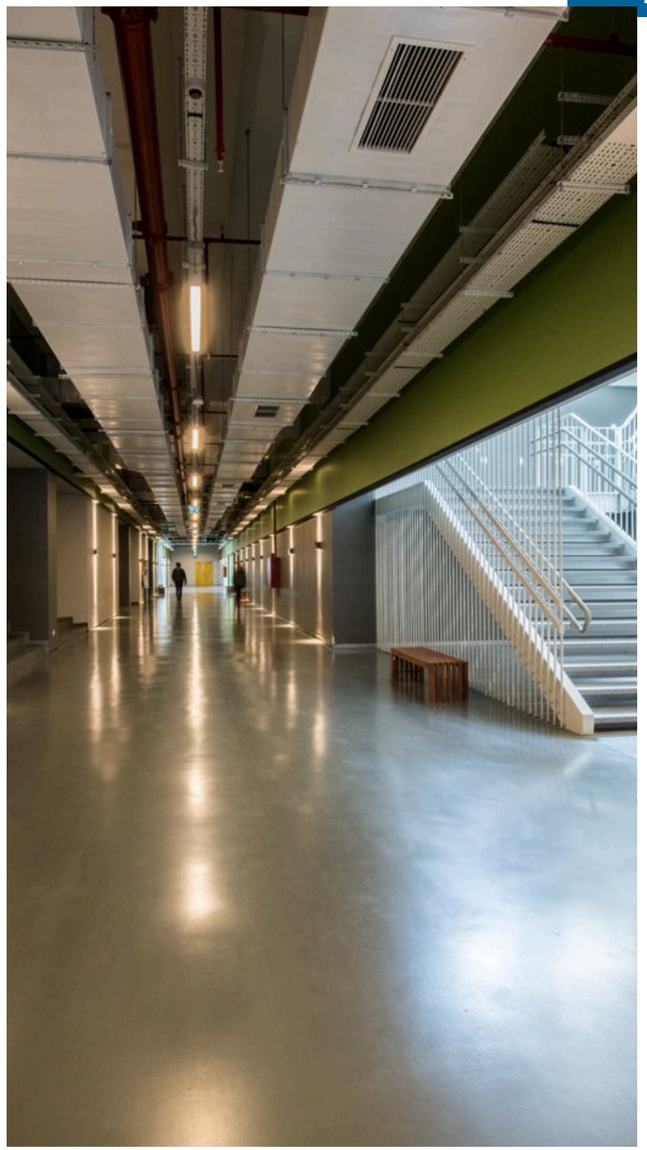
Özyeğin governs itself through written ethics and participatory bodies. The Ethical Principles and Values, adopted by the Senate, bind all members and stakeholders and name Justice and Integrity as a core priority, with merit, impartiality and accountability as the cornerstones of decision-making. Concerns go to a designated Ethics Compliance Officer, are reviewed in strict confidence and answered within 24 hours, with the reporting party's identity protected. The framework treats a climate where all ideas can be expressed without fear, and where academic freedom is protected, as indispensable. The Unit for the Prevention of Discrimination and Violence works under the EDIB Policy, and the Community Engagement Policy defines the University's approach to its relationship with society.

Participation is structured. The Quality Commission of all deans and directors manages the quality cycle and the evidence base of the Institutional Internal Evaluation Report, published every year since 2016. The HSE Committee, the first at a Turkish university, governs the management systems and reports to the Rectorate. The Social Impact Committee sets annual priorities, indicators and the reporting framework, with theme leaders (OLTE for education, the Entrepreneurship Office for innovation, QHSE for environment) connecting units; 17 ESG indicators are tracked institution-wide, with a target of 30 by 2029. The Disabled Students Unit Commission and the Dormitory Life Committee govern accessibility and residential life, and the Planning and Analysis Office, reporting directly to the Rector, runs strategic plan metric analysis, satisfaction survey reporting and the institutional data infrastructure.

ISO 9001:2015 certification, obtained in 2025.

Anti-corruption.

The University has zero tolerance for bribery and corruption, set out in the Bribery and Corruption Policy of the Human Resources Policy. Gifts that could create a conflict of interest may not be accepted, family and close relationships in the same reporting line must be reported, and purchasing follows the Purchasing and Supplier Management Procedure, with the estimated cost of each tender kept confidential and tender and acceptance commissions overseeing the process. Staff and students can report concerns to dedicated ethics addresses, anonymously if they wish, and receive an initial response within 24 hours. In August 2025 the President reaffirmed the University's commitment to the UN Global Compact, including Principle 10 against corruption.



