



İZMİR UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

**UN GLOBAL COMPACT
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

2013-2015



ABOUT IZMIR UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

Established as the first foundation university in Izmir and in Aegean Region in 2001, Izmir University of Economics (IUE) currently has 7 Faculties, 2 Schools, 3 Vocational Schools, 3 Graduate Schools, and 8 Research Centres. These academic units offer 17 associate degree programs, 36 undergraduate programs, 31 graduate programs, and 6 PhD programs. Seven of the undergraduate programs are dual diploma programs executed jointly with the USA-(SUNY) New York State University. As of June 2015, IUE also has ERASMUS partnership agreements with 156 universities in 28 countries, and academic cooperation protocols with 31 well respected universities.

Mission

The Mission of IUE is to equip graduates with leadership attributes, entrepreneurial capabilities, critical thinking skills, and the ability to make an important contribution to research in a variety of sciences.

Vision

The Vision of IUE is to become a pre-eminent institution of higher learning in the world of contemporary education, and to conduct pioneering research in a variety of disciplines.

The Basic Values of the Institution

Participation; the fostering of a universal, flexible, pluralist academic environment which is transparent and open to collaboration.

Innovation; to take part in effective and creative interdisciplinary research and development activities, which result in practical innovations.

Social Responsibility; to be responsible within the community by effectively managing social resources in the production and dissemination of universally-accepted research findings.

Perfectionism; to consistently focus on the best possible outcome in every activity.

Memberships

IUE is a member of many international organizations such as IAU (International Association of Universities), EUA (European University Association), NICE Network, Magna Charta Universitatum, CMU, WTO (World Tourism Organization), UN Global Compact, European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) and CEEMAN. IUE is aiming at students to gain a global perspective through collaborations.

Human Rights

IUE prides itself on supporting gender equality on campus where equality among the University leadership, the student body and administrative staff is a top priority. In addition to gender equality, the University provides an environment free of discrimination where individuals can freely express their ethnic, religious or gender identities. This liberal approach is also seen in the research and curriculum of the University.

IUE understands and implements policies that respect human rights, and reflects this understanding on campus activities, working conditions, academic teaching and research. All individuals on the IUE campus, and those that contribute to the University, whether academic or administrative personnel, students or outside service providers, are treated equally, regardless of nationality, beliefs, attitudes, gender, age, marital status or any other discriminating criteria.

In addition, the University has different policies in place that deal with any possible breaches of its commitment to upholding human rights and equality on campus. These policies apply equally to both personnel and students. All incoming freshman are given information on the University's code of conduct and approach to human rights and gender equality. Included in

freshman orientation are topics such as gender equality and preventing bullying and sexual harassment. The students are also made aware of their rights in case they experience unwanted behavior.

In relation to gender equality among academic staff, we can say that there are more female in the academic staff than males (66% of the academic staff are women) while the upper management is almost evenly distributed between men and women (46% of upper level management are women).

Currently, throughout different faculties of the University, seven separate courses are offered that focus on gender and human rights in different areas, such as politics, media, philosophy and economics. Several graduate and PhD level theses have also focused on gender and human rights. The student organization Equal Platform deals specifically with human rights and gender equality, while other ad hoc student groups organize special events such as November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), March 8 (International Women's Day), and Anti-homophobia week (May). Many of these student activities are funded by the University.



The University's faculty member founded Gender and Women's Studies Research and Application Center (EKOKAM) in 2009, following a series of international gender conferences starting in 2006, and is the second gender studies center in Izmir, which has six universities. In addition to holding events to create gender awareness on campus, EKOKAM also organizes academic gender conferences and sponsors events to combat homophobia in May and to celebrate International Women's Day in March. EKOKAM carries out joint projects with local non-governmental organizations in the area of gender equality and human rights. Members of EKOKAM are also invited to provide expert opinion to state policy-makers when drafting reports and legislation on gender and human rights-related topics. Members of EKOKAM are also part of the city of Izmir's human rights coordination council, and have contributed to the drafting of the action plan for the city of Izmir in the area of gender equality and human rights.

