





Eastern Mediterranean University

Sustainable Development Goals

2024-2025 Report



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# Eastern Mediterranean University Sustainable Development Goals 2024-2025 Report

### **EMU: Setting the Scene**

#### Campus



3 Campuses Total Area:



Total Area. 2028583 m2



Total Number of Students:



76% international students



1 Health Center



ı Library

#### Academic





In TRNC

In Turkey



611-320



Top 40 in Hospitality & Tourism Management







1001-1200



301-400



151



Top 251-300 for Business & Economics



Percentage of International Students 4th



Top 501-600 for Engineering & Technology

#### INTRODUCTION

At Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), sustainability is embraced as a holistic commitment that integrates education, research, community engagement, and campus operations. The university recognizes its responsibility not only to provide quality education but also to contribute to sustainable development at local, regional, and global scales.

Through its diverse research and development centers, EMU plays a key role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Centers such as the Urban Research and Development Center (URDC), the Center for Women's Studies (CWS), the Energy Research Center, the Center for Environmental Research, the Water and Marine Sciences Research Center (SUDEM), and the Center for Psychological Counseling, Guidance and Research (PDRAM) are actively engaged in projects, research, and community-oriented initiatives that foster sustainability. These centers collaborate across disciplines to address issues ranging from social inclusion and gender equality to renewable energy, climate action, marine and water systems, and well-being.

By integrating sustainability into teaching, research, campus life, and outreach, EMU continues to cultivate an environment where knowledge and practice come together to support a more equitable and resilient future.



Eye-bird view of north campus

EMU Beach Club





#### Özay Oral Library

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#### **MESSAGE FROM RECTOR**

In Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), we are committed to advancing sustainability as an integral part of our academic mission, institutional culture, and global engagement. As a university ranked among the world's top 400 by Times Higher Education impact rankings and home to one of the highest international student ratios globally, EMU continues to cultivate an environment where diversity, innovation, and responsibility converge.

This Sustainability Report reflects our collective resolve to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to embed their principles across education, research, community engagement, and campus operations. Through these efforts, EMU seeks to inspire transformative learning, inclusive participation, and sustainable solutions that extend far beyond university boundaries.

Sustainability is not only a goal but a shared value that defines who we are and how we contribute to the world. I commend our students, academic and administrative staff, and all partners whose vision and commitment continue to strengthen EMU's leadership in shaping a more equitable and sustainable future.

Prof. Dr. Hasan KILIÇ

EMU Rector

#### **FOREWORD**

The publication of this Sustainability Report marks another meaningful step in Eastern Mediterranean University's commitment to integrating sustainability into every aspect of institutional life —from education and research to operations and community engagement.

Over the past year, we have witnessed encouraging progress in embedding sustainability principles across our academic and operational frameworks. The University has strengthened its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by expanding interdisciplinary teaching, promoting community-based research, and enhancing campus operations through responsible resource management and sustainable mobility initiatives. These efforts are supported by a strong culture of participation that encourages every member of our community to engage meaningfully in the sustainability journey.

The EMU Sustainable Campus Coordination continues to serve as a platform that bridges ideas with action. Through collaboration with academic units, research centers, and external stakeholders, we seek to ensure that sustainability remains a shared institutional value integrated into planning, decision-making, and everyday practice.

Looking ahead, our objective is to deepen sustainability integration across teaching, research, and campus life, while enhancing data collection and monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability and measurable progress. The Sustainable Campus Coordination team will continue to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, engage students in experiential learning opportunities, and develop new partnerships that extend our impact beyond campus boundaries.

I extend my appreciation to everyone who contributed to this report and to our broader sustainability mission. Together, we remain dedicated to advancing a university model that is inclusive, innovative, and environmentally responsible. One that inspires transformation both locally and globally.

Prof. Dr. Şebnem Önal Hoşkara

EMU Sustainable Campus Coordinator

## Stay Connected with EMU Sustainability

We invite you to join our journey toward a more sustainable future by following Eastern Mediterranean University on our official social media channels and websites.

Stay up to date with our latest initiatives, projects, and events, and be part of the community shaping positive change.

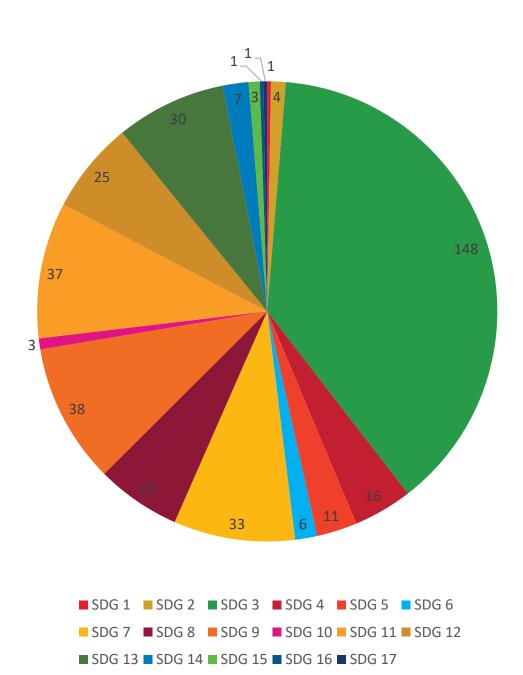
By connecting with us online, you can:

- Discover how EMU is contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- · Learn about upcoming seminars, workshops, and community projects.
- Engage with inspiring stories from our students, staff, and partners.
- · Share your voice and ideas for a greener and more inclusive future.

Follow us, stay informed, and grow with us. Together, we can make a difference.