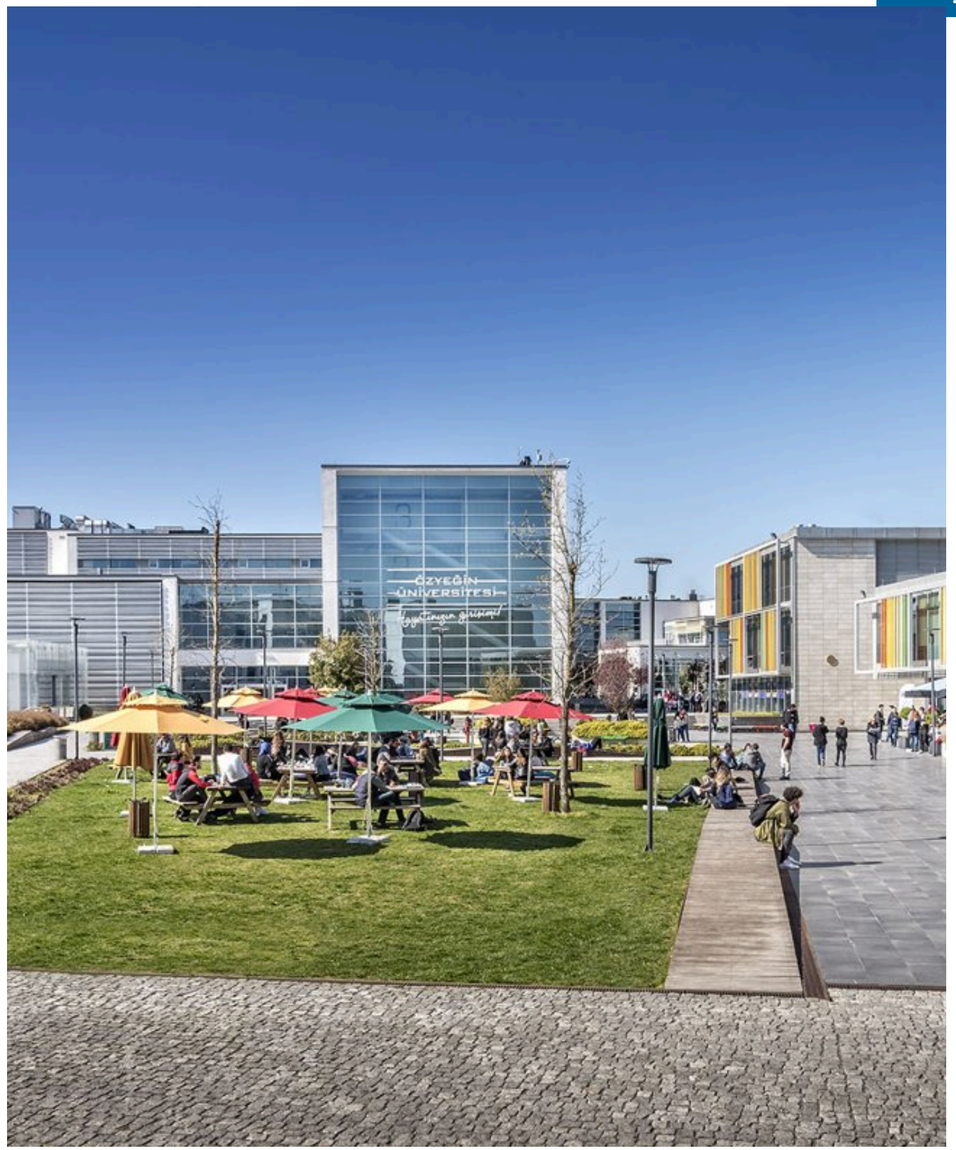
A campus building interior

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University works with public institutions to strengthen them. Under a Ministry of Justice and Council of Europe project, the Law Faculty trains serving members of the Civil Monitoring Boards of Penal Institutions. The ÖzÜ Pro Bono Legal Clinic, under a protocol with the Istanbul Bar Association, gives the public access to legal support through students and volunteer lawyers.

