

# **Koç University**UN Global Compact

Progress Report 2018-2020





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# STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT



Humanity across the entire planet is trying to navigate through unprecedented and difficult times. Meanwhile, those who are armed with good reflexes and foresight are able to act faster and adapt to the ever evolving and changing circumstances. Institutions that integrated sustainability and transparency strategically into their operations prior to the COVID-19 crisis were able to be more agile in responding to unexpected events. In this respect, the response of Koç University to COVID-19 has been exemplary as we had to vacate our campus in two days, end all activities and classes, switch to online/remote teaching and learning, and start working from home while doing all of this in a matter of two weeks in March 2020.

From my perspective, the health, safety, and well-being of our community, on and away from our campuses, is ultimately our top priority. Thus, our decisions and actions are always driven by our responsibility towards our community. The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact could not have been more important in providing guidance and framework in these uncertain times. Securing a sustainable future for our planet is more critical than ever and there is no doubt in the role that Higher Education Institutions (HEI) play in leading and standing together at the forefront of efforts to create new knowledge and foster innovation.

Koç University signed the United Nations Global Compact at a ceremony in November 2007 in the presence of the previous Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. Now entering the thirteenth year of the agreement, Koç University continues its support for the United Nations Global Compact and its ten principles.

As a "Center of Excellence," in education and scientific research, Koç University is committed to adding value to sustainable growth. We are proud to be a global example for environmental, social and economic sustainability through our education, research, workforce, and campus operations.

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Sustainable growth and its future depend on how well we educate our youth to lead business, economy, and civil society, and whether we can create an environment for successful, responsible businesses to develop. The cumulative effect of providing an education that emphasizes social responsibility begins

with students when they are still at school, and should continue progressively all the way to graduation. The impact of this accumulation becomes apparent when those same graduates assume leadership responsibilities and make decisions in line with the values rooted in their early education.

This Communication on Engagement Report provides an overview of the manner by which Koç University puts these principles into practice. This report focuses on our activities and initiatives between the 2018 and 2020 academic years. For the years ahead, this report is to be used as a baseline for our contributions on all aspects of social, environmental and economic development at local and global levels.

Prof. Umran İnan, President, Koç University



# KOÇ UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

Koç University was founded in 1993 as a non-profit research university in Istanbul, Turkey. In the twenty-seven years since it was established, Koç University has become one of the leading universities in the country, distinguished by notable contributions to education, knowledge and service both domestically and beyond.

The University is supported by the resources of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. Guided by its mission to address the fundamental needs of life for a modern and developing Turkey through the promotion of education, health, and culture, the foundation's achievements include the creation of a world-class hospital, museums that preserve and highlight Turkish culture, and elite academic institutions at all levels.

Koç University strives to be a center of excellence: one that succeeds in providing a world-class education to its students, creating new knowledge via the research of its faculty, applying that acquired knowledge for the benefit of society, and equipping its students with the highest sense of ethics, social responsibility and good citizenship.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

- 521 fulltime faculty
- 8,905 students
- 16,664 alumni
- 7 colleges, 4 graduate schools
- 22 undergraduate, 41 master's and 28 doctoral programs
- 2,258 student dormitory capacity
- More than 290 international student exchange partners
- 23 research centers, 5 research and education forums, 1 support center
- 223 research laboratories
- 984 externally funded research projects (Jan 2004-July 2020)
- 74 student clubs



The University also participated in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which were held for the first time in 2019. With increasing participation, 768 universities from 85 countries were considered in the 2020 edition. Koç University has participated in University Impact rankings since its first year, and holds high

positions in **Peace**, **Justice and Strong Institutions** (79th, due to its well-established research centers and forums which focus on social impact, law and international relations, human rights and migration), **Decent Work** and **Economic Growth** (78th, due to employment practices), **Gender Equality** (101-200, due to research in gender issues and gender balanced employment and management structure), **Industry and Innovation** (101-200, due to research income and patents) and **Reduced Inequalities** (101-200, due to commitment to recruiting and supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds). The University will continue to participate in this ranking to evaluate progress in selected Sustainable Development Goals.

### AN OVERVIEW OF KOÇ UNIVERSITY'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Koç University began preparations at the beginning of February 2020, well before the first coronavirus case in Turkey was confirmed on 10 March. The University took immediate action to protect the health of University community members, prepare for remote education and ensure successful conduct and completion of the semester. The President's office responded swiftly and established task forces that would act in a timely manner to protect the University community medically, economically, academically and socially (the President's messages in response to the pandemic are available at <a href="https://www.ku.edu.tr/en/coronavirus/presidents-messages/">https://www.ku.edu.tr/en/coronavirus/presidents-messages/</a>).

These efforts meant relocating thousands of students to the safety of their homes and training hundreds of teaching faculty to use online tools in a very short time. A special team was tasked with maintaining regular contact with employees and students to check on their health, testing infrastructure to accommodate all classes, creating training videos for faculty, and ensuring students had access to whatever resources they required, while assisting with psychological and motivational issues that could have hindered learning.

Throughout the pandemic, **Koç University Medical School** has played a prominent role in shaping the COVID-19 response nationally and regionally, conducting research, public health awareness initiatives and media interventions. Pandemic task forces have strengthened collaboration within and across schools and facilitated multidisciplinary responses to the pandemic.

# KOÇ UNIVERSITY SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM (KUSIF)



Founded in 2012, the Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF) works to foster social innovation through education, research and collaboration to create and measure social impact. KUSIF is both a research and practice center and a catalyst for social innovation. KUSIF creates sustainable programs and builds local stakeholder networks to generate social impact through collaborative action. KUSIF assists Koç University by integrating sustainability and social impact into teaching, research and operations. KUSIF increases the capacity of social impact actors to access skills and knowledge for social impact measurement, while communicating results and knowledge about social impact creation and sustainability.

In agreement with the principles of the UN Global Compact, KUSIF strives to offer benefits to the University through implementation and measurement of institutional sustainability strategies.

With the above goals and vision in mind, KUSIF has worked together with the Koç University Communications Office to produce this UN Global Compact Report.

# PRACTICAL ACTIONS SUPPORTING UN GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES

As a center of excellence, Koç University is committed to adding value to sustainable growth and ensuring its human resources, education, research, outreach, and campus operations are a global model of social, economic and environmental sustainability.

As a model institution for sustainability, Koç University is committed to:

- Integrating sustainability into teaching, learning, research, operations and campus culture
- Reducing the use of resources and operating costs
- Reducing its impact on the environment
- Increasing positive social impact.

Koç University signed the United Nations Global Compact in 2007. In 2008, Koç University's College of Administrative Sciences and Economics (CASE) and Graduate School of Business (GSB) joined the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). By becoming a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) in 2014, Koç University became a pioneer among Turkish universities.

As one of the leading research universities in the region, Koç University's research mission is to contribute to the universal body of knowledge and influence intellectual, technological, economic and social developments on a global scale. Faculty members contribute to their fields both individually and in strategically designed cross-disciplinary teams.

With 223 research laboratories, 23 research centers, 5 research and education forums, and one support center, the University's centers cover many aspects of economic, environmental, and social sustainability. These include the TÜSİAD-KU Economic Research Forum, KUSIF, Center for Research on Globalization, Peace and Democratic Governance (GLODEM), Koç University Center for Gender and Women's Studies (KOÇ-KAM), Koç University Tüpraş Energy Center (KUTEM), Koç University Migration Research Program, Social Policy Applications and Research Center (MiReKoc), Nüsret and Semahat Arsel International Business Law Research and Implementation Center (NASAMER), and the Center for Global Public Law (KÜREMER) to name but a few. Another notable development was the creation of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Sustainable Development in May 2016.

# PRINCIPLE 1

Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

# PRINCIPLE 2

make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

The UN Global Compact's first principle emphasizes definitive commitment to human rights for universities. As part of their commitment, universities should guarantee the implementation of human rights without distinction and provide legislative infrastructure to overcome violations of human rights.