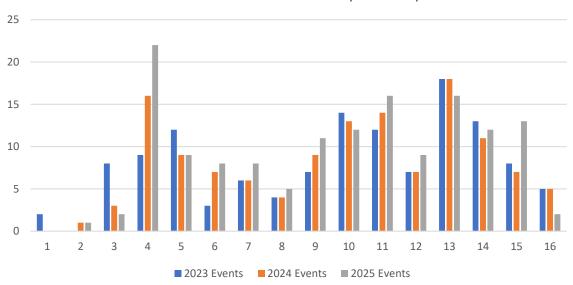
- SDG website: <a href="https://sdgs.emu.edu.tr/en">https://sdgs.emu.edu.tr/en</a>
- SDG Club Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/sdg\_emu/">https://www.instagram.com/sdg\_emu/</a>
- > URDC website: <a href="https://urdc.emu.edu.tr/en">https://urdc.emu.edu.tr/en</a>
- URDC Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DAUKENTAG/">https://www.facebook.com/DAUKENTAG/</a>
- URDC Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/emuurdc/">https://www.instagram.com/emuurdc/</a>

## Distribution of EMU Publications by SDGs



# EMU Activities and Events aligned with the SDGs for the Past 3 Years

#### Number of Activities and Events per SDG per Year



SDG	SDG Title	2023 Events	2024 Events	2025 Events
1	No Poverty	2	0	0
2	Zero Hunger	0	1	1
3	Good Health and Well-being	8	3	2
4	Quality Education	9	16	22
5	Gender Equality	12	9	9
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	3	7	8
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	6	6	8
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	4	4	5
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	7	9	11
10	Reduced Inequalities	14	13	12
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	12	14	16
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	7	7	9
13	Climate Action	18	18	16
14	Life Below Water	13	11	12
15	Life on Land	8	7	13
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	.5	5	2



Eastern Mediterranean University integrates poverty-related themes across its academic programs. The Faculty of Business and Economics, ranked among the top worldwide, focuses on economic development and social responsibility. The Faculties of Architecture, Engineering, Health Sciences, Education, Arts and Sciences, and Law also contribute through sustainable design, infrastructure, public health, social inclusion, research, and legal frameworks. Together, these faculties prepare students to actively contribute to ending poverty and fostering equitable, sustainable communities both locally and globally.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

1. Support Systems for Low Income Students

The university provides a comprehensive range of support services tailored to the needs of students from low-income These affordable families. include housing, access to food programs, transportation support, and legal assistance helping to create a safe and environment that students to focus on their education.

2. International Solidarity and Educational Equity

Eastern Mediterranean University extends its commitment to poverty alleviation globally by offering dedicated schemes for students from low and lower middle-income countries. These include free education and grants designed to increase access for underrepresented international student populations and support global educational equity.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

Beyond the university, Eastern Mediterranean University engages in local capacity building through training workshops, mentorship initiatives, and access to university resources. These programs assist community members in launching financially and socially sustainable businesses. Additionally, the university provides targeted financial support to help these initiatives take root and grow.

## Operational Strategies for Sustainability

#### 1. Policy Engagement for Structural Change

Eastern Mediterranean University actively contributes to broader anti poverty efforts by participating in policy making processes at local, national, and global levels. Through these engagements, the university supports the development and implementation of long-term strategies to eliminate poverty in all its dimensions.

#### 2. Financial Support for Students

Eastern Mediterranean University offers a range of financial support options including scholarships and grants available for both undergraduate and postgraduate students to ensure academic accessibility and success for students from diverse economic backgrounds.

### Ratio of students with scholarships



- students with 100% scholarship
- students with 50% scholarship
- students without a scholarship

Percentage of students receiving a scholarship

This year, EMU recorded a 4% increase in students receiving scholarships, reflecting ongoing efforts to ensure that higher education remains accessible to all, regardless of economic background.

**2**023-2024 **2**024-2025



EMU Signs Collaboration Protocol with iskele Mimoza Inner Wheel Association





Eastern Mediterranean University promotes awareness and education on food security and nutrition through academic programs and extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to engage with sustainable agriculture, food justice, and public health topics, fostering a deep understanding of hunger-related challenges and solutions.

#### **Student Access and Inclusion**

EMU ensures that students have access to healthy and affordable meals on campus. Dining facilities such as Tabldot provide nutritious home-cooked style food at convenient prices, supporting student well-being and academic success without financial burden.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

The university supports local communities by participating in food security initiatives such as community gardens, food drives, and nutrition education programs. These efforts aim to alleviate hunger and promote sustainable food practices within the region.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU implements sustainable food management practices on campus, including waste reduction, responsible sourcing, and promoting local and seasonal food options. These operational strategies contribute to minimizing food waste and supporting environmentally friendly food systems.



EMU provided free food service to students residing at dormitories



EMU Organises an Iftar Dinner for Students



EMU Nutrition And Dietetics department organizes "intercultural food festival"