The University also offers neutral ground for debate. The OzU AI Platform brings business and academia together on the ethics and regulation of AI, a UN Global Compact event addressed business and human rights and institutional integrity, and the Law Faculty's seminars and symposia, several run with bar associations, are open to the public and to professional bodies. Advice to government is a steady output: KIRKEP for the Ministry of Industry and Technology, district investment plans for the GAP Administration, and advice on an earthquake resilience planning guide for local governments.

Public expertise.
Dr Başak Ozan Özparlak spoke on the criminal use of artificial intelligence on Habertürk TV, 8 January 2025.



The central campus plaza

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- DE-CONSPIRATOR (Horizon Europe, coordinator)
- OppAttune (Horizon Europe)
- SOS4Democracy (Horizon Europe)
- BRIDGE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (Erasmus+)

DE-CONSPIRATOR is the flagship. Coordinated by Assoc. Prof. H. Akın Ünver of the Department of International Relations, it received €3 million from Horizon Europe Cluster 2 and is only the second multi-partner project in that cluster coordinated by a Turkish institution. With twelve partners, including the Istituto Affari Internazionali, Heidelberg, Groningen, Amsterdam and CIDOB, it measures the effects of foreign information manipulation in 25 EU member states and three partner countries and is building a multilingual database of incidents.

SOS4Democracy, led by the University of Ljubljana, strengthens research capacity on illiberal democracies, and OppAttune studies oppositional extremism. The Law Faculty runs laboratories on the law of the future (IUS FUTURUM), violence and law, children's rights and AI law, faculty take part in COST Action CA23149 on human rights, and a Jean Monnet Chair on migration and mobility adds a European policy dimension.

Selected 2025 publications.
Scopus-indexed outputs mapped to this goal in SciVal.

- *Populist Appeals, Emotions, and Political Mobilization*, American Behavioral Scientist.
- *Beneficiary appointment and delivery planning in a conflict setting*, Decision Sciences.
- *The Turkish Constitutional Court's struggle with the European human rights law: an evaluation of the court's case-law on the crime of 'Defamation against the President' in light of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights*, International Journal of Human Rights.



A social sciences research laboratory



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Global challenges need shared solutions. Özyeğin University works with United Nations agencies, ministries, development agencies, companies and civil society, coordinates and joins European research projects, and runs education on the Goals for professionals, cooperatives, schools and its neighbours.

14

European and National Projects

17

Activities Recorded (2023–2025 and ongoing)

PROGRESS IN 2025

- **Education on the Goals for the wider community:** the 13th Local and Rural Development Specialisation Programme (August 2025), a Şanlıurfa edition for public experts (December 2025), and the second SustainHUB Academy cohort (September 2025).
- **FAO partnership:** FAO Talks on 17 October 2025, and agricultural heritage training in Antalya on 2 June 2025.
- **International research in 2025:** 36.4 per cent of the University's publications had international co-authors, 7 new projects had international partners, and 3 new EU Framework Programme projects were won, including AQUA Viva and Fix-APro.
- **Joint research with NGOs** through the 2025 Societal Impact Seed Grant round, including work with International Women of Istanbul, the Yerküre Local Studies Co-operative and the Fair Food Community.
- **Sustainability in every degree:** all first-year students take SEC 101 and TRL 101/103, which introduce environmental sustainability, ENG101 and ENG102 are taught in the context of the SDGs, and 443 courses carried sustainability content in the 2024–25 academic year.
- **FAO protocol on Agricultural Heritage Systems** signed in 2025.

EDUCATION AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Partnership is built into how students learn. YOUTHCOOP, led by students and alumni, works on the social solidarity economy and cooperatives, and its webinar series is open to students of other universities. The Local and Rural Development Specialisation Certificate, running since 2014, has reached more than 500 participants from development agencies, the private sector and civil society.

Students work with external partners in the Responsible Citizenship and Impact courses, and Duyarlı ÖzÜ runs field projects with NGOs throughout the year. The Global Leadership Academy with the Global Turks Foundation extends leadership development to students and young professionals.

TÜBİTAK 2237, the training project.