Taking as a basis the regulations of Council of Higher Education, The Core International Human Rights Treaties, Koç University's Administrative Staff Personnel Regulations and the United Nations Global Compact, Koç University enhances its institutional commitment to corporate responsibility regarding human rights and ethical values. By taking a human-rights focused approach, each of Koç University's administrative and academic units endorses this principle not only within their structures and research agenda but also through collaboration with the private and public sectors at national and international level.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Koç University is dedicated to sustaining and promoting eight main values: success-orientation, integrity and collectivity, equality and justice, trust, joy, sharing, sincerity, and proactivity for students and staff. Koç University aims to embed these values into every core operational practice of the institution and create projects and programs to encourage all members of the university to share them.

### **ANATOLIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

In Turkey, university placements and the distribution of scholarships for higher education are determined solely based on students' performance in the national university entrance exams. Students from higher-income families are generally better prepared academically and are more likely to succeed in this exam. In order to help bright students overcome this challenge, Koç University launched the Anatolian Scholarship Program. As an exemplary social responsibility initiative that brings the University together with business leaders, the program engages donors with the vital issue of equality in access to higher education in Turkey. Starting with a modest 14 Anatolian Scholars in 2011, the number of scholarship students who have benefitted from the program had risen to nearly 800 as of 2020, including close to 200 graduates. The program is supported by 278 corporate partners and more than 1,000 individual donors.

As the Anatolian Scholarship Program has grown in recognition across Turkey, the number of applicants has increased significantly each year. A milestone was reached in 2019 when the program received 6,500 applications from all 81 provinces in Turkey. Applicants are students who were placed within the top one percent on the national university entrance exam. All applications are evaluated across multiple dimensions on a weighted-scoring basis. Evaluation criteria include students' performance on the national university entrance exam, their household income, extracurricular activities, reference letters, application essays and an interview.



To date the program has raised more than 260 million Turkish lira, including payments received and pledged payments. Corporate donations are matched on a 2:1 basis where donors pay for 67% of the scholarship package and the University covers the remaining 33%. When it comes to alumni donations, the matching ratio is 1:2. The matching system shows that Koç University is working hand-in-hand with corporate and individual donors to provide underprivileged yet bright students

with access to outstanding education that is otherwise beyond their reach. In 2020, despite unfavorable conditions and obstacles to fundraising efforts due to the coronavirus pandemic, funding was secured to support 178 new students, who began their education in the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Anatolian Scholarship Program is a huge success. Graduates, who recently included the Class of 2019 valedictorian, have begun their own startups, work in multinationals, or have gone on to pursue advanced degrees at prestigious universities. Although the program is only nine years old, it has quickly gained recognition in prestigious social responsibility, education and fundraising circles and has become a model

for other universities pursuing the Sustainable Development Goal of reduced inequalities. In 2015, the program was presented the CASE Circle of Excellence Award Program's Gold Award in the Emerging Fundraising Programs category. In 2016, it was selected as the Best Example of Value Creation for Society by Koç Holding. In 2018, it took home an award for Reducing Inequalities, SDG number 10 of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals by the Corporate Social Responsibility Association of Turkey. Again in 2018, it was presented the 'Gold Stevie' for PR of a Non-Profit Fundraising Category of the 2018 International Business Awards®. Finally, the program was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards Asia 2019 in the category Outstanding Support for Students and also received the 2019 Circle of Excellence Silver Award from the Council on Advancement and Support for Education in Challenge Grant / Matching Gift Programs category.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM (KUSIF) INITIATIVES**

To promote transparency and accountability among social impact actors, KUSIF provides pro bono and fee-based training and consultancy on how to measure and manage social impact.

### Such activities include:

- Social impact management training for the International Children's Center (ICC) at Bilkent University.
- Social impact management training for NGO members of the Açık Açık platform.
- Training on social entrepreneurship and social cooperatives for NGOs and cooperatives in İzmir, organized by İzmir Development Agency & İzmir Representative Office of the Directorate for EU Affairs within the İzmir-Local Capacity Building Training Program.
- Sustainability and social impact training for participants of the Graduate School of Business's Turquality program.
- A consultancy service on social impact measurement and management for the Hrant Dink Foundation's Empowering CSOs and Sparking Change for Tackling Discrimination and Promoting Diversity Project.
- Social impact management training for NGOs in collaboration with the Association of Civil Society Development Center in Gaziantep and Ankara.
- Organizing Social Return on Investment (SROI) Accredited Practitioner Training with Social Value UK.
- Social impact management training for the Cancer Hope for Children Foundation (KAÇUV).
- KUSIF launched the Social Impact Measurement and Management Training series. The first training was held at KUSIF Social Impact Lab 16-17 January 2020 with participation of NGOs, private and public institutions, funding institutions, social enterprises, and individuals interested in working in this field. The second, third and fourth trainings were held online on Zoom 4-8 May, 19-23 October and 16-20 November 2020.
- Social impact management training for the North Anatolian Development Agency.
- Social impact management training with a gender equality perspective for private sector members of Business World and the Sustainable Development Association.
- Pro bono social impact management training for Ondokuz Mayıs University in Samsun.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION-ONLINE EDUCATION

Koç University's key missions include the prevention of sexual harassment in working, learning and living environments. As an extension of the University's Sexual Harassment Prevention Regulation published in 2014, KURES (Koç University Guidance and Psychological Counseling Service) prepared a mandatory online course for all students, faculty and staff, which was launched during the 2017-2018 academic year. The Sexual Harassment Prevention Education online course covers the main concepts of sexual harassment, possible ways to prevent and deal with sexual harassment, information about complaint and legal processes, and ethical principles.

### **OFFICE OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Office of Scholarships supports students who need financial assistance by providing textbook scholarships, parttime work programs, parttime summer programs, dormitory scholarships, needs-based scholarships and academic achievement scholarships. Scholarships and parttime work programs are an important tool for affordable education and social inclusion on campus.

### **OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES**

The Office of Disability Services provides help for students with disabilities and closely supports their social and academic experiences. Students with disabilities receive frequent, personal guidance so that they can adapt and integrate better to the University environment.

In the current reporting period, the Office supported 31 students with disabilities; of these, 6 had visual impairments, 3 had hearing impairment, 6 had mobility impairments, 14 lived with chronic illnesses, and 2 had learning disorders

- Coordinated 11 work-study students who provided services for students with disabilities. Services included scanning text-books and converting PDFs to readable Word documents using ABBYY FineReader, creating audio recordings of books, helping visually impaired students with note-taking during class, transcribing audio recordings, practicing sounds with hearing impaired students, and providing peer support to help students with disabilities take part in student club organizations.
- Works closely with the Department of Construction to make the campus easily accessible for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services identifies areas on campus for the construction department to carry our adjustments and improvements. Under the guidance of the Office of Disability

Services, the construction department has increased the number of automatic doors, constructed a special elevator near a ramp for wheelchair users, provided remote controls for certain automatic doors, and provided a Braille map in each building. Campus sidewalks were also modified to make wheelchair use easier. In addition, the Department of Construction provided new classroom desks for students with mobility impairments.



- Supports student requests for captioning services and works with the IT department to deploy captioning services in buildings and classrooms.
- Purchased equipment and new versions of software to meet the learning needs of students with disabilities, such as in-ear Bluetooth headsets and the ABBYY FineReader application.
- Provided WeWALK smart canes and purchased special washing machines and tumble dryers for our students with visual impairments.
- Works closely with faculty members who have students with disabilities in their classes. At the beginning of the academic semester, faculty receive guidelines for teaching and supporting their students who have disabilities. If a student suffers a severe accident or undergoes a major medical procedure, the Office of Disability Services works with faculty to decide the best course of action for the student's education.
- Launched an archive of scanned books for students with visual impairments. The books were selected by students with visual impairments and scanned, converted and archived by work-study students.