Eastern Mediterranean University advances the goal of good health and well-being through both theoretical and practical education within its health-focused faculties. The Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, and Faculty of Dentistry deliver rigorous academic training combined with clinical experience to prepare students for careers in healthcare and public health. Students engage directly with patients and professionals through affiliated centers such as the EMU Clinical Application and Research Center and the Center for the Application and Research for Healthy Life, gaining practical experience in areas like physiotherapy, nutrition, rehabilitation, and general medicine. These faculties also participate in collaborative projects with national and international health institutions, ensuring students are equipped to address real-world health challenges through evidence-based approaches.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU supports student well-being through an integrated network of services. The Health Center provides general medical care with 13 specialist doctors and a private ambulance. Students also benefit from access to mental health services through the Center for Psychological Counseling, Guidance and Research (PDRAM) and academic guidance from the Center for Graduate Communications and Career Research. A university-wide smokefree policy further supports a health-conscious campus environment. Mental health services are also available to EMU staff, reinforcing the university's commitment to community-wide well-being.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU's health-related impact extends into the community through structured outreach and engagement. The EMU Clinical Application and Research Center, under the Faculty of Medicine, provides outpatient care across a range of medical disciplines including Pediatrics, Neurology, Orthopedics, and Clinical Psychology. The Center for the Application and Research for Healthy Life further offers services in nutrition, nursing, and rehabilitation. Through outreach initiatives and student volunteering, EMU promotes health awareness in the local community on topics such as hygiene, aging well, nutrition, and exercise. Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) also issues an Emergency Blood Donation Announcement to all students, staff, and alumni whenever there is an urgent need for blood in any hospital across the country. Recognizing the strength of its large and inclusive community, EMU upholds the belief that collective responsiveness can play a vital role in supporting public health and saving lives.

## Operational Strategies for Sustainability

Eastern Mediterranean University cultivates a health-supportive environment through strong infrastructure, integrated services, and a commitment to health education. In addition to its academic programs, EMU operates a comprehensive Health Center that provides students with direct access to essential care through 13 specialist doctors and a fully operational ambulance. The university's investment wellness in sports and infrastructure includes a 5,000-seat stadium, a tartan athletics track, spinning and TRX halls, a cardio center, and a 3,500-seat indoor sports complex, all within 66,500 m² of open space. EMU's smoke-free campus and accessible mental health services for both students and staff further reinforce a campus culture that prioritizes physical and mental well-being for all.

Lala Mustafa Paşa (LMP) Sports Complex









Percentage of events held at EMU related to SDG3



■ SDG 3 ■ other SDGs



Events held for blood donation and diabetics



At Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), we are committed to providing world-class education that prepares students to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Courses are delivered primarily in English, with opportunities to learn additional languages, ensuring that our graduates are equipped with the global competencies required in today's job market.

Our programs are developed in line with international standards and supported by prestigious accreditations, reflecting our dedication to academic quality and continuous improvement. With a diverse academic community of academicians from over 35 countries and students from more than 110 nations, EMU cultivates an inclusive, multicultural learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and global awareness.

#### **Student Access and Inclusion**

EMU offers a wide range of opportunities that enhance both academic and personal growth. Students can pursue double major and minor programs, tailoring their academic path to match their individual goals and interests.

Outside the classroom, over 50 student clubs and societies contribute to a vibrant campus culture, allowing students to engage, collaborate, and lead across a variety of social, academic, and cultural interests. EMU also supports international mobility through its Student Exchange Program, which enables students to study abroad at partner institutions in 13 countries with full academic credit transfer.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

Our commitment to education extends into the community. EMU regularly hosts public lectures, academic events, and executive education programs open to individuals outside the university. Through outreach initiatives and vocational training activities, we bring learning opportunities to local schools, organizations, and underserved communities—many of which are supported by voluntary student participation.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

We provide extensive scholarship schemes and financial aid opportunities to support students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Inclusive policies ensure access to all educational and extracurricular activities, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or immigration status.

EMU also supports learning through the provision of free and open educational resources. Community members, as well as students, have access to the Özay Oral Library, computer labs, online learning materials. and public academic events. These resources represent our broader commitment to sustainability through education—ensuring that knowledge remains accessible, enduring, and impactful.

700+

courses related to sustainability

**30**+

Research Centers

2724

**Graduates in 2024-2025** 

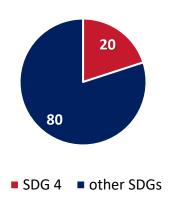








## Percentage of events held at EMU related to SDG4















At Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), we are committed to fostering gender equity through both academic content and institutional practice. Our curriculum encourages critical engagement with social justice and inclusion topics, while our academic environment supports the full participation of students across all gender identities. A key component of this commitment is the Gender Studies MA Program; an interdisciplinary graduate program offered in cooperation with EMU's Center for Women's Studies and the Faculty of Business and Economics Department of Economics. It draws students from diverse disciplines and prepares graduates for roles in research, policy development, academia, and advocacy at local, national, and international levels.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU is actively expanding educational opportunities for women in all academic disciplines, particularly in areas where they are historically underrepresented. Through outreach programs, national campaigns, and partnerships with NGOs and educational institutions, we work to encourage women's participation in fields such as engineering, computing, and economics.

In the most recent academic year, 48.5% of new students were women, reflecting a 4% increase from the previous year. This trend is supported by dedicated access schemes including scholarships, mentoring programs, and academic support structures. Notably, over 10% of female students participate in structured mentorship programs aimed at academic success and professional development.

Beyond academics, student clubs provide diverse avenues for students to lead and collaborate, promoting an inclusive and active campus life.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU's gender equality initiatives reach into the broader community through collaborative projects with NGOs, local organizations, and government agencies. These partnerships help promote inclusive access to education and professional development through events, campaigns, and outreach activities.

## Operational Strategies for Sustainability

Our institutional policies are designed to ensure a safe, supportive, and equitable environment for all members of the EMU community. Accessible on campus childcare facilities enable students and staff, particularly women, to remain active in their academic and professional roles, while maternity and paternity leave policies support shared caregiving responsibilities. A nonretaliation policy further protects individuals reporting discrimination, reinforcing accountability and transparency in all matters related to gender equity.

