



İZMİR UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

17 January 2020

Izmir University of Economics

Communication on Engagement

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: January 2018- January 2020

PART I. Statement of continued support by the Rector

UN Global Compact

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the Izmir University of Economics (IUE) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and the Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe how the IUE has taken action to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Murat AŞKAR
Rector

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İZMİR UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

PART II. About Izmir University of Economics

Izmir University of Economics (IUE), established by the Izmir Chamber of Commerce Education and Health Foundation in 2001, is the first foundation university in Izmir, Turkey. With its eight faculties, five applied and vocational schools, one graduate school, and ten research and application centers, IUE hosts around a total of 9,600 students. IUE's primary aim is to find innovative solutions to local, regional and global challenges through international growth and projects. To this end, IUE is engaged in academic and research partnerships all over the world. Today, IUE has 35 cooperation protocols and 178 exchange agreements with universities in 25 countries.

Mission

The mission of IUE is to educate and equip qualified students with leadership attributes, entrepreneurial capabilities, critical thinking skills and the ability to contribute valuable research in a variety of sciences.

Vision

The vision of IUE is to become a pre-eminent institution of higher learning at the forefront of education on a universal level and to pioneer valuable research in a variety of disciplines.

The basic values of the institution

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

Innovation: to take part in interdisciplinary research and development activities, which are effective, creative and on the leading edge of new discoveries,

Social Responsibility: to be responsible within the community by effectively managing its social resources in the production and dissemination of universal knowledge,

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

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PART III. Achievements towards meeting the principles of the Global Compact

- IUE is ranked 101 – 200 in The Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2019 for the categories of “Decent Work and Economic Growth”, “Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure”, “Sustainable Cities and Communities”.
- Gender equality has continued to be a priority for IUE. As of today, women make up 60 percent of the full-time academic faculty. Women also dominate the administrative staff as they hold 56 percent of positions.

PART IV. Activities aligning with the Global Compact

IUE has taken the following actions to address the Global Compact:

- IUE offers “General Education Courses (GEC)” in which students explore and discuss social and humanitarian responsibilities. Between 2018-2020, the IUE faculty has taught the following GEC courses that align with the Global Compact Principles:
 - o *GEHU 205 Social Problems*: The course covers main social problems encountered in the modern world which are urbanization, migration, poverty, changing family structure, racism, sexism, unemployment, unsafe work environments and environmental issues (Principles covered: 1, 6, 8)
 - o *GEHU 303 Ecology, Politics, Planetary Thinking*: This course offers students to comprehend various issues of environmental politics from the perspective of “planetary thinking”. The course discusses the current ecological crisis by focusing on its symptoms and reasons, climate denialism, and the concepts of “planetary thinking” and “planetary health”. (Principles covered: 7, 8)
 - o *GEET 202 Multiculturalism and Globalization*: This course discusses human and minority rights in diverse societies. (Principle covered: 1)

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- *GEET 310 Gender and Media*: This course conceptualizes gender as a category of knowledge and aims to understand how gender is constructed by the media. The course considers gender as a constitutive element of identity and by analyzing its intersection with other categories such as race, class, nation and sexuality, students grasp the importance of the representation of gender in media and its meaning for our lives. (Principles covered: 1, 2, 6)
- *GEET 311 Politics of Human Rights*: This course is designed to introduce students with the development of human rights as a global phenomenon. Our aim is to explore certain questions pertaining to human rights: What is it that we call “human rights”? In what historical periods can we locate progress and expansion in human rights? What do human rights stand for/against? What does it mean to have human rights with a claim to universality? (Principles covered: 1, 2)
- *GEET 312 History of the Women’s Rights Movement*: This course aims to give students insight into women’s rights movement of the 20th and 21st century by comparing and contrasting the different waves of feminism. The contribution of international organizations, particularly the United Nations is discussed in greater detail and a special emphasis is made on the women’s rights movement in Turkey. (Principles covered: 1, 2).
- IUE’s Student Clubs have organized various events that raised awareness of issues related the Global Compact on significant dates, including 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), 8 March (International Women’s Day), anti-homophobia week (May), International Aids Day (1 December) and Worlds Breast Cancer Day (1 October).
- IUE drew attention to issues related the Global Compact via a weeklong activities and events in March 2019. On March 8, we held ‘Struggle Mechanisms for Violence against Women’ titled panel to address gender-based violence from legal, academic, and social services perspectives. On March 11, there was screening of a documentary on prejudice against female journalists. On March 12, the ‘Woman and Social Entrepreneurship Panel’ discussed difficulties women face, especially in workplace and education life.