IUE was one of the first universities in Izmir to address the need to incorporate gender equality and human rights, not only in campus activities, but also in curriculum and mandatory entry level social science courses. These courses provide input on such topics, increasing awareness of students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Labour

The well-being of students, faculty, and staff is one of the primary concerns of IUE. To this end, the University provides several services to ensure a safe and healthy work and study environment. The health office within the University employs a doctor and a nurse, who are on call 24/7 to provide medical services to students and staff. Counselling and psychological services are also available to enhance the mental, psychological and social

development and well-being of our students and staff. Students and staff seeking psychological consultancy and support may apply our Psychological Development and Counselling Center for services provided by a full time clinical psychiatrist. In addition to state coverage that entitles all employees to healthcare in Turkish state hospitals and clinics, the University also provides its staff with subsidized a private health insurance for receiving healthcare in private hospitals and clinics.

IUE is committed to creating an academic environment that embraces the principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression. We believe that free expression at all levels of the university is essential to excellence in teaching, research, learning, critical inquiry, and service to the community. Academic freedom affords the faculty the right to speak and write freely, contribute to shared governance, choose research topics and methods of investigation without interference, as well as to participate in curriculum design, determination of course contents, instructional materials, methods, and assessment. Students are also encouraged to use their right of free expression, via representation in the Senate through the Student Council, allowing to participate in the administrative processes. The main objectives of the Student Council are to protect the rights of students in areas such as education, health, sports and cultural issues, to help students increase their awareness of ways to support national development to establish closer ties between administrative departments and students, to convey students' expectations and requests to administrative departments, and to ensure the involvement of students in decisions that concern them. Our students may also express themselves through 70+ student clubs, and the student-run newspaper, *Univers*, published monthly since 2007.

One of the aims of the University is to provide an international and competitive environment for both its staff and the students. To reach this aim, IUE encourages departments to recruit international academic staff. Currently, 16 per cent of all full-time academic staff are non-Turkish nationals. In addition, academic personnel at associate professor level and or above have the right to take sabbatical leave for one academic year, on full pay. Since 2009, an assistant professor is permitted paid leave of up to six months for academic studies. Moreover, faculty members with less than one year of academic experience overseas can spend from five to 10 months abroad for educational purposes, again on a full salary. It is also possible for both the academic and the administrative staff to become involved in international mobility through the ERASMUS program.

In accordance with a major strategic aims of the University, to increase and enhance research activities, IUE has decided to encourage the publication of research articles in refereed journals through research awards as a motivational tool; an academician who publishes in SSCI, SCI, AHSCI journals is awarded. To reinforce scientific collaboration networks, IUE provides travel grants to support academicians presenting a scientific (research) study in national and international conferences. Additionally, to promote research activity, 1% of the University's annual income is allocated to fund projects after their approval by the IUE Scientific Research Project Commission. In addition, IUE provides tuition scholarship to administrative staff admitted to university's graduate programs.

Labor rights of staff are respected in IUE. Working time, annual leave and all holidays are compatible with labor laws. Salaries are competitive and attractive. IUE organizes free in-service training for administrative and

academic personnel. IUE Library is open to staff and students, and the most frequent users are named each month as an encouragement to use the facility. IUE Library also gives regular training sessions on using databases and other tools.

IUE perceives in harmony with all living things in the campus. Buildings are constructed to fit in with natural surroundings. Trees and all plants are protected as much as possible in planning decisions. Campus animals are accepted as a part of IUE family. The University provides all basic needs of the campus cats. Staff and students volunteer to provide food and shelter in appropriate places.



IUE has a project to support cats on campus. Second year architectural design studio students from the IUE of Architecture initiated a project to design habitation spaces the increasing cat population on campus. A two-week workshop was organized between March 20th 2015 and April 6th 2015, as part of this project, called the CatCampus. Groups of six students each built 12 cat shelters using recycled plastic, metal and wood. The important design criteria were campus hygiene, durability against weather, portability and weight, ergonomics, functionality, and suitability to the natural surroundings of the campus. This social responsibility project contributed to the

professional development of the architecture students.