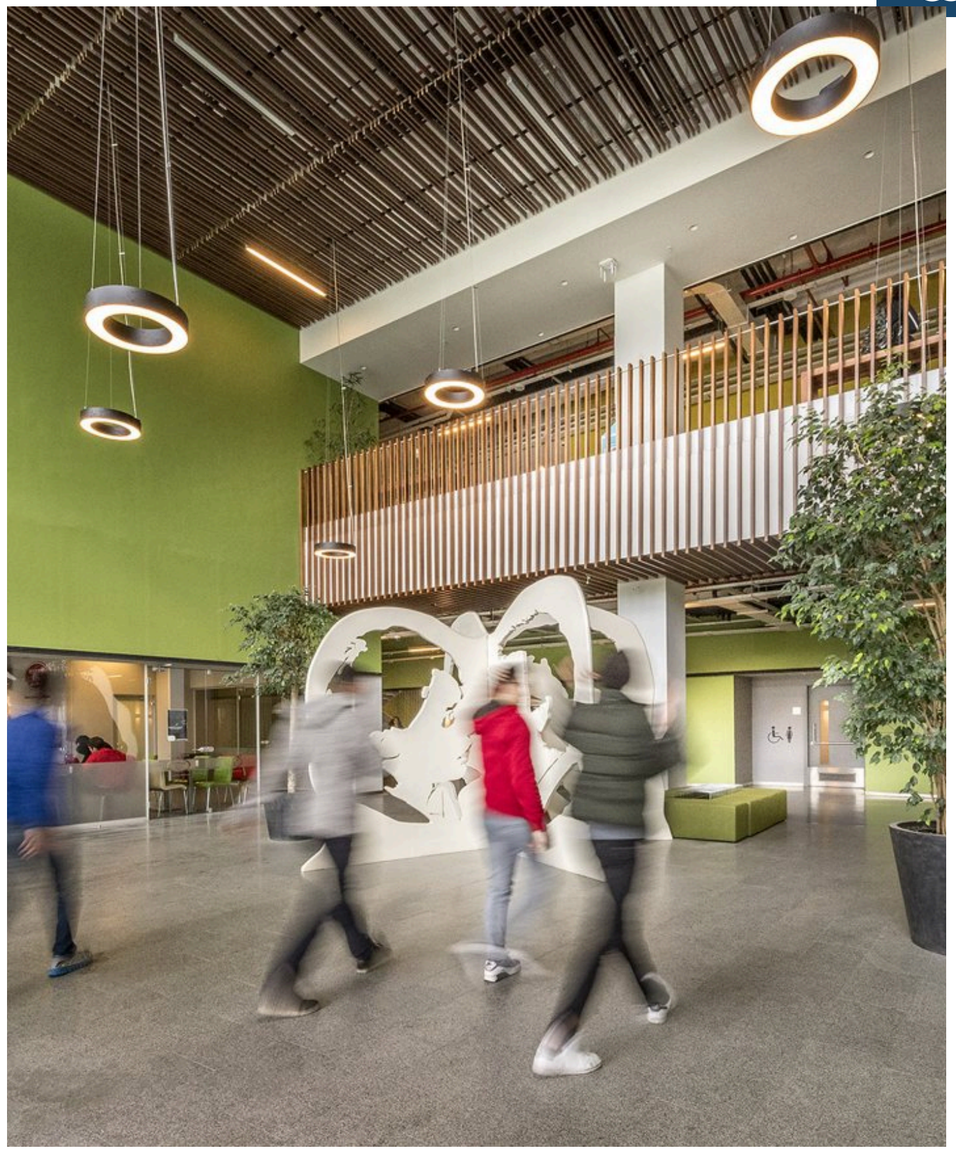
The Local and Rural Development Specialisation Certificate Programme, whose 13th edition ran in August 2025.

The Global Leadership Academy, with the Global Turks Foundation, 28 November 2025.

SEC 202 and 204, *Responsible Citizenship and Impact*, in which students deliver projects with external partners.

A commitment to SDG education for every student.
All first-year students take SEC 101 and TRL 101/103, compulsory courses that introduce the Transformative Education Programme, whose learning objective "taking an active role in addressing social needs and issues" covers analysing sustainability problems, developing solutions and writing project proposals. ENG101 and ENG102 are taught in the context of the SDGs, and 443 courses carried sustainability content in the 2024–25 academic year.

Measuring sustainability literacy.
The student satisfaction survey measures how well the University builds sustainability awareness through its courses: 3.1 out of 4 in 2025, with a target of 3.5 by 2029.