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- The Faculty of Communication initiated the “See Like a Child” campaign at the beginning of 2018. This campaign aimed to change the negative attitudes of university students toward refugee children. During the campaign, the Faculty students organized activities that would bring together their peers and Syrian children in Izmir. In January 2019, See Like a Child campaign also participated in the P2P: Facebook Global Digital Challenge. Among 53 applications from all over the world, the campaign received the first place.

In May 2019, supported by Erasmus+ KA3 Structured Dialogue (Project No: 2018-3-TR01-KA347-061750), See Like a Child Campaign organized a “Dialogue Week”. A total of 77 students, academics, decision makers and representatives from Turkey, Greece, Portugal and Spain participated in the Dialogue Week. The participants discussed the experiences of refugee children, interacted with them through games and workshops, discussed positive and negative practices in their countries, prepared a declaration and presented it to decision makers.

- A devastating forest fire took place in Izmir in the late summer of 2019. Wildfires have destroyed 6,500 hectares of forest. IUE participated in the mass tree-planting campaign launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The campaign, which came with the slogan “the Breath for the Future”, reflects the spirit of Principle 8 and promotes greater environmental responsibility. IUE planted a tree for each student and staff (a total of 10,000).
- In 2019, IUE’s Fashion and Textile Design Program presented a runway show under the title of “Fashion and Sustainability”. The aim was to emphasize the possibilities of zero waste and convertibility in cyclical, ecological and slow fashion.
- Directly related to the Sustainable Development Goals, IUE students worked on bio designs using living organisms such as yeast, kombucha, and algae, and daily wastes such as coffee and paper. These bio designs, which are based on the principle of ‘working with living creatures’, were carried out in collaboration with IUE’s Faculty of Fine Arts and Design and Faculty of Engineering in 2019.

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- IUE's Faculty of Medicine and Italian Università Campus Bio-Medico signed a bilateral agreement to address health issues of refugees in Turkey and Italy in August 2019.
- IUE Students built insulated homes and feeding stations for stray animals on campus in February 2019. The project, co-developed by IUE student clubs and supported by the IUE Vocational School Social Responsibility Committee, provided a warm shelter and food and water station for outdoor animals. More than 30 animals benefitted from the shelter.
- IUE Logistics Club, in collaboration with the Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA) organized a cleanup in Inciraltı City Forest with the participation of 250 students in December 2018. This cleanup was a part of the "İzmir'de İyilik Var" social responsibility campaign and resulted in removal of 300 kilograms of litter from the forest only within an hour.
- In October 2018, IUE's Vocational School of Health Services, together with Ege University, initiated the "Little Athletes Project". The project brought together toddlers with and without special needs to eliminate prejudices at an early age. Among the long-term goals of the project is to turn these little athletes into special athletes who would be able to participate in many branches of sports in the future.
- In October 2018, IUE's Department of Nursing held the "1st International Nursing Leadership and Professional Organization Workshop" and the "1st National Surgical Nursing Education Workshop". The workshops, co-organized with Turkish Society of Surgical and Operating Room Nurses, addressed the challenges of the profession in Turkey.
- To promote awareness about the Labor principles of UN Global Compact, IUE's Vocational School of Health Services held a conference called "University and Sector Cooperation in the Training of Health Technicians" in May 2018. The participants discussed rights and responsibilities of health professionals, the future of employment in health sector, and the employee and employer expectations.

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