In 2019 and 2020, Koç University entered the Campus without Barriers Awards organized by Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YÖK). Koç University's Rumelifeneri Campus (the main campus) was awarded a 'Campus with no Obstacles for the Physically Hindered' Orange Flag and 'Socio-Cultural Activities' Blue Flag.

The Office of Disability Services also organized and hosted a seminar with Es Career Counselling (Turkey's first employment consultant company for people with disabilities), participated in the Duke of Edinburgh International Youth Award's Award Leader program to provide encouragement for students in the Barrier-Free Office Student Unit, and contributed to the Barrier-Free Campus Association's 2019 Colourful Campus Program.

### GUIDANCE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SERVICE (KURES)

The Koc University Guidance and Psychological Services Center (KURES) provides a needs-based service with an emphasis on students' social and psychological wellbeing. KURES helps students meet the challenges that come with taking on new responsibilities and making decisions that will impact their future. KURES created a series of brochures, workshops, expert videos, and live Q&A sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the university community and help maintain wellbeing. Activities covered the following topics:

- Coronavirus and psychological wellbeing
- Relationships during isolation
- How to deal with anxiety
- How to adapt to changing roles during social isolation?
- How to remain hopeful during the pandemic?
- Setting goals and staying motivated
- Alcohol and drug use during social distancing
- Our relationship with food during social distancing
- Sleep hygiene

In addition, KURES also provided psychological counseling services to affected community members by appointment.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY SUPPORT CENTER FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES** (EÇADEM)

Koç University Support Center for Disabled Children and Their Families (EÇADEM) aims to provide care and psychological consultancy services for children with disabilities and their families to help them integrate into society, improve quality of life and increase their capacity for self-care, such as hygiene and nourishment.

The center collaborates with the Koc University School of Nursing, the Sariyer Municipality, and the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Development. EÇADEM activities include regular care services for children with disabilities, psychological counselling, fundraising, awareness raising, and activities designed to help family members maintain an active social life. In particular, EÇADEM works with socio-economically disadvantaged families who usually don't have access to high quality healthcare and rehabilitation services and who have greater difficulty socializing due to prejudices among peers. EÇADEM services help reduce the nursing burden experienced by mothers while reducing personal stress levels and psychological problems. Supporting family caregivers and reducing burden also positively impacts the siblings of children with disabilities.



At the beginning of 2019, the center moved to a new, improved facility with more rooms, greater floor space, a garden and an outbuilding. The new facility allowed the center to create new spaces and equipment (e.g., a kitchen) to help children improve their life skills and capacity for self-care. In addition, the new facility also allows for outdoor activities, such as picnics and gatherings, and indoor recreational activities such as New Year celebrations and arts and crafts courses for families.

In 2019, the center organized a scholarship program to support siblings of children with disabilities. The program brings students and donors together, allowing supporters to sponsor students who need financial aid. Even at its very early stage, the scholarship program has helped students prepare for university exams and provided university tuition support for a student who would not otherwise have access to higher education. Expanding the program is among the center's priorities for the coming years. Through 2019 and 2020, the center worked to build skills for disabled young people who are eligible to work, in collaboration with international partners with experience helping people with disabilities integrate into the workforce. The project was interrupted when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, however, it remains a strategic objective of the center and will resume as soon as normalization begins.

Throughout the pandemic, EÇADEM continued to give support to families who have suffered disproportionately from the crisis because they belong to a poorer socio-economic community. Support efforts included daily contact with children conducted remotely with videos and online activities, the center also provided economic support and, helped by volunteers, distributed food to support families through these difficult times.

### ANNUAL PEACEMAKERS CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS









Koç University's Erasmus+ KA2 project Peacemakers held its third and final bootcamp in Bologna, Italy, 23 - 27 September 2019, participated by 25 Peace Envoys from Koç University, Erasmus University

Rotterdam, Gaziantep University, Humboldt University and University of Bologna. The project aims to foster a more peaceful generation in Europe and in Turkey who look on migrants positively. The project aims to enhance social, civic, and intellectual competencies which are recognized as effective tools for preventing and tackling discrimination, radicalism, and racism, and promotes social inclusion through intercultural communication, interaction and empathy. Scholars from partner institutions delivered lectures on the political, historical, psychological, and sociological contexts of international migration. Peace Envoys also visited Mosaico di Solidarieta and interacted with students participating in the UNI-CO-RE Project.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH COMMITMENTS**

There are three research centers at Koç University which work primarily on gender, migration and democratization issues. The centers scrutinize the local and global phenomena of these issues through a collaboration of universities, NGOs, and public and private sector actors. Other research centers working with the Law School and Department of International Relations also address human rights issues through research on the applications of international law, public policy and analysis of institutions.

### RESEARCH CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES (KOC-KAM)



The Koç University Center for Gender Studies was established in March 2010 as an interdisciplinary hub for gender research and gender studies. KOÇ-KAM brings together faculty and researchers from multiple disciplines such as sociology, history, law, nursing, philosophy and political science to share research, conduct collaborative national and international projects and undertake various academic and training activities within and outside the

University on issues pertaining to women and gender. As a hub for gender studies, KOÇ-KAM carries out a competitive funding program to support outstanding academic research projects on gender issues. KOÇ-KAM organizes conferences, panels, and seminar series to inform a wider audience on gender related research and fosters debate on gender issues among scholars, students, civil society actors, and policy-makers.

The center's objective is to attract national and international funding for research and enhance the visibility of research output. Enlarging research capacity was a main target for the 2019-2020 academic year. With

the completion of current and future projects, the long-term impact of the center will be successful cooperation and bridgebuilding between academia and society.

To achieve this, KOÇ-KAM postdoctoral researcher Nazlı Kazanoğlu was awarded the Koç University Research Seed Fund Grant 2019 for her project The Impact of De-Europeanisation on Turkish Women's CSOs. The proposed project aims to focus on the last ten years of Turkey-EU relations and explore the new lobbying, networking and collaboration repertoire of WCSOs from across the seven administrative regions of Turkey. When the project is completed, Kazanoğlu plans to apply for the TÜBİTAK Katip Çelebi Fund in order to compare her findings from the Turkish case with that of the UK after Brexit. Another KOÇ-KAM postdoctoral researcher Bengü Kurtege Sefer has applied for seed funding for her project Rethinking Women's Agricultural Cooperatives and Rural Women's Empowerment in Turkey. This research project focuses on the impacts of agricultural women cooperatives on rural women's economic and social empowerment in different regions of Turkey. The project contributes to the field of agrarian studies in two ways. Firstly, it helps us understand the gendered power relations and asymmetries in the agrarian labour market of the neo-liberal era. Secondly, it offers tools to explain inherent gendered assumptions in state policies that target rural women and development, and the roles of rural women in shaping these policies in present day Turkey.

# COOPERATION WITH THE UNESCO CHAIR ON GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

KOÇ-KAM is closely associated with the UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development which was established in 2016 at Koç University. The chair is a member of the Global





Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender and currently operates under the leadership of Professor Bertil Emrah Oder, serving as a hub for the intersection of science and society by promoting gender equality, advancing

sustainable development with a focus on human development and human wellbeing at individual and societal levels, and developing research on gender studies and human capacity development. The cooperation allows KOÇ-KAM to promote gender equality in the workplace through training programs and organize events (conferences, expert meetings, talks, webinars etc.) that contribute to the chair's role as a bridgebuilder between academia, civil society, research, and policy-making communities at local, regional, and international levels.

KOÇ-KAM UNESCO Chair also collaborates with Eastwest European Institute and the ITAM WTO Chair to conduct activities that will help advance the achievement of UN SDGs. These collaborative efforts promote synergies between education and outreach by prioritizing the UN's 2030 Agenda and reinforcing links among students, professors and professionals. They also mutually support the development of academic education and activities.