The atrium of an academic building

CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

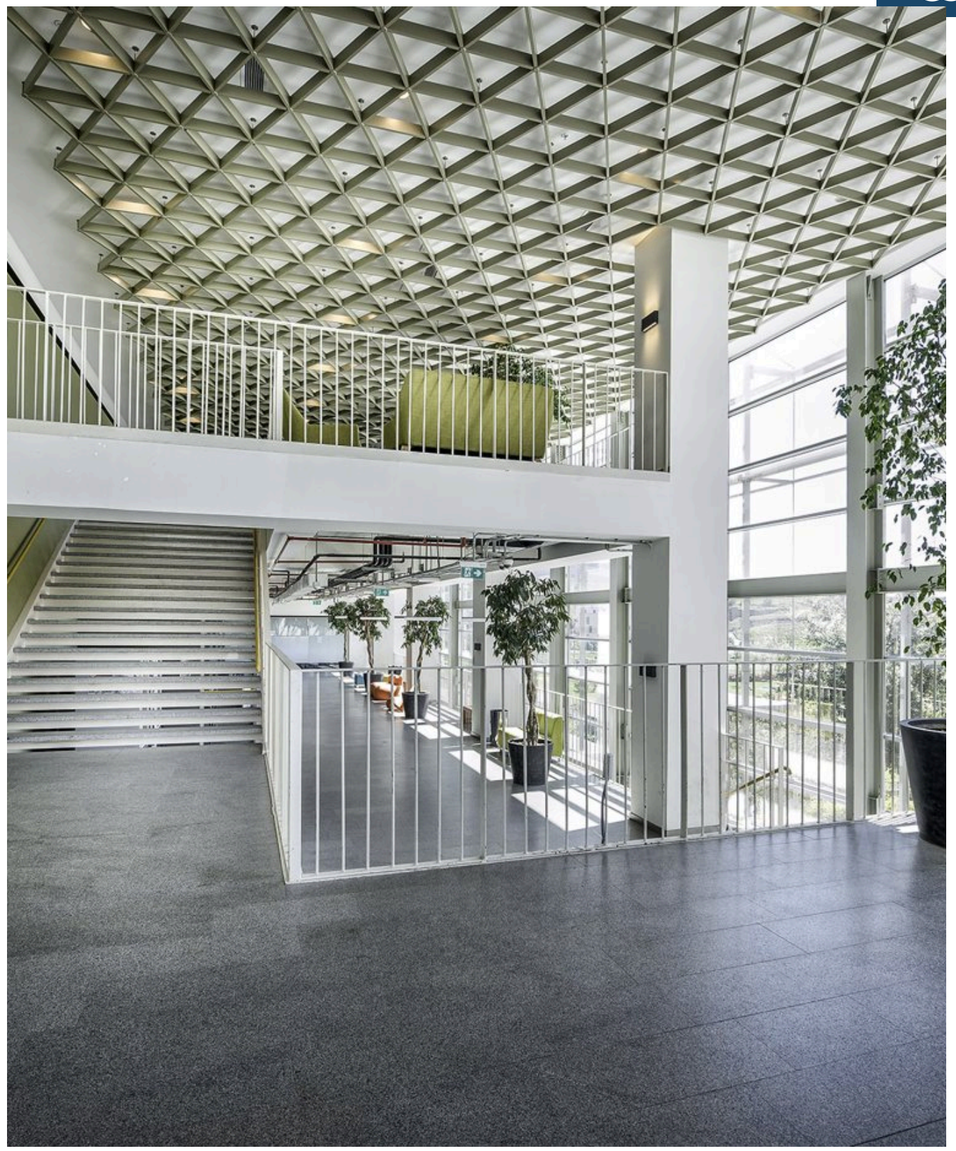
Özyeğin's sustainability work is coordinated centrally. The Sustainability Platform, through its Social Sustainability Programme and its Community Engagement Programme, coordinates impact projects, and a cross-institutional Social Impact Committee sets annual priorities, indicators and the reporting framework. The strategy is organised around five impact pillars and a cross-cutting governance dimension, aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda, Türkiye's 12th Development Plan and the University's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan.

The University reports publicly and repeatedly: a Sustainability Report, this SDG Report, GreenMetric returns and a UN Global Compact Communication on Progress. It has maintained a living impact matrix of more than four hundred activities, updated by the units that carry them out.

The Sustainability Platform, the umbrella structure coordinating impact projects, with its **Community Engagement Programme** and **Social Sustainability Programme** beneath it.