Equality is embraced as a basic principle besides all human rights in IUE. Appropriate facilities are provided for disabled staff and students. A proportion of the University staff is disabled. A disabled center has been established for students and staff by the University to support them in all areas of life. Disabled students' records are kept confidential in this center, and their instructors are informed in confidence, to enable them to plan courses accordingly.

Environment, Energy and Sustainability

After adopting an international education vision and conducting pioneering research in a variety of disciplines such as sustainability issues - a key topic among today's global agenda - IUE initiated energy-related interdisciplinary research and studies in 2011. "Sustainable Energy Division" was founded, in line with the basic institutional values of participation, innovation, social responsibility and continued improvement. The division is mainly concerned with investigating the developments in the field of energy markets and policies from the social sciences and humanities viewpoint, covering environmental, social, political, legal and economic aspects.

Following the establishment of the "Sustainable Energy Division" branch under the Graduate School of Social Sciences, "M.A. in Sustainable Energy" Program began in 2012. Its purpose is to train participants for the energy sector, concerning local, regional and global issue in the field of sustainable energy development.



In order to increase the awareness related to sustainable energy, environmental sustainability and the human factor in the energy system, IUE Sustainable Energy Division organized a series of workshops, starting from 2012. In May 2012 the first event of the workshop series, on "Energy Management and Policies" concerning the optimization of the energy system for the future generations with a considerable participation of leading sector professions and academicians was held. It was followed by a workshop on the theme of "Sustainable Energy: The Business Opportunity" in May 2013. Third event was held in May 2014 on "The Role of Natural Gas in Sustainable Development", and a fourth event in May 2015 on "The Role of Wind and Solar Power in Turkish Energy Security".

After signing UN Global Compact (UNGC) on November 2012, IUE became first signatory from Izmir and the Aegean Region of Turkey. The first successful event emerging from this cooperation was held in May 2013 with opening speeches by previous UN Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of RIO 20+ Mr. Brice Lalonde, and, also by UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Turkey, Kamal Malhotra.



The launch event of the action initiated by Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General, "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4A): The Business Opportunity" was hosted by IUE, as part of the annual Energy Management and Policies workshop series. Additionally, this launch event became a successful showcase in the "UN Global Compact Local Network Report 2013", shared by more than 12,000 member institutions and organizations worldwide.

In line with this cooperation, IUE has acted as an advisor in the initial stages of a report prepared by UNGC Turkey Network, the Turkish Federations of Sectoral Associations and other strategic partners. The main aim of the report is to ensure the adaption of the SE4A initiative in the local context, and determining the highest priority areas in the case of Turkey.

At the end of 2013, IUE has also ranked first in a study entitled as "UI Greenmetric World University Ranking 2013" among all universities from Turkey, due to efforts in the fields of energy and environment. Following that, IUE ranked third among Universities in "UI Greenmetric World University Ranking 2014". Ranking more than 350 universities worldwide, this study details and measures the actions in seven main areas in order to measure the level of sustainability in terms of education, energy, climate change, infrastructure, waste management, water usage and transportation.

Currently, there are more than 15 courses offered throughout different faculties of the University focusing on the environment, energy and sustainability issues in different areas such as politics, architecture, media, philosophy and economics. Several graduate and PhD level theses have also focused on these issues.

Selected Sustainability Related Initiatives



There are several sustainability related initiatives, leading by the Faculty of the Fine Arts and Design. For instance, the building for the Faculty of the Fine Arts and Design was designed by Department of Architecture Faculty: the construction was undertaken by a local construction firm and completed in 2010. The architects paid special attention to selecting local materials from local suppliers. The shading panels of the building were designed to gain maximum utility from the sunlight, and thus minimize the consumption of heat and electricity.



In September 2014, IUE Department of Architecture instructors and Masters students jointly designed a floating dock based on the rules of parametric design. The modular design prototype was installed and exhibited on the waterfront of the Central Business District of Izmir and as it was open to public, it defined a new public use for Izmir's waterfront. The dock was exhibited in the Istanbul Design and Architecture Biennale and the project won the silver medal in the Guardian's World Cities Day Challenge, held in conjunction with the UN Habitat program.

In collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Division, as a part of the Sustainability and Social Responsibility studies in IUE, garbage recycling units were established on campus. The units were especially designed for IUE campus area to improve the environmental awareness and recycling through the University.