### ÇİĞDEM KAĞITÇIBAŞI HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AWARD

Since 2016, KOÇ-KAM has awarded the Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Human Development Research Award to recognize applied research projects and scientific research that support human wellbeing. The winners of the 2018 awards were Anıl Özge Üstünel Balcı of Altınbaş University for her research on identity development in women and Şebnem Feriver Gezere of



Leuphana University for her research on systems thinking skills in preschool children. The winner of the 2019 award is Cem Soylu of Ege University for his project: Testing a Model of Biopsychosocial Model of Successful Aging Based on Socioemotional Selectivity Theory.



# SUMMER ACADEMY-WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development hosted a week-long international summer academy on Women's Empowerment for Sustainable Development, 2-6 September 2019. The summer academy was organized for an international audience of potential women leaders – particularly young politicians, civic society representatives, academics and professionals. The academy was a response to the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5 which focused on gender equality and women's empowerment. It brought together leading academics, UN and GREVIO experts, and female civil servants to share their academic and professional knowledge and experience. The academy's curriculum was based on short courses structured around intensive workshops and discussions designed to stimulate innovative strategies about country-specific and global challenges. These included the latest research outputs, facts and figures, best practices, and analyses of women's empowerment and gender-based

discrimination. The curriculum covered the international legal framework for women's empowerment (such as CEDAW, Belém do Pará Convention, and the Istanbul Convention), women's political participation and voting behavior, legislative decision making and women, violence against women, women's employment, and women and foreign policy.

### **GENDER STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

The Koç University Gender Studies Certificate Program (GSCP) is geared towards developing an understanding of the issues, debates and concerns surrounding gender and in particular, the experiences of women. The program is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary and encompasses all aspects of the human experience in a gendered world. Students are required to complete 5 out of 40 available program courses during an academic year. GSCP courses remain popular among students and include classes that examine gender and employment, women and law, women and gender in literature, women and leadership, sexual difference and psychoanalysis, and feminist narratives.

### TRAINING PROGRAM ON GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Gender Equality in the Workplace is a one-day executive training program that aims to create awareness about gender equality and promote an equal and non-discriminating workplace. The objectives of the program are to:

- give information about gender equality, sexism and discrimination,
- raise awareness of the visible and hidden barriers to women's advancement into leadership positions,
- create gender equality at work,
- build know-how about mechanisms for promoting gender equality at work,
- learn how to exemplify good practices.

Training sessions are led by KOÇ-KAM researchers

### KOÇ-KAM CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, PANELS

- Women-Friendly Campus Research Survey (March 2019)
- Equitable Campuses Panel: Women Experiences in Universities (12 March 2019)
- Women and Law Seminar Series (February-April 2019)
- The Discrimination of Women in the Codes of the Ancient Era
- Women's Rights in the IACtHR Case-Law
- Women's Right to Education: Simulation of Legal Drafting

- Reproductive Rights: A Focus on the Right to Abortion
- Closing Ceremony of Enhancing Women's Leadership Trajectories Through Female Role Models - MATRA Project (4 October 2019)
- Women in International Relations (1 November 2019)
- KOÇ-KAM Talk on Women in Social Entrepreneurship with Ece Çiftçi (6 December 2019)
- Critical Analysis on International Women's Rights Regime:
   Distinguished Speakers Seminar Series I, Yakın Ertürk (4 March 2020)



 Panel on Right to Equal Access to Education (17 March 2020, postponed due to COVID-19 measures)

**ENHANCING WOMEN'S** 

ROLE MODELS PROJECT

THROUGH FEMALE

LEADERSHIP TRAJECTORIES

- KOÇ-KAM Talk on Women and Artificial Intelligence with Melda Akın (3 April 2020, postponed due to COVID-19 measures)
- Climate Justice as a Geographical and Generational Issue, Armando Rocha (17 April 2020, postponed due to COVID-19 measures)
- Gender and Rights Research Symposium (6-7 November 2020)







### **KOÇ-KAM COOPERATION, SPONSORSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- UN WOMEN HeForShe IFA Turkey: Being a Tax Woman
- Cooperation with the UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development
- Public Engagement in Cooperation with Sariyer Municipality
- General Assembly Membership at Turkish National Commission for UNESCO
- New Appointments and Affiliated PhD Students in Gender Studies



### **MIGRATION RESEARCH CENTER (MiReKoc)**

In 2019, Koç University's Migration Research Center (MiReKoc) celebrated 15 years as a multidisciplinary migration studies research institute seeking to promote scholarly work and collaboration in the field through research projects, publications, seminars, conferences, summer schools and other activities. The center provides an institutionalized hub for Turkey-related migration research, but also has a research focus towards its wider neighborhood including Europe, the Mediterranean Basin, the MENA



region, and West Asia. MiReKoc is also a member of acclaimed international research and policy networks such as Metropolis and the IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion) network. Through these networks it endeavors to further academic knowledge and exchange. As of January 2020, MiReKoc also hosts the editorial stewardship of 'International Migration,' one of the prestigious journals in migration studies.

MiReKoc conducts and participates in a range of research projects to motivate national and international networks and to strengthen research capacity in the field of migration. With the aim of connecting the migration debate in Turkey to ongoing debates and research in other contexts and settings, MiReKoc endeavors to develop collaboration between migration scholars, civil society organizations and policy makers to stimulate dialogue on existing and new research. The center is currently involved in 11 projects; the research topics vary from migration policies and governance to international and national migration systems, from refugee studies to the migration-development linkage, and from integration and social cohesion to transit migration and borders. In addition to the basic organizational support provided by Koç University, MiReKoc projects are supported through funding provided by national and international organizations. These have included the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), European Commission, International Organization for Migration, World Bank, Research Councils UK, and Research Council of Norway.

### **MAIN RESEARCH AREAS**

### **TURKEY-RELATED MIGRATION RESEARCH**

MiReKoc intensively, but not exclusively, works on Turkey-related migration research. Turkey's geostrategic location partly contributes to the country's status as a sending country vis-à-vis Europe, and a receiving and transit country vis-à-vis neighboring regions. These multiple migration roles – as a country of emigration, immigration and transit – have over time driven ongoing migration flows, involving various stages of a migration cycle. Issues concerning Turkey have led to research and projects covering microand macro-level analyses, including sub-themes in economics, politicization, policy making and its implications, and sociological and political transformations with focuses on the state, society, civil society, governance, integration and development.

Related to this, MiReKoc became a European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST) Action member for the International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network and is responsible for compiling, documenting, archiving and pooling data from comparative studies conducted in Turkey between 2000-2019.

### TURKEY, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION REGIMES

MiReKoc research includes EU-Turkey relations and migration governance, both in the EU and neighboring countries, with a special focus on the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Two of the most influential ideas in migration research and policy are 'migration management' and 'the migration—development nexus.' MiReKoc is highly motivated in its work on the themes of governance, management and development and forms part of the international consortium Advancing Alternative Migration Governance (ADMIGOV), investigating the conformity of European migration policy in practice with the basic principles of the United Nations. The four year project has received a subsidy of €3 million under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program.

MiReKoc is involved in projects related to the interconnected issues of migration and development. The five year project Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus MIGNEX began in September 2018 and is the largest European-funded research project on migration. Primary field research will take place in ten countries of origin and transit: Afghanistan, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Fluctuations in Migration Flows on the Balkan Route was a project focusing on migration from (or through Turkey) to Europe. The project aimed to unpack the changing dynamics of migration flows on the Western Balkans route, including; the policy environment regarding the migration context on the Western Balkans route; the decision making of migrants whether to take this route; and the overall aspirations and destination choices of migrants on this route. The project addressed the interplay of policy dynamics, migrants' decision making, and migration flows and aimed to ascertain how different interventions, including potential future interventions, may impact migration flows. The project was funded by the WODC (Research and Documentation Centre) of the Ministry of Justice and Security in Netherlands and was completed in 2019.