The reporting suite.
A Sustainability Report, this SDG Report, GreenMetric returns and the UN Global Compact Communication on Progress in Enhanced CoP format aligned with GRI, CDP and ISAR. GreenMetric first place among Turkish foundation universities, achieved five times.

The Sustainability Dashboard, the monitoring tool through which SDG indicators are presented.



Inside one of the academic buildings

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The University's partnerships run from the United Nations to its own neighbourhood. With FAO it hosts the FAO Talks series and prepares Türkiye's first GIAHS candidacy. With development agencies and ministries it has analysed cooperatives, districts and rural economies. With ILO it measured violence at work.

Its network memberships are international: the EUA sustainability task force, the International Sustainable Campus Network since 2015, RINGS for gender research, AEIDL for local development, PRME and the UN Global Compact. Academics appeared as subject experts across national business and news media throughout 2025.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
Three concurrent projects: the GIAHS candidacy for the Söğle Highlands with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Green Transition in the Olive Oil Sector with the Ministry of Trade; and Responsible Agricultural Investment Areas. The first FAO Talks panel was held on campus on 17 October 2025.

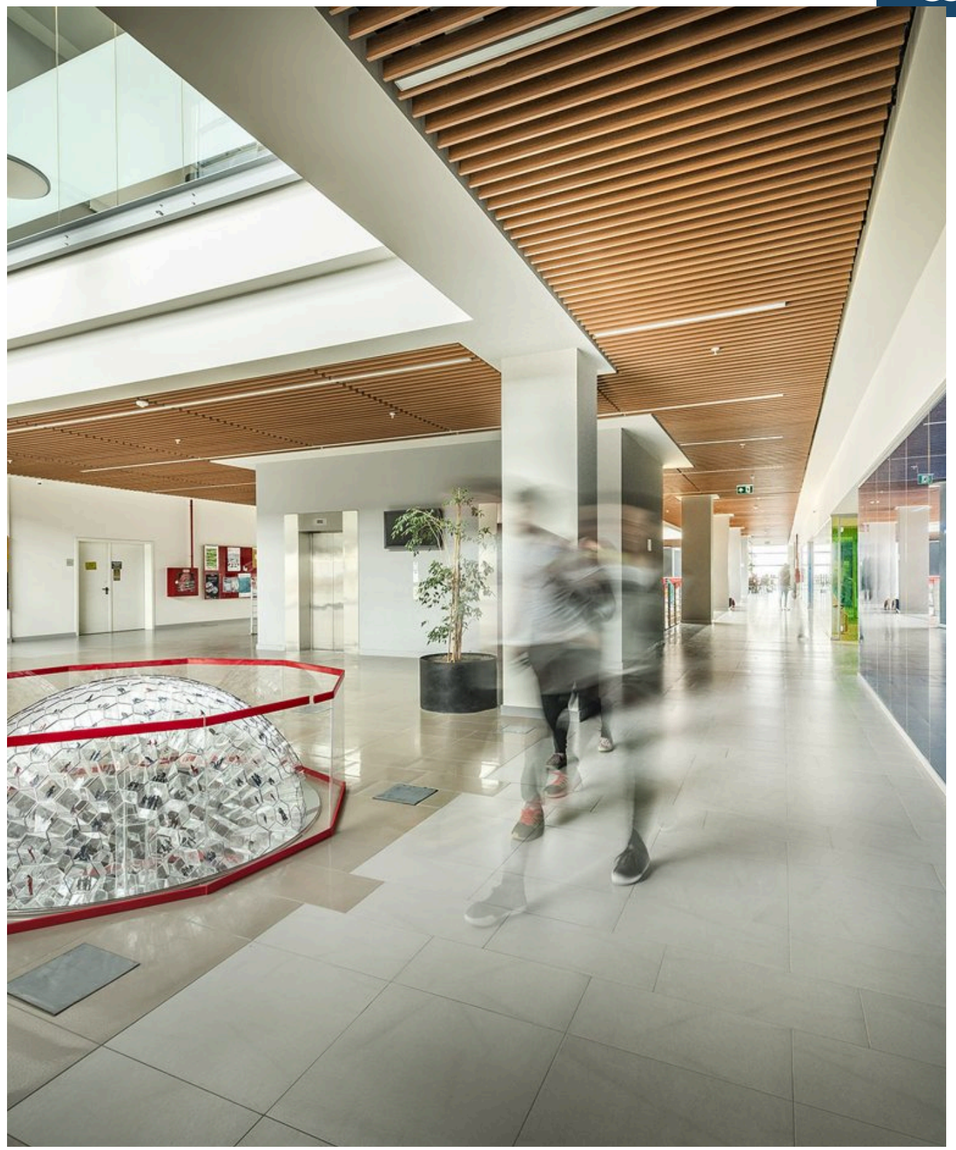
DOKA and the Ministry of Industry and Technology.
The TR90 women's cooperatives programme, Phases I–III, including the KADİM mentoring network.