Instructors and students of IUE Faculty of Fine Arts and Design (FFAD) invited students of TED Aliğa High School to take part in a Green design project. During the workshops that took place on May 29, 2015, groups of high school students gave new life to recycled fabric, unused clothes, cardboard, PET bottles, and disused computer components, under the supervision of FFAD instructors and students. Enthusiastic students were able to produce creative clothes, furniture, and lighting products from waste materials.

Anti-Corruption

IUE has been persistently committed to academic integrity. With the awareness of the important role of transparency in preventing corruption, and furthering ethical behavior, all the procedures and regulations in operation have undergone extensive reviews to ensure the highest level of transparent implementation and accountability.

The criteria for the promotion and the appointment of academic staff are published online on the university web pages.

Fair treatment of students is clearly at the very core of a successful anti-corruption implementation. To this end, all the multi-section courses taught in Izmir University of Economics are centrally coordinated with respect to the content and also the grading policy. Where one course is taught simultaneous to different groups of students, the course is synchronized on a weekly basis. In addition to applying a universal grading policy across the groups, statistical tests are conducted to identify any irregularities in performance that could be attributing to varieties associated with an individual lecturer.

Dedicated to excellence in education, IUE launched the Smart Campus project which became operational at the beginning of the 2015-2016 academic year. This project supplements face-to-face courses throughout the institution. All the courses taught are recorded; enabling students to access their classes live via their computers, smart phones or tablets when unable to attend classes. Furthermore, the project facilitates the development of a more transparent teaching infrastructure, hence making the entire process, less vulnerable to corruption.

Through its pioneer role as one of the first universities in Turkey to adopt the Bologna Process, IUE has raised the level of transparency in teaching and learning activities by increasing and promoting the visibility of syllabi, and by clarifying expectations from both teachers and learners through revision of the curriculum and other instructional materials.

The majority of programs of the IUE have been subject to accreditation processes, leading to improvement in the quality of the programs

through development of ongoing curricula, program design, and delivery methods. For instance, IUE Business School is in the process of being accredited by AACSB, which is internationally known as the longest established and most recognized form of specialized accreditation. Similarly, the Computer engineering department has recently earned MUDEK (Association of Evaluation and Accreditation of Engineering Programs) accreditation.

The IUE bachelor students are required to take GED (General Education Distribution) courses to pursue areas of knowledge outside of their major discipline. The aim of these courses is to increase ethical awareness and inculcate social responsibility and the principles of human rights. In the same vein, the MBA program focuses on ethical business management, producing graduates who can enhance the organization performance and sustainability of companies through implementing ethical culture and practices.

The University follows the rule of transparency at all levels by announcing important events, promotions, guidance, and other information through a central system (EMAX) to all faculty members, students, and administrative staff. In the purchase of goods and services, cost estimates from at least three different companies are solicited before final decisions are made. This procedure serves as a guarantee that no entity is favored in the transactions, and optimal offer is selected, based on the bidding criteria.

IUE is committed to fighting corruption and abuse in all forms. All scientific projects involving humans or animals as subjects require approval process in terms of ethics. This process is administered by the Ethics Council of the University, which also works to establish and

promote the understanding of ethics in the university.

There are also academic studies on the prevention of various forms of corruption. The Department of Translation and Interpretation at IUE received a grant for a scientific project on preventing plagiarism in translation from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. The project was successfully conducted between March 2013-March 2015. As further example, a master student in the Financial Economics program of the Graduate School of Social Sciences has successfully defended a thesis entitled 'Is Transparency A Sign of Fraud Risk?'

In Summary

IUE has been persistently committed to academic integrity. IUE's fundamental values are participation, innovation, social responsibility, and perfectionism as stated above. In line with these values, we renewed our commitment to sustainable development and our support for sustainable future, signing UN Global Compact on 15th of November, 2012.

From this date forward, together with our previous efforts, we have been aligning our strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption goals of UN Global Compact. Thus, this report summarizes our efforts related to incorporating the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles into IUE's strategies, policies and procedures, as of 2015.

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