Additionally, the so-called migration crisis has led to collaborative research on the EU asylum and migration system. Completed in 2019, the project, Evaluation of the Common European Asylum System under Pressure and Recommendations for Further Development (CEASEVAL), undertook a comprehensive analysis of harmonization that goes beyond the formal institutional setting and analyzed the complex formal and informal relations among actors engaged at different levels.

In 2019 MiReKoc became a partner in the Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migration (EUMEdMi) which seeks to forge a community of researchers to develop the field of European Mediterranean Migration Studies. EUMEdMi is an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Network Program.

As part of the Erasmus+ European Universities Program, MiReKoc is a partner on The European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC) project. UNIC is a unique alliance of eight universities in post-industrial cities that all face similar challenges and opportunities in terms of mobility, inclusion, and diversity. Koç University will develop innovative and sustainable means of university collaboration that will boost student and staff mobility while fostering social inclusion and furthering societal impact.

### SYRIAN REFUGEES

Since Turkey has the largest number of refugees in the world, MiReKoc work also specifically deals with the Syrian refugee flow and the protracted nature of the refugee issue on a wider scale, including refugees' access to rights and services, policy making, decision making processes, urban-level governance, and integration as a key challenge. In a highly-dynamic research atmosphere, MiReKoc works with governmental and non-governmental institutions to conduct research on better integration. Interactive Social Integration Model for Improving Migration Governance in Turkey is a TÜBİTAK-funded project in which researchers assess the results of increasing migration in Turkey over the medium- and long-term, including the case of Syrian refugees, and migration governance in Turkey. The study examines central government regulations and their implementation at the local level. The findings from this study are based on a historical framework which examines the ways migration governance has affected our cities at different times, and the immigration movements that have occurred since the 1990s.

To tackle integration challenges, young people who are part of forced refugee groups deserve additional academic and policy attention. In this context, Integration and Well-Being of Syrian Youth in Turkey was a joint research effort between the European Institute and the Institute of Global Affairs at the London School of Economics and Koç University's MiReKoc. The project was completed in Spring 2020 and was funded by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and the Research Council UK (RCUK). The project assessed the needs of young people whose status is shifting from refugee to immigrant as a result of the prolonged conflict, and proposed organizational and policy suggestions for social and economic integration.

### MiReKoc FORCED MIGRATION RESOURCE CENTER (FMRC)



The Forced Migration Resource Center at Koç University (FMRC) is an online platform established by MiReKoc in partnership with the Vehbi Koç Foundation (VKV). The platform draws together a diverse collection of reliable and accurate resources concerning forced migration and Syrian refugees. The center provides free online access to anyone-that is, individual researchers, universities, civil society organizations, international organizations, policy makers, the media, and displaced persons themselves seeking information about issues related to forced migration and asylum. The FMRC's primary aim is to increase the research capacity of all state and non-state actors working in the field and enhance inter-institutional

communication among civil society, academia, policy makers and international organizations addressing the issue of forced migration. It also aims to prevent information pollution and regulate the overload of information in the field.

### **MiReKoc PROJECTS**

In 2019-2020, MiReKoc successfully completed an EU funded H2020 Project: Evaluation of the Common European Asylum System under Pressure and Recommendations for Further Development (CEASEVAL); a TÜBİTAK project: Integration and Well-Being of Syrian Youth in Turkey; and two Koç University funded projects: Destigmatization Strategies of Syrian Refugees in Turkey (2017-2019), and Family-School Interactions: Reproduction of Inequality through Social, Cultural Capital and Field. As of 2020, MiReKoc was in pursuit of three EU funded Horizon2020 projects: Advancing Alternative Migration Governance (ADMIGOV), Aligning Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus (MIGNEX) and Key Inclusive Development Strategies for LifeLongLearning (KIDS4ALLL); two Erasmus+ projects: The European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC), and Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migration (EUMedMi); one European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST) project: International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network; one TÜBİTAK project: Interactive Social Integration Model for Improving Migration Governance in Turkey; and one Koç University and one Vehbi Koç Foundation funded project: Forced Migration Resource Center.

Every two weeks MiReKoc sends out an email newsletter that compiles recent migration news, academic opportunities, recent publications, and local events in the field of migration. The center's website attracts many migration researchers and provides additional information regarding ongoing projects.

### MiReKoc MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

MiReKoc organizes and participates in conferences to promote the exchange of ideas and knowledge within the migration studies community in Turkey and beyond.

• MiReKoc Conference in collaboration with İstanbul Ticaret University: Türkiye'nin Göç Siyaseti: Sınırlar ve Uyum, 16 December 2019. MiReKoc organized a conference in collaboration with İstanbul Ticaret University on migration politics, integration and borders. The event hosted renowned academics from Turkish institutions as well as international Turkish-speaking academics. It was hosted at Koç University's ANAMED



- MiReKoc 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference: Migration and Development in the 'Global South': Research Challenges and Policy Implications, 24-25 October 2019. The anniversary conference was a two-day event, featuring panels for young scholars and early career academics and three roundtable panels with senior migration scholars.
- MiReKoc Project Dissemination and Evaluation Meeting: Integration and Well Being of Syrian Youth in Turkey, 18 October 2019.
- MiReKoc Panel: Bringing Transnational Dimension of Global Governance: Micro-Meso-Macro Perspectives, 10-11 October 2019.
- MiReKoc Panel at the Temporary Protection Workshop, by the Directorate General of Migration Management and UNHCR, 21-23 August 2019.

• MiReKoc Panel: Küresel Yönetişimin Ulusötesi Boyutu at the third Relational Social Sciences Congress, 13-14 June 2019. MiReKoc researchers shared insights from their research on integration policies at a local level, government policies, civil society and activism, EU involvement on migration governance in the Mediterranean, and a review of Turkish public opinion against immigrants using an experimental methodology.

- MiReKoc International Networking Event: CIF Council of International Fellowship, 19 April 2019.
- MiReKoc International Networking Event: South Asian Network on Development and Displacement (SANDD) Network, 28 February 1 March 2019.
- MiReKoc Seminar by Lisa Schuster: Goal Displacement: Migration Policy-Making in and About Afghanistan, 27 February 2019.
- MiReKoc Seminar by Çağlar Özden: Moving for Prosperity: Global Migration and Labor Markets, 23 January 2019.
- MiReKoc International Migrants Day Event: Movie Screening of The Guest (2017) followed by a discussion session with the movie's director, writer and producer Andaç Haznedaroğlu, 18 December 2019.
- MiReKoc Seminar by Marie-Christine Nibagwire: Know their stories: Can anything good come from refugees? Or people from another class, culture or colour? 3 December 2019.

### MiReKoc WEDNESDAY SEMINAR / WEBINAR SERIES



Since February 2015, MiReKoc has organized a Migration Wednesday Seminar Series to bring together colleagues and migration experts, exchange ideas with MiReKoc members, learn more about MiReKoc projects, give feedback on doctoral dissertations, and learn about ongoing research by MiReKoc affiliated researchers. The series held fifteen seminars during the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters addressing issues on the politicization of the Syrian migration issue, irregular human mobilities, migrants' education, social networks, civil society, and xenophobia. As of Fall 2020, the seminars are held online due to COVID-19 measures.

### MiReKoc COURSES AND PROGRAMS

MiReKoc contributes to the development and dissemination of migration research by offering courses at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels.

### MiReKoc INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

MiReKoc organizes an annual international summer school, which features two weeks of lectures and discussions led by distinguished faculty members, policy makers and experts. Participants have multiple opportunities to share their research and thoughts in an interactive environment. The summer school is for graduate, postgraduates and junior experts in the field. Recent summer schools have focused on the following themes: Diasporas and Transnational Communities (2015), Forced Migration: Old Phenomenon,



New Challenges (2016), Migration and Children: Reflections on Voluntary and Forced Migration (2017), Prospects for Good Governance of Refugee Situations: The Local – Global Nexus (2018), and Highly-Skilled and Student Mobility in the Age of Selective Migration (2019).