The GAP Administration, on district investment plans.

Fordham Gabelli School of Business, research collaboration agreed 31 October 2025.

Network memberships:
the International Sustainable Campus Network (2015) · the European University Association sustainability task force · AEIDL, the European Association for Innovation in Local Development, to which the Community Engagement Programme Manager was elected unanimously at the Brussels general assembly · TSGA, the Social Entrepreneurship Network Association · RINGS · PRME · the UN Global Compact.

Next Economies Summit 2025, and transdisciplinary leadership programming on campus, 8 October 2025.



An exhibition space on campus

CONTINUED

Public reach.
Academics from the University appeared as subject experts across Habertürk, Bloomberg HT, CNBC-E, T24, Milliyet, Yapı Dergisi, MediaCat, Ekonomist, Robb Report, Platin, Marketing Türkiye, Capital and Fast Company during 2025, with a cumulative reach of approximately 1.3 million across the recorded items.

Education on the Goals for the wider community.
The University runs dedicated programmes for people outside its walls. For professionals and public bodies: the Local and Rural Development Specialisation Programme (13th edition, August 2025, and a Şanlıurfa edition for the GAP Administration in December 2025), SustainHUB Academy with SKD Türkiye (first cohort of 23 participants from 18 organisations, second cohort from September 2025) and training for suppliers. For cooperatives and women producers: capacity building in five provinces, the KADİM mentoring programme with 13 women's cooperatives, and a training of trainers designed with KEDV, the Diyarbakır Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the GAP Administration and DOKA. For farmers: the agricultural heritage training in Antalya on 2 June 2025. For young people and schools: the World Food Day panel on 17 October 2025, the TÜBİTAK Science High School SDG panel on 14 May 2025 and OpenFab maker camps. For migrants: skills workshops for migrant women entrepreneurs with International Women of Istanbul.

Joint research with NGOs.
The 2025 Societal Impact Seed Grant round funded projects carried out with civil society partners, including the Yerküre Local Studies Co-operative and the Fair Food Community.

SustainHUB Academy in detail.
Its first term, in spring 2025, ran for six weeks in hybrid format, with about 80 hours of content across seven modules, and every participant was paired with a senior executive from an SKD Türkiye member company for a year of mentoring.

Community Engagement Program in numbers, 2025:
30 people completed structured capacity-building programmes, 8 formal partnerships were active, 4 applied knowledge products were taken up by external stakeholders, and 3 externally funded projects were under way.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

- DE-CONSPIRATOR
- OppAttune
- AGRINEXT
- SOS4Democracy
- AQUA Viva
- Fix-APro
- ReBuild-3D
- LEGOFIT
- ATTUNE
- BRIDGE
- PHOENIX
- FAO GIAHS Söğle Highlands
- FAO Green Transition in Olive Oil
- FAO Responsible Agricultural Investment Areas

European funding is the backbone of the University's research partnerships. Özyeğin coordinates DE-CONSPIRATOR in Horizon Europe with twelve partners and takes part in OppAttune, AGRINEXT, SOS4Democracy and, from the 2025 call, the MSCA projects AQUA Viva and Fix-APro. Earlier it took part in PLOTINA, TRIBE and NEED4B, and it coordinates ReBuild-3D.

Research partnerships with international organisations include the ILO workplace violence study. Faculty take part in six COST Actions. The Social Impact Mapping Research Report 2025, developed against the AACSB societal impact standard, PRME and ISO 26000, is itself a partnership product, drawing on units across the University.

Interdisciplinary research.

2,620 of the University's 3,668 Scopus outputs in 2016–2025 (71.4 per cent) spanned two or more subject-area clusters. In 2021–2025 these interdisciplinary publications had a field-weighted citation impact of 2.16, against an institutional average of 1.29, and about 53 per cent of accepted research projects in 2023–2025 were classified as interdisciplinary by the Technology Transfer Office.