The Center for Women's Studies (CWS), established in 1998 as the first of its kind in Northern Cyprus, further strengthens this mission by promoting interdisciplinary research, raising awareness, and organizing seminars, publications, and a graduate Gender Studies program. Notably, 56.6% of EMU's academic and administrative staff are women, reflecting the university's sustained efforts to promote balanced representation in leadership, teaching, and research roles.

#### Female and Male Staff



- Male Academic Staff
- Female Academic Staff













EMU Techgirls Committee and Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences visit Asbank

Two important events from EMU Faculty of Architecture department of Architecture for Women Day







"No Excuse": EMU's raises for violence









DID YOU KNOW?

16% TO 58% OF WOMEN GLOBALLY EXPERIENCE TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. GENERATION Z AND MILLENNIALS ARE THE MOST AFFECTED.

DID YOU KNOW?





70% OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT, WAR, AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS, EXPERIENCE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.











"Women Pushing The Limits in Technology" talk held at EMU



Open discussion and book introduction event in International Women's Day







At Eastern Mediterranean University, water-related education is addressed through a multidisciplinary approach. The Department of Civil Engineering trains students in areas such as hydrology, wastewater treatment, and sanitation infrastructure, preparing future engineers to develop resilient and efficient systems. In parallel, the Faculty of Health Sciences explores the relationship between water and public health, emphasizing hygiene, waterborne diseases, and environmental health. The Faculty of Architecture integrates water-conscious thinking into design education through studies in rainwater harvesting, green infrastructure, and ecological landscaping. Through these programs, EMU equips students with the technical and conceptual tools to tackle global water challenges.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

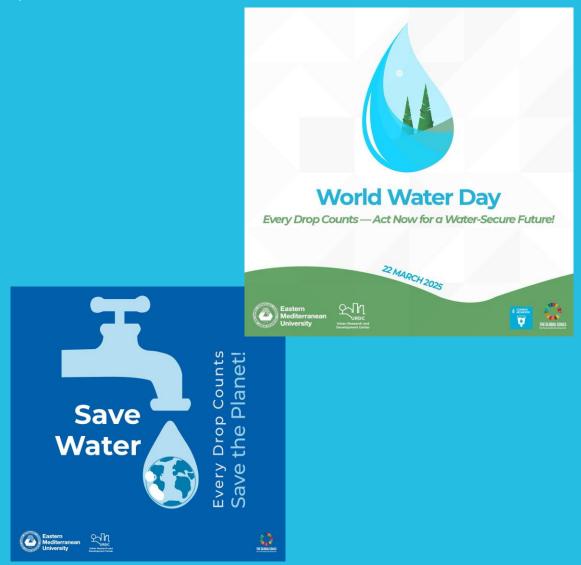
Water awareness is actively promoted within the student body through regular campaigns and events organized by student clubs and supported by faculty. These initiatives help cultivate a culture of conscious water use on campus. Complementing these efforts, the university provides free access to drinking water through strategically placed water stations, ensuring that all students, staff, and visitors have access to clean water while reinforcing sustainable behavior.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU's water-related outreach activities extend into the surrounding community, contributing to broader awareness and behavioral change. The university organizes public campaigns and places educational posters to encourage water conservation and proper hygiene practices. Additionally, EMU works with local and national authorities to contribute to water security strategies, reinforcing the university's civic role in advancing sustainability at a regional scale.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

Water sustainability is embedded in EMU's campus operations through a comprehensive set of systems and policies. The university treats its wastewater and maintains preventive systems to avoid water pollution from operational accidents. Greywater is reused for non-potable functions across campus, and rainwater harvesting systems contribute to water conservation. EMU applies building standards that prioritize low water consumption and incorporates drought-resistant plants in campus landscaping to minimize irrigation needs. These efforts are supported by a university-wide policy that maximizes water reuse wherever possible. Awareness campaigns targeting both campus users and the wider community emphasize the importance of individual responsibility in conserving water resources. Where water is extracted from natural sources, EMU ensures the use of sustainable technologies to minimize environmental impact.





At EMU, clean energy and sustainable design are integrated into education across several key faculties, including Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and the Faculty of Architecture. These programs equip students with the theoretical and technical knowledge to address global energy challenges. Course offerings and research opportunities span topics such as solar and wind power, energy efficiency, and sustainable construction methods. Postgraduate students often center their theses on energy-related themes, contributing original research to the field. Complementing this academic foundation, EMU has hosted workshops, conferences, and keynote lectures focused on clean and renewable energy, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and innovation.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU ensures that students have meaningful opportunities to engage with clean energy and sustainability initiatives both inside and outside the classroom. Engineering students participate in the university's electric project such as electric vehicle development projects, while Architecture students contribute to designing energy-efficient, affordable housing projects and workshops. Additionally, the SDG Student Club provides a platform for students to lead or join activities that promote awareness and practical action around clean and renewable energy. These opportunities reinforce a hands-on learning environment and empower students to contribute to sustainable energy solutions.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU extends its energy expertise to benefit the broader community. A standout initiative is the solar charging workstation designed and built by Faculty of Architecture students through the Research Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Built Environment (ISBE). Donated to the Yeniboğaziçi Elementary School, this portable solar-powered unit serves both educational and practical purposes, embodying EMU's commitment to socially responsible design. Beyond such hands-on projects, the university has also led energy awareness campaigns and partnered with local authorities, NGOs, and businesses to promote the use of renewable energy in the region.

## Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU is implementing campus-wide strategies to transition toward a cleaner energy future. In 2025, an additional agreement on renewable energy was signed between Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) and the Eastern Mediterranean University Academic Staff Union (DAÜ-SEN). The agreement covers the installation of renewable energy systems and related arrangements for the DAÜ-SEN Local located in EMU's Department of Mechanical Engineering. Within this framework, DAÜ-SEN will establish a renewable energy system integrated into the Electric Vehicle Development Building to fully cover the annual electricity consumption of the DAÜ-SEN Local, while also contributing to the production of a prototype electric vehicle charging unit at the EMU Electric Vehicle Development Center.

Existing infrastructure is already equipped with LED lighting, smart appliances, and energy-saving systems, reflecting a campus-wide commitment to energy efficiency. As part of its sustainability and innovation vision, EMU, through the Electric Vehicle Development Center, has launched an initiative encouraging staff members to donate broken or unused electronic devices for disassembly and reuse in student engineering projects, thereby reducing electronic waste, lowering project costs, and promoting environmentally responsible innovation.



An additional agreement on renewable energy signed between emu and DAÜ-SEN



Ecologic design from the EMU Faculty of Architecture students: Solar charging workstation granted to Yeniboğaziçi Elementary School



Two groundbreaking inventions in the field of Energy Technologies by EMU department of Mechanical Engineering



Identifying an optimal renewable energy strategy for the EMU campus





At EMU, undergraduate students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to support fair and inclusive labor systems through programs that emphasize decent work, ethical management, and sustainable business practices. Our BSc in Management, alongside programs in Human Resources Management, Accounting and Financial Management, Tourism and Hospitality Management, and Management Engineering, offer specialized coursework on labor standards, workplace equity, organizational leadership, and responsible employment practices. These programs foster an understanding of the principles behind safe working environments, fair wages, and employee well-being—essential for shaping future leaders committed to upholding workers' rights and contributing to dignified employment across sectors.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU fosters a learning environment where students can explore career pathways and develop essential skills for the job market. A key example is the Entrepreneurship Club, which cultivates innovative thinking, leadership, and business development skills through training sessions, seminars, and practical projects. Open to students from all disciplines, the club provides a platform to explore business ideas and engage directly with the dynamics of start-up culture. Through these experiences, EMU helps bridge the gap between academic learning and workforce integration, offering students the tools and confidence to enter the labor market with purpose and preparedness.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU actively contributes to local and regional economic development through its partnerships and outreach programs. The university collaborates with municipalities, NGOs, and other local actors to support job creation, entrepreneurship, and capacity-building in the broader community. These efforts include vocational training sessions, business development workshops, and public seminars aimed at enhancing financial literacy and employment skills.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) promotes a fair, inclusive, and ethically governed workplace grounded in democratic and autonomous principles. All employees receive at least the local living wage, with full recognition of labor rights, including collective bargaining and union participation. Policies ensure non-discrimination, equal pay, and work-life balance through maternity and paternity leave and accessible childcare.

EMU's governance model emphasizes accountability, transparency, and participation, aligning with the spirit of SDG 8. EMU has three trade unions: one for academic staff and two for administrative officers. These trade unions sign collective bargaining agreements with the University every two years to improve and secure decent working conditions. Through its Senate, University Executive Board and unions, the University safeguards employee rights and fosters social justice and decent working conditions. Even amid financial challenges, EMU remains committed to sustainability through shared responsibility, ethical management, and institutional integrity, ensuring that its operations reflect equality and respect for all.



EMU Faculty of Tourism students contribute to EMU Beach Club

EMU internationally represented at University of Coimbra



"Boundaries and Pressure in Workplace: Psychological Violence -Mobbing" workshop held in collaboration with EMU-PDRAM and EMU-CEC





EMU signs a jobassured collaboration protocol with a german company

EMU students proudfully represented TRNC in the Turkic Red Network Volunteering Camp







At Eastern Mediterranean University, innovation is a central pillar of academic life. Faculties such as Engineering, Architecture, and Business & Economics equip students with the skills to design smart systems, manage sustainable development, and lead in technology-driven industries. EMU's interdisciplinary approach allows students to explore cutting-edge topics such as renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and sustainable urbanism through courses, labs, and postgraduate research.

EMU's educational impact is reflected in real-world recognition—two EMU graduates were recently named among the '100 Most Influential Digital Leaders of Türkiye', highlighting the university's success in nurturing innovation-driven talent that influences national and regional digital transformation.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU supports students in applying their knowledge beyond the classroom. Teams from the Faculty of Engineering recently reached the final stage of TEKNOFEST, Türkiye's premier aerospace and technology competition, competing alongside major universities and entrepreneurial ventures.

EMU students are regularly encouraged to represent the university in national and international innovation challenges, gaining experience and exposure in fields such as AI, renewable energy, and sustainable mobility.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

The Urban Research & Development Center (URDC) coordinates applied projects such as the Büyükkonuk Village Eco Tourism Revitalization initiative, implemented in partnership with USAID. These interdisciplinary interventions enhance local resilience, infrastructure, and economic opportunity. URDC also hosts public seminars—such as the "Re:Think SDGs" webinar series and "Celebrating Public Space" events—bridging academic insights and civic awareness in service of sustainable urban development.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) supports start-ups and small businesses by providing industry consulting, market research, and training—linking EMU's research capacity with regional economic growth gimer.emu.edu.tr. In addition, the Continuing Education Center (EMU-CEC) delivers certificate programs and professional development to external participants, enhancing technological literacy and workforce readiness in the wider community sem.emu.edu.tr.