### IR AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT COURSES

MiReKoc affiliated faculty members offer courses at Koç University on a wide range of migration issues. International Migration in a Global World is offered as an undergraduate level and graduate level course. Advance Topics in International Migration is a senior level course. The course contextualizes international migration as a complex, global phenomenon, and focuses on issues related to global governance of international migration. It provides a historical and cross-geographical perspective of the roles of institutions, governance of international mobility, governance of forced migration, border controls, environmental migration, and migration of the highly skilled. At the Department of Sociology, MiReKoc offers Migration and Globalization (SOSC 105) a course covering the major concepts and issues pertaining to contemporary global migration. At the Department of International Relations, MiReKoc teaches Migration Policies (INTL 409), a course that provides students with theoretical and empirical knowledge to grasp differences in the immigration policies of Western democracies by focusing on the dynamics that drive immigration policymaking.

# CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON GLOBALIZATION, PEACE, AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (GLODEM)

The Koç University Center for Research on Globalization, Peace, and Democratic Governance (GLODEM) specializes in academic research and policy-oriented activities. GLODEM was initially created in September 2004 by Koç University faculty members as an informal faculty network. It became a formal organization in 2010 after gaining approval from the Turkish Council of Higher Education. GLODEM's mission is to create, apply, and disseminate knowledge relevant to its three areas of expertise; globalization and political economy, peace and conflict resolution, and democratic governance and



administration. GLODEM works to achieve this mission by partnering with academia, public, private, and civil society organizations. GLODEM's vision is to become an internationally recognized center specialized in value-added academic research and policy analysis related to globalization, peace, and democratic governance.

### **GLODEM COLLABORATIONS**

GLODEM organized activities with new partners including embassies and consulates, Koç University and non-Koç University centers, international foundations, ministries, and international organizations. GLODEM continues to host academic conferences and high-profile speaker series with Koç University partners including Stanford University. GLODEM also became a partner of the UK's top political economy research institute, Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute (SPERI).

GLODEM co-organized the annual workshop of the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis (JCPA) and the International Comparative Policy Analysis-Forum (ICPA-Forum) scholarly society on 11-12 September 2020. In addition, GLODEM Director Caner Bakır, joined the international advisory board for the series, Studies in the Political Economy of Public Policy (SPEPP) published by Palgrave Macmillan.

### **GLODEM MEMBERSHIPS**

GLODEM is International Institutional Member of the International Comparative Policy Analysis Forum (ICPA-Forum) and one of the sponsors of the Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis (JCPA). Activities by the JCPA/ICPA-Forum advance the domain of comparative international policy studies. These include but are not limited to annual workshops in the area of comparative policy studies, guest lectures, awards for best comparative papers at key international conferences, sponsorship of comparative panels at conferences, collaborative comparative research, comparative public policy publications of books, book series and others, and other initiatives suggested by sponsors and approved by the Board of Directors. GLODEM is also a member of the Think20 National Advisory Board. T20 is a network of think tanks and academics from G20 countries that are working to provide an important analytical input into the G20 process.

### **GLODEM BOARD MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS**

GLODEM has a well-established tradition of initiating and hosting international interdisciplinary research workshops, leading to special journal issues and edited books. GLODEM member publications also represent a notable breadth in terms of the topics they address, especially in terms of global, regional, and national issues. The following are examples of recent publications by the Director and Executive Board members.

Bakir, C. (journal special issue, in progress, 2021). What does structure, institution and agency debate have to do with comparative policy analysis? Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis.

Bakir, C. (2020). The Turkish state's responses to existential COVID-19 crisis, Policy and Society, 39:3, 424-441.

Yagci, M. and Bakir, C. (edited) Çin'in ekonomik yükselişi ve Türkiye: Küresel dönüşümler, ekonomik ve dış politikada yansımalar [The Economic Rise of China and Turkey: Global Transformations, and Reflections on Economic and Foreign Policies] (under contract with Koç University Press)

Bakir, C. (2019). Actions, Contexts, Mechanisms and Outcomes in Macroprudential Policy Design and Implementation, Public Policy and Administration.

Bakir, C. and Gunduz, A. (2019). The importance of policy entrepreneurs in developing countries: A systematic review and future research agenda, Public Administration and Development, 40:11-34.

Bakir, C. and Coban, K. (2019). How Can a Seemingly Weak State in the Financial Services Industry Act Strong? The Role of Organizational Policy Capacity in Monetary and Macroprudential Policy, New Perspectives on Turkey, 61:71-96.

Bakir, C. (2019). How do mega-bank merger policy and regulations contribute to financial stability? Evidence from Australia and Canada, Journal of Economic Policy Reform.

Ertan, G., Aytaç, E., and Çarkoğlu, A. (2019). Institutional Trust in Turkey (In Turkish), Hacettepe University Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences. 37 (1)

Ertan, G. (2019). Collective Action, Civil Society, and Public Policy in Turkey, Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis.

Gürel, B. (2019). Semi-private landownership and capitalist agriculture in contemporary China, Review of Radical Political Economics, 2019, pp. 650–669.

Gürel, B. (2018). The role of collective mobilization in the divergent performance of the rural economies of China and India (1950-2005), The Journal of Peasant Studies, Vol. 46, No. 5, 2019, pp. 1021-1046.

Gürel, B., Küçük, B. and Taş, S. (2019). The rural roots of the rise of the Justice and Development Party in Turkey, The Journal of Peasant Studies, Vol. 46, No. 3, 2019, pp. 457-479.

Turper-Alışık, S., Bayraktar-Aksel, D., Yantaç, A. E., Kayı, İ., Salman, S., İçduygu, Çay, D., A., Baruh, L. and Bensason, I. (2019). Seasonal Labor Migration Among Syrian Refugees and Urban Deep Map for Integration in Turkey. In Salah, A. A., Pentland, A., Lepri, B., Letouzé, E. (Eds.) Guide to Mobile Data Analytics in Refugee Scenarios: The 'Data for Refugees Challenge' Study, Springer.

Turper-Alışık, S., Bayraktar-Aksel, D., Yantaç, A. E., Kayı, İ., Salman, S., İçduygu, A., Baruh, L. and Bensason, I. (2019). UDMIT: An Urban Deep Map for Integration in Turkey.

### **GLODEM FELLOWS AND VISITORS**

During the reporting period, five GLODEM fellows and visitors collaborated with Koç University faculty and contributed to research and teaching activities.

Adrien Abecassis, a Fellow with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA) at Harvard University.

Jack Loveridge, a Fellow with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA) at Harvard University.

Professor Darryl S. Jarvis, Dean, Hong Kong Institute of Education was a visiting scholar between August-September 2019 at GLODEM.

Aydan Olcer has been a Visiting Researcher at GLODEM since September 2018.

Aynur Seidyusif has been a Visiting Researcher at GLODEM since November 2018.

### **EXTERNALLY-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS AND GRANTS**

All GLODEM Directors, Executive Board members, and affiliated members are internationally recognized, multiple awarded academic researchers who have published multiple, notable pieces of research as individuals. GLODEM supports and highlights their research. As a research center, GLODEM also pursues research inhouse.

Caner Bakır is a country representative for European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action CA15207, Professionalization and Social Impact of European Political Science.

Reşat Bayer has received TÜBİTAK awards and grants for his past and current research.

### **ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS (2018-2020)**

The following activities represent GLODEM's commitment to research and broad impact. Such events increase the international visibility of the center and its research output.