Horizon Europe: DE-CONSPIRATOR, coordinated by Özyeğin University · OppAttune. **Horizon 2020:** PLOTINA. **EU–Türkiye Climate Change Fund:** AGRICOLAB. **EU Seventh Framework Programme:** NEED4B. **EIT HEI Initiative:** HEIght.



Workspaces at ÖzÜ-X

CONTINUED

COST Actions:
six identified faculty participations across engineering, industrial engineering, materials, human rights and communications.

International Labour Organization, the workplace violence and harassment study.

International collaboration in numbers, 2025.
36.4 per cent of the University's publications had international co-authors, 7 new projects had international partners, and 3 new EU Framework Programme projects were won.

Sharing best practice internationally.
AGRINEXT (Horizon Europe, 21 partners in 12 countries) compares lifelong learning systems in agriculture, with Özyeğin leading that work package. PHOENIX (Belmont Forum, 2023–2026, funded in Türkiye by TÜBİTAK) studies climate-related mobility across nine countries, with Asst. Prof. Susan Beth Rottmann as one of its coordinators. ATTUNE (Erasmus+ KA220-HED) produced a climate learning programme now open to any European university, and its water module run at Özyeğin was designed as a model for others. Through the International Sustainable Campus Network, the University benchmarks its campus practice internationally.

CLOSING

Performance in the rankings

Özyeğin University participates in the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings, the QS Sustainability Rankings, UI GreenMetric and WURI, and treats external assessment as a check on its own reporting rather than as a goal in itself.

Özyeğin University has been named the foundation university with the highest social impact in Türkiye in the THE Impact Rankings five times. In the 2025 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings it placed 89th of 1,745 universities worldwide and was Türkiye's top foundation university for the seventh consecutive year.

Recorded:

first place among Turkish foundation universities in UI GreenMetric, five times.



Panoramic view of the campus

LOOKING AHEAD

Commitments to 2030

The University's Sustainability Report 2025 sets measurable targets for 2029 and a carbon neutrality goal for 2040. Progress against them will be reported every year from 2026.

Further commitments the University is developing

1. **A water research programme**, building on AQUA Viva, WaterLab and the Year of Water.
2. **A Climate Action Plan and carbon neutrality roadmap**, with milestones on the way to 2040.
3. **A Women's Leadership Programme** for women undergraduates, with mentoring starting in December 2026.
4. **Annual impact reporting from 2026**, tracking each of the targets above.

COMMITMENT	TARGET
Carbon neutrality across Scope 1, 2 and 3	2040
Greenhouse gas emissions	17.49% lower by 2029 (7,425.6 tCO2 a year)
Energy use per person	10.57% lower by 2029 (0.481 TEP a year)
Waste per person	12.61% lower by 2029 (215.58 kg a year)
Courses with sustainability content (2024–25: 443 of 1,142)	600 by 2029
Student-rated sustainability literacy (2025: 3.1 / 4)	3.5 / 4 by 2029
Research projects aligned with the SDGs (2025: 54.7%)	above 50% every year
Publications addressing the SDGs (2025: 27%)	40% of Q1 and Q2 publications by 2029
External funding for sustainability research (2025: ₺5 million)	₺30 million a year by 2029
Staff completing EDIB training (2025: 0%)	100% by 2029
ESG indicators tracked institution-wide (2025: 17)	30 or more by 2029
Zero Waste certification	maintained

Note: in the University's internal strategic target monitoring, the greenhouse gas, energy and waste values in the table are set as 2028 milestones.

CLOSING

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Sustainability Platform with the Office of Academic Quality Assurance and Reporting, drawing on material supplied by the QHSE Office, the Office of Learning and Teaching Excellence, the Student Development and Experience Department, the Gender Equality Office, the Wellbeing and Equity Office, the Disabled Students Unit, the Planning and Analysis Office, Human Resources, the Registrar, the Technology Transfer Office, the Entrepreneurship Centre, the International Office and the Faculties.

The Social Impact Mapping Research Report 2025, on which several sections here depend, was produced by the Sustainability Platform.



Members of the University community



Özyeğin University

2025

Sustainable Development Goals Report · Reporting period 1 January – 31 December 2025