"ASHINA" team composed of EMU students invited to Teknofest 2025

Posters of Al Summit 25





Series of webinars by URDC about innovative designs

> An EMU alumnus among the most influential Cios in Türkiye: Mert Oruz





EMU students' Artificial Intelligence-supported innovative project: 'AICTA' for the news sector



Two EMU graduates listed among the '100 Most Influential Digital Leaders of Türkiye'



EMU promotes inclusive learning by offering academic content related to inequality, accessibility, and social justice across departments such as Education, Law, Psychology, and Special Education. These programs raise awareness of marginalized groups and advocate for social equity through courses and community-based learning. Faculty members and students also participate in high school outreach to encourage access to higher education for underrepresented youth.

#### **Student Access and Inclusion**

EMU implements a non-discriminatory admissions policy and tracks the application and admission of underrepresented groups, including students with disabilities and low-income applicants. The university offers targeted scholarships for students with disabilities and supports these students with personal assistance, interpreters, and accessible campus facilities. Mentoring, counseling, and peer support programs are available to enhance the academic and social experiences of disadvantaged groups. A Diversity and Equality Committee operates on campus to implement and oversee policies related to equity and inclusion.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU students and staff actively engage with the wider community to promote equality. On 3 December 2024, the Faculty of Dentistry released a statement reaffirming its commitment to disability rights and accessibility. In another example, EMU students organized an inclusive music and food event for visually impaired children, promoting social integration through shared cultural experiences. Additionally, the Special Education Club regularly collaborates with local institutions on awareness and educational campaigns focused on individuals with special needs.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU is widely recognized for its efforts to make its campus accessible. A long-term "Barrier-Free Campus" initiative, supported by the Rector's Office, led to upgraded campus infrastructure, including ramps, tactile paving, and accessible classrooms. In 2022, EMU's Urban Research & Development Center launched a "Barrier-Free Access Award" to honor local businesses making their spaces inclusive. EMU also has official anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies, a diversity office, and a reasonable accommodation policy supported by adequate funding.



EMU students organizes a day filled with food and music for the visually impaired children

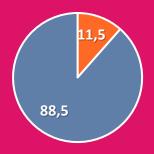
3634

Number of international students from developing countries



EMU continues to make its campus friendlier for people with disabilities

Percentage of events held at EMU related to SDG10



■ SDG 10 ■ other SDGs





Posters of events and awareness statements about people with disabilities



At Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), students are introduced to city-wide planning and sustainability concepts that prepare them to engage thoughtfully with community and societal challenges. The Department of Architecture emphasizes sustainable urban design, addressing issues such as walkability, green infrastructure, historic preservation, and disaster-resilient strategies. While these courses provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge of urban systems, EMU also fosters the development of sustainable communities through cultural nights, seminars, and awareness programs. These initiatives engage students with global challenges, encourage responsible civic participation, and cultivate a sense of stewardship toward creating more resilient and inclusive cities.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU promotes open access to cultural, educational, and natural resources for students and the wider community. The university maintains publicly accessible libraries, green spaces, and exhibition areas. Students are actively involved in creative and cultural expression through clubs and initiatives that explore art, heritage, and sustainability. EMU's campus infrastructure is also designed with inclusivity in mind, prioritizing pedestrian access and physical accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) are actively engaged in community-based initiatives that foster sustainable urbanism beyond the campus. In collaboration with Kyrenia Municipality, KTMMOB, and other professional bodies, URDC co-organized the "City Forest Life Workshop: Multidisciplinary Spatial Planning Training," highlighting EMU's leadership in regional planning dialogue. The university also hosted the ICOMOS Day 2025 Seminar, featuring Architect Ümit Erdim, to explore restoration and adaptive reuse in urban heritage. Additionally, EMU contributed to "Sustainability Day" at Famagusta Turkish Maarif College, where URDC representatives supported youth-led environmental awareness efforts.

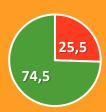
#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU prioritizes sustainable campus development through both teaching and institutional planning. The university supports sustainable mobility through electric scooter programs available to students and staff, and places importance on pedestrian-friendly design. EMU also promotes the use of open green spaces and continues to implement policies that enhance walkability and public access. New construction projects are guided by environmentally responsible design practices in alignment with regional standards. EMU also hosts a variety of cultural events every semester which helps students get to know other cultures



University Urban Research College, organized by Club.

#### Percentage of events held at EMU related to SDG11





#### ■ SDG 11 ■ other SDGs



Forest Life workshop organized





#### 27th Spring Festival









**PUBLIC SPACES FOR A HEALTHIER** AND MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY

**PUBLIC SPACES FOR A HEALTHIER** AND MORE **EQUITABLE** SOCIETY

Physical activity.

Public spaces, such as parks, trails, and recreation centers, can provide opportunities for physical activity. This can help promote physical health and well-being and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Public spaces, such as community centers, libraries, and other gathering spaces, can provide a platform for social interaction, which is essential for mental health and well-being.

Public spaces can be used for health services such as vaccination clinics, health fairs, and screenings. This can help to increase access to healthcare and promote preventive health behaviors.







AND MORE

EQUITABLE

SOCIETY







PUBLIC SPACES

AND MORE

**EQUITABLE** 

SOCIETY

FOR A HEALTHIER









URDC posted

public awareness post about public spaces



Public spaces can enhance mental health and well-being by providing mindfulness programs, meditation areas, and support groups. This can help reduce stress and foster mental well-being.

Healthy food options:
Public spaces can provide healthy food options, such as farmers' markets and community gardens, promoting healthy eating habits and reducing the risk of chronic disease.