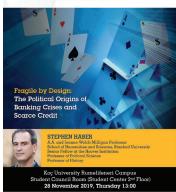
### **Academic Seminars**

- Aynur Seidyusif-Visiting Fellow, Koç University, Opening up the black box: Mediating role of the individual level factors in understanding the onset of armed conflicts, 21 February 2019
- Ozan Çağlar and Eren Ocakverdi, Recent Developments in Global Financial Markets and Its Implications on Turkey, 4 December 2018
- Ali Burak Güven, University of London, Rising Powers, International Financial Institutions and Development Paradigms: The Decline of the Post-Washington Consensus, 12 December 2018
- Professor Stephen Haber, Stanford University, Fragile by Design: The Political Origins of Banking Crises and Scarce Credit, 24 November 2019.
- Peter Ericson, Consul General of Sweden, Innovation for Success, Lecture by the Consul General of Sweden, 6 November 2019.
- Professor Volker Schneider, Chair for Empirical Theory of the State, University of Konstanz, & WZB Berlin, Social Differentiation in Policy-Networks: Governing Climate Change in Germany, 6 November 2019.
- Professor Darryl S.L. Jarvis, Department of Asian and Policy Studies Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, The Education University of Hong Kong, Sino-American Power Competition in the Asia Pacific:

A Rising China and a Declining America?, 1 October 2019.

- Associate Professor David Carter, University of Washington at Saint Louis, Systemic Instability and the Emergence of Border Disputes, 24 June 2019.
- Professor Michael Howlett, the Department of Political Science at Simon Fraser University, Canada, Policy Tools & Their Targets: Beyond Nudges and Utility Maximization in Policy Compliance, 2 May 2019.
- Workshop: Turkish Foreign Policy in an Age of Global and Regional Turmoil, 25 January 2020
- GLODEM co-organized a workshop with International Relations Department of Koç University and the London School of Economics on Turkish Foreign Policy, 7 February 2020.







### **CENTER FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC LAW (KÜREMER)**



Established in December 2014, the mission of the Center for Global Public Law (KÜREMER) is to carry out academic and legal policy-oriented research in the broader field of global public law, comprising international law, European law, constitutional law, criminal law and human rights law. The center continues to provide a research environment for researchers at all stages of their careers, including

doctoral and LLM students who are pursuing degrees in public law at Koç University Law School.

### KÜREMER COLLABORATIONS

In 2019, KÜREMER undertook a major research project in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, South Africa and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This new research project investigates the impact of the UN human rights treaties in Turkey between 1999-2020. The research has already led to a findings report in Turkish and English and a seminar on UN human rights treaties and Turkey. A book chapter for a global comparative study on the domestic impact of UN human rights treaties is forthcoming. This research project marks a continuation of KÜREMER's expertise in UN human rights law.

The center was part of a successful European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action proposal, Global Digital Human Rights Network, which began in October 2020.

Members and researchers affiliated with the center have continued to publish research in high impact international journals and academic blogs focusing on global public law. They have also attended academic events and conferences with support from the center's academic network.

A KÜREMER and Oxford University Press partnership which started in 2015 and made KÜREMER the host of the prestigious Oxford United Nations Human Rights Law Reporters Program, came to an end in 2019. During the four year partnership, Koç University Law Students published over 100 case notes on United Nations Human Rights case law with Oxford University Press.

### KÜREMER PUBLICATIONS

Some selected peer reviewed publications that credit the center are as follows:

Çalı, B. (2019). The European Court of Human Rights and Accountability for Neoliberal State Conduct: Never the Twain Shall Meet? In: Legal Trajectories of Neoliberalism: Critical Inquiries on Law in Europe, Salomon and Bruno de Witte (eds.), (EUI Working Paper RSCAS 2019/43) 21-25.

Çalı, B. (2019). Political Limits of Human Rights, in: The Limits of Human Rights, Fassbender and Knut (eds.), (Oxford University Press) 137-147.

Çalı, B. (2019). The Balancing Test: The European Court of Human Rights Max Planck Encyclopaedia of International Procedural Law, (Oxford University Press) (Online publication, article selected for open access until February 2020).

Çalı, B., McGregor, L. and Elibol, Z. (2019). The International Court of Justice as an Integrator, Developer and Globaliser of International Human Rights Law, in: Human Rights in Other International Courts (ed.), (Cambridge University Press) 62-86.

Çalı, B. (2020). Specialized Rules of Treaty Interpretation: Human Rights, The Oxford Guide to Treaties, (Oxford University Press) (2020).

Çalı, B. (2020). The case for the right to meaningful access to internet as a Human Right in International Law, in: The Cambridge Handbook on New Human Rights (ed.), (Cambridge University Press).

Çalı, B., Costello, C. and Cunningham, S. (2020). Hard Protection through Soft Courts? Non-Refoulement before the United Nations Treaty Bodies, German Law Journal 21 355-384.

Çalı, B. and Galand, A. S. (2020). Towards a common institutional trajectory? Individual complaints before UN treaty bodies during their Booming years, The International Journal of Human Rights DOI: 10.1080/13642987.2019. 1709447

Oder, B. E. (2020). (forthcoming) Turkish Constitutional Court and Democratic Breakdown: Judicial Politics under Pressure, Special Issue: Constitutional Courts in Retrospective, Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law.

Oder, B. E. (2020). (forthcoming) Turkey's Path: Autocratic Retreat and Constitutional Revival, Social Research: An International Quarterly.

Önok, R. M. (2019). İnsan Hakları El Kitabı (Handbook on Human Rights), 8th ed., Seçkin Yayıncılık (with Durmuş Tezcan, Mustafa Ruhan Erdem and Oğuz Sancakdar)

Önok, R. M. (2019). Can Terrorist Acts be Prosecuted as a Crime Against Humanity? An Analysis Under International and Turkish Law (Terör Eylemleri İnsanlığa Karşı Suç Olarak Yargılanabilir Mi? Uluslararası Hukuk ve Türk Hukuku Altında Bir İnceleme), Durmuş Tezcan'a Armağan, DEÜHFD Özel Sayısı, Cilt 21, İzmir, s. 655-700.

Önok, R. M. (2019). Sulh Ceza Hakimliklerinin Mevcut Durumunun Yarattığı Sorunlar ve Değiştirilme Mecburiyeti, in: Yargı Reformu Kapsamında Yargı Bağımsızlığı, Türk Ceza Hukuku Derneği, s. 36-58 https://www.tchd.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/yargi-bagimsizligi-raporu-2019-tchd.pdf

### KÜREMER KEY EVENTS

KÜREMER held two key research events in 2019. In May 2019, KÜREMER co-organized an international colloquium on international legal theory and hosted Professor Miaodrag Jovanovic, professor of international law and jurisprudence at the University of Belgrade. The second event was a seminar by Onur Andreotti a senior lawyer and member of the JurisConsult of the European Court of Human Rights. Andreotti delivered a seminar on the European Court of Human Rights' approach to delineating harmful speech and harmful acts in the context of freedom of expression. Bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge of hate speech case law to her discussion, the seminar was also an excellent opportunity for LLM and doctoral students to inquire into the workings of the European Court of Human Rights and career opportunities. KÜREMER publicly reports on its activities on its website and via its Twitter account.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FORUM**



Koç University Corporate Governance Forum was established by the Koç University Graduate School of Business, with the strategic alliance of Heidrick & Struggles and is sponsored by Siemens. The Corporate Governance Forum brings together efforts to advance corporate governance practices through research, and facilities dialogue between academics and practitioners in developing a solid foundation for corporate governance. The forum provides a meeting place for companies to compare current practices, seek answers to

common problems, identify good practice, and become a hub on corporate governance. The forum's mutually agreed scope covers the following issues: steps into corporate governance, board structure and composition, board effectiveness, family structures in Turkey, compliance, diversity, effective paths from board to execution, the role of the board of directors, succession planning, board remuneration, objective board assessment and performance review, board dedication and motivation, and mitigating risk.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TURKEY CONFERENCE

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FORUM

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TURKEY

KOÇ UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS' HALL RUMELİFENERİ CAMPUS APRIL 18, 2019



cgf.ku.edu.tr

On 18 April 2019, the Corporate Governance Forum held a conference, Corporate Governance Experience and Sustainable Development in Turkey, which brought together Koç University alumni, faculty and industry leaders to discuss their work in sustainability. This conference featured individual presentations and a series of panel discussions for sharing thoughts and experiences about small business leaders' Sustainable Development Goals. The conference hosted three Koç University faculty members. The event was a great opportunity to bring Koç University alumni and professional leaders together with faculty members from different fields and showcase their important work. The event covered several

important topics such as strategic management in SMEs, the role of women in family businesses and SMEs, sustainable development goals, reducing inequalities, and compliance and ethics.