27th Spring Festival
Festival's Website

4 Concerts
5 Keynotes
1 panel
2 Theater Plays
7 Tournements





At Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), several departments integrate responsible consumption and production into their curricula. The Architecture program, for example, emphasizes material efficiency, energy-conscious building design, and sustainable construction practices. Students engage in projects that cultivate awareness of environmental impact in design decisions. Similarly, the Business, Civil Engineering, and other departments provide courses and case studies that address sustainable practices within their fields, aiming to develop a generation of professionals who prioritize sustainable consumption in their future work.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU encourages inclusive participation in sustainability-focused activities; in the spring semester of 2024-2025, students of course ARCH320 introduced the idea for a Swap and Save event in the EMU campus. Students were able to bring items and swap among each other. Moreover, The Architecture program hosts the annual Design Week, featuring seminars, workshops, and keynote sessions on topics such as sustainable energy use in design, innovative material applications, and low-impact construction strategies. These events are open to students across departments, fostering interdisciplinary learning and engagement with sustainability challenges.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU, through the Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) and in partnership with local NGOs, actively engages the community on sustainability issues. For example, on June 12, 2025, EMU hosted a panel for World Environment Day focused on the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution," bringing together students, staff, and local stakeholders to discuss practical solutions and raise awareness about reducing plastic waste.

### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU integrates responsible consumption and production into campus operations. EMU has initiated the installation of photovoltaic panels across campus to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy. Ongoing infrastructure upgrades emphasize energy efficiency, sustainable material use, and environmentally responsible practices, while departments embed these principles into research and student projects, reinforcing EMU's commitment to operational sustainability.









At Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), climate change is addressed through both coursework and applied research. Programs emphasize the risks, impacts, and mitigation strategies of climate change, encouraging students to understand adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning systems. Academic staff and graduate students contribute to workshops and seminars that connect climate science with cultural heritage preservation and sustainable design practices, equipping students with practical tools to address climate-related challenges.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU ensures students have inclusive access to climate-related education and activities. Workshops, seminars, and interactive training sessions are open to undergraduate and graduate students across disciplines, providing opportunities to engage with issues such as energy-conscious design, climate vulnerability assessments, and cultural heritage preservation under changing climate conditions. These platforms encourage student participation in shaping adaptive solutions tailored to local and regional needs.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU actively collaborates with municipalities and NGOs to promote climate adaptation and awareness in Famagusta and beyond. In February 2025, EMU and Mağusa Suriçi Derneği (MASDER) collaborated for a workshop titled "Climate Change and Society: Preservation of Famagusta's Cultural Heritage Assets", where academic staff and students worked with community members to assess climate risks to heritage sites. Similarly, in February 2024, a protocol signed between EMU, Famagusta Municipality, and NGO MAKAMER led to the Ayluga Natural Life Park initiative, with URDC contributing design concepts to protect the lake area and foster environmental awareness. These collaborations demonstrate EMU's leadership in uniting scientific expertise with community action.

### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

As an institution, EMU has adopted a Climate Action Plan, developed in consultation with local government and community groups, to align university operations with climate resilience goals. The university collaborates with NGOs on climate adaptation projects. These measures reflect EMU's commitment to reducing climate risks, conserving ecosystems, and embedding sustainable practices across its operations and partnerships.





The role of the local community over the Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Preservation discussed in collaborations of EMU and MASDER



URDC contribution to the design of Ayluga Natural Life Park in Famagusta



Poster for an event of tree planting in memory Champion Angels





Eastern Mediterranean University integrates marine and water sustainability into education by linking academic knowledge with real-world conservation. Through centers like the Water and Marine Sciences Research Center (SUDEM) and the Underwater Imaging and Research Center (EMU-SAGEM), students are engaged in field research on issues such as water scarcity, marine pollution, and biodiversity protection. These centers also provide platforms for students to develop research papers and theses, ensuring that their academic training contributes directly to solutions for Mediterranean ecosystems.

#### **Student Access and Inclusion**

EMU ensures inclusive participation by offering students hands-on involvement in conservation and monitoring activities, from turtle nesting studies to coastal and harbor assessments. Opportunities are open to both local and international students, enabling them to gain valuable experience in applied research and environmental problem-solving. This inclusive approach fosters a new generation of professionals equipped to address marine and water-related challenges at local and global levels.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU actively collaborates with civil society organizations such as the North Cyprus Society for the Protection of Turtles (SPOT), local fishermen, municipalities, and funding partners including Türkiye İŞBANK and the Lions Clubs Federation. Public awareness activities, such as live tracking of tagged turtles and community-based workshops, connect science with everyday life and raise awareness of marine conservation. These partnerships strengthen ties between the university and society, while amplifying the impact of conservation work across the island.

#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU is committed to advancing long-term strategies for water and marine sustainability. Ongoing projects include the master planning of national harbors and coastal areas, monitoring of currents and sediment, establishment of fish breeding pilot schemes, and measures to mitigate seawater intrusion into aquifers. These applied research initiatives not only address urgent environmental challenges in Cyprus but also contribute to regional strategies for safeguarding marine ecosystems and water resources.



Two Caretta Caretta Turtles fitted with satellite transmitters in a joint effort of EMU-Sagem and Spot





Poster for a seminar about Geopolitics

Maritime



Eastern Mediterranean University equips students with knowledge and practical skills to protect terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity, and cultural landscapes. Through hands-on learning, research projects, and community initiatives, students engage in conservation practices, sustainable land management, and ecological stewardship. Postgraduate programs and PhD research further enable advanced studies that link academic work to real-world outcomes, including the preservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources, and safeguarding of cultural heritage, fostering both local and regional environmental responsibility.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU ensures inclusive access to both theoretical and field-based learning. Students participate in research, workshops, exhibitions, and interdisciplinary projects through centers such as the Research Center for Archaeological and Cultural Heritage and DAKMAR. These platforms allow students from diverse disciplines to gain practical experience in surveying, restoration, conservation, and cultural landscape management, fostering collaboration across architecture, archaeology, ecology, and related fields.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU actively collaborates with local and international partners to promote land and heritage sustainability. Projects such as the Salamis Archaeological Site survey, restoration and conservation initiatives, and cultural heritage management plans involve local communities, municipalities, and NGOs. Public workshops, exhibitions, and conferences raise awareness and encourage community participation, ensuring that research outcomes contribute to broader societal understanding and stewardship of natural and cultural landscapes.

### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

EMU integrates sustainability into its operational strategies through research and applied projects focused on conservation and ecosystem management. Centers like the Research Center for Archaeological and Cultural Heritage and DAKMAR develop long-term plans for preserving cultural landscapes, restoring degraded sites, and conserving biodiversity. By combining academic expertise with collaborative, evidence-based approaches, EMU ensures the sustainable management of land, ecosystems, and heritage resources for future generations. EMU also continues to be an animal-friendly campus, promoting the welfare of campus animals and integrating humane treatment into its sustainability and community engagement initiatives.

# EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç Visits "Kral Tepesi" Excavation Site in Kaleburnu



EMU continues to be a safe place for animals



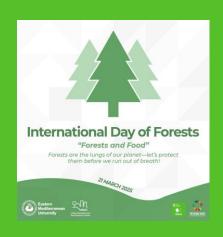
Poster for event focusing on conservation and restoration



EMU taking good care of green spaces and vegetation



Beating Plastic Pollution: EMU, URDC, and local NGOs unite for World Environment Day 2025





Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) equips students with knowledge and skills to understand and promote justice, governance, and societal stability. Law programs offered in both English and Turkish provide students with a comprehensive understanding of legal systems while emphasizing the link between justice, peace, and sustainable development. Complementary seminars, such as the "Cultural Adaptation and Law of the Land", further support students' understanding of legal frameworks and civic responsibilities in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

#### Student Access and Inclusion

EMU ensures inclusive opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning and civic development. Student-led platforms such as the Law Club, Idea and Debate Club, and International Relations (PUGWASH) Club offer spaces for debate, research, cultural exchange, and practical application of governance and justice knowledge. These activities foster critical thinking, social responsibility, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, giving all students accessible ways to actively participate in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions.

#### **Engaging Communities Beyond Campus**

EMU actively connects students and faculty with external partners to strengthen institutional collaboration and community engagement. Hosting organizations like the Union of Turkish-Islamic Cultural Associations in Europe, organizing panels with international relations experts, and collaborating with professional legal practitioners enable EMU to serve as a hub for dialogue on justice, governance, and peace. These partnerships support knowledge exchange, public awareness, and practical engagement beyond the campus. The Cyprus Policy Center (CPC) is another research center that plays a pivotal role in fostering dialogue and collaboration by actively engaging students and academic staff with external stakeholders. Through its seminars, conferences, and public events, the CPC provides a platform for knowledge exchange, strengthens institutional partnerships, and enhances the university's contribution to community engagement and policy development.

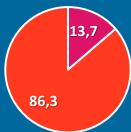
#### Operational Strategies for Sustainability

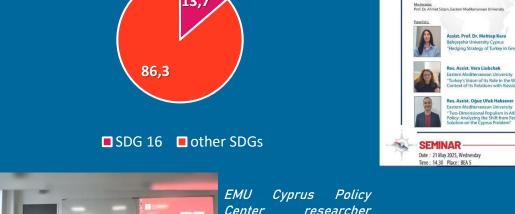
EMU demonstrates its commitment to ethical governance, transparency, and strong institutional frameworks through its academic and organizational practices. By embedding principles of justice, social responsibility, and civic engagement into programs, clubs, and seminars, EMU ensures that students, staff, and the wider community are aligned with sustainable governance practices. These strategies reinforce EMU's role as a model institution for cultivating peace, rule of law, and robust societal structures.

**CPC** 

**Current Directions in Turkish** Foreign Policy: Strategy, Shifts, and Challenges

#### Percentage of events held at EMU related to SDG16







Center researcher Assist. Prof. Dr. Devrim Şahin delivers presentation at Lille Catholic University







EMU hosts the Union of Turkish - Islamic Cultural Associations in Europe

# 17 PARTIMERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## Accreditations



Engineering Accreditation Commission



































## Recognition







EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

## Memberships (University)

















# 17 PARTINERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

# Memberships (Faculty)















































































# EMU: Shaping a Sustainable Future Together

Eastern Mediterranean University is moving from commitment to transformation. Building on the progress achieved through its SDG initiatives, EMU's upcoming sustainability agenda centers on measurable actions across campus operations and academic development.

In the coming years, the University will expand renewable energy installations, enhance waste reduction and recycling systems, and adopt smarter energy management technologies to lower carbon emissions. Ongoing collaboration between the Electric Vehicle Development Center and other research units will strengthen EMU's role in advancing clean mobility and circular innovation.

At the academic level, sustainability will remain a cross-cutting priority in curricula, research, and student initiatives. EMU plans to create stronger links between research centers and real-world applications, particularly in areas such as climate adaptation, water conservation, and sustainable urbanism.



Guided by its mission of education, innovation, and community responsibility, EMU will continue to align institutional practices with global sustainability standards—turning research into impact and commitment into tangible progress.



Together for a sustainable EMU



Together with its students, staff, and partners, EMU stands ready to turn today's initiatives into tomorrow's sustainable legacy.

The Eastern Mediterranean University Sustainable Development Goals 2024-2025 Report