### **RESEARCH AND COLLABORATIONS**

A collaboration between Deloitte and Koç University was established in 2018 within the scope of Deloitte's Best Managed Companies award program to conduct a scientific research program thorough the Corporate Governance Forum. The ongoing study focuses on small and medium sized businesses and aims to uncover the relationships between organizational strategies, people management systems and practices, employees' perceptions about the strength of HR, and how these influence employees' individual and collective work attitudes and organizational performance.

# KOÇ UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND PHILANTHROPY RESEARCH (KUSITHAM)



The Koç University Center for Civil Society and Philanthropy Research (KUSITHAM) was established in Fall 2019 and inaugurated with a two-day conference and workshop. At the conference, KUSITHAM researchers shared findings from a survey on giving behavior in Turkey and presented their vision for the new center. The survey's results were published in both Turkish and English. KUSITHAM is working together with the Third Sector Foundation

(TUSEV) and other stakeholders to get funding for research on giving behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic and to create a periodical on civil society and philanthropy. In total, the center's faculty wrote two papers and one bilingual report with data collected by the center.

### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH: BEFORE COVID-19

A new master's degree program at the Department of Public Health was given approval from Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YÖK). Global Health is a multidisciplinary degree program that will include contribution from the departments of clinical microbiology, infectious disease, psychology, and sociology, the school of nursing, the college of engineering, and MiReKoc. The program will begin in 2021 and will include a seminar series.

The department participated for a third year in the MIWOCA (Migrant Women's Health Care Needs for Chronic Illness Services in Switzerland) research project. The project addresses health inequalities found between and within different population groups. A workshop conducted in 2019 at Koç University highlighted public health issues associated with migration.

In 2019, the department began a new monthly seminar series called Research and Methodology. The series aims to discuss current research approaches and increase awareness of current public health issues such as food safety or reproductive health.

School of Medicine students continued to conduct public health internships in Esenler, a relatively disadvantaged neighborhood with a large Syrian immigrant population. A collaboration with İnsan

Kaynağını Geliştirme Vakfı (Human Resource Development Foundation) in which interns answer questions from refugees about health issues, continued remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# COMBATTING COVID-19: SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Koç University's School of Medicine is among leading institutions shaping the response to COVID-19 in Turkey and the region. The school's researchers began work on COVID-19 even before the first case was confirmed in Turkey. Within a couple of months, the University had initiated 39 multifaceted projects under the leadership of the School of Medicine, many of which were interdisciplinary and some could even be considered supra-disciplinary. These projects were conducted by researchers from the School of Medicine (including the department of public health), the College of Engineering (the departments of electrical-electronics engineering, computer engineering, chemical-biological engineering, mechanical engineering, and industrial engineering) and the College of Sciences (the department of molecular biology and genetics, and department of physics).

Koç University collaborates with other universities and government organizations in Turkey, coordinated by the Ministry of Health and TÜBİTAK (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey). Intense COVID-19 research efforts are focused on issues such as disease diagnosis, treatment, determining how the disease spreads, pandemic management, patient tracking systems, vaccination, medication and equipment, and organizing support systems. A project managed at Koç University developed a novel diagnostic kit and measuring device based on a SERS technique, which provided much needed high sensitivity and fast response testing in the early days of the pandemic. Other studies which contributed to fighting the pandemic included imaging studies which target microdroplets and aerosols and development of a PCR system for collecting airborne samples.

The school also conducted rigorous research into treatments. These focused on strong inflammatory responses, manufacturing anakinra and biosimilars, and identifying drugs that block the spread of the virus in the lungs' epithelial cells. Much needed mechanical ventilation devices were produced in Koç University's engineering laboratories. In addition, a portable breathing support system - an ECMO device-and a sensitive lung simulator are among other systems that were developed.

Koç University researchers also developed systems which helped health teams to monitor infected patients who are quarantined at home, by optimizing schedules and routes for team visits to ensure systematic follow-up and response. Researchers also developed cost-effective software and hardware solutions based on Bluetooth and wireless technology, especially for high-risk older adults. Patient follow-ups, social distancing, and telehealth are within the scope of these projects.

As of the end of 2020, the severe effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue. The following are some of the projects carried out at Koç University over the past year.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY COVID-19 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

### **DIAGNOSIS AND DETECTION**

- Development and clinical validation of diagnostic kit for COVID-19 and other viral infections.
- Distribution profiles of coronavirus by Schlieren imaging method.
- Diagnostic software using artificial intelligence based lung tomography.
- Development of air sampling PCR for COVID-19.

### DRUG DEVELOPMENT

- Production of a drug to treat cytokine storm caused by COVID-19-induced pneumonia.
- Antiviral drug development for COVID-19.
- Study of coronavirus-human structural interactome.
- Investigation of the effectiveness of active ingredients in drugs against COVID-19.

### TREATMENT AND TRACKING

- A new multi-functional portable respiratory support system.
- Contacted Arçelik R&D to help with manufacturing parts for ICU ventilators at Koç University's manufacturing research center.
- Robotic automation of PCR system for COVID-19 tests.
- Development of a new extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) device for hospitals.
- A new medical support system for expanded therapy of acute and chronic lung failure.
- EVSA (evde sağlık) project: A home healthcare project designed to assist with the scheduling and routing of household visits for health field teams, by developing a decision support system using smart technology and innovative methodology.
- System design for the surveillance of COVID-19 patients and social distancing control.
- Prototype design of a pressure measurement system for Tofaş R&D's ventilator which went into mass production.
- Prototype design and production of intensive care unit systems that allow remote patient management and improved testing chambers.
- Development of accurate in vitro lung physiology simulators for the benchtop.
- Prototype production of extracorporeal membrane oxygenator components for use with the most severe COVID-19 cases.
- Safe-zone mobile tracking application.

### **EVALUATION AND SUPPORT**

- A study of the possible reasons for observing different COVID-19 fatality rates in different countries.
- Analysis of chest CT images using artificial intelligence for COVID-19 diagnosis and prognosis.
- A study to evaluate prognostic differences and predicting possible cause of deaths for COVID-19 patients at Koç University Hospital and American Hospital.
- Dynamic modelling of coronavirus spread.
- Public health information platform: a digital health literacy project about COVID-19. The School of Medicine collaborated with the psychiatry department, MAVA (media and visual arts), and the psychology department. The project aims to develop an online platform to answer common questions about COVID-19 using evidence based medical algorithms, and with innovative features to allow users to ask questions and receive answers.
- A COVID-19 multi-country student wellbeing study.
- The effects of placing COVID-19 patients in the prone position during treatment.
- Operation strategies for performing lung resection during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on radiation oncologists.
- Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on clinical practice in radiation oncology.
- Psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients under treatment in radiation oncology.
- Could PSA be a prognostic marker in men with COVID-19?
- The role of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in understanding COVID-19 infection and the problems caused by COVID-19 infection in the treatment of patients with ASD.
- Sarcopenia and related factors in COVID-19.
- The effectiveness of physical rehabilitation in intensive care units following acute respiratory distress syndrome secondary to coronavirus infection; a controlled study.
- Prognostic value of serum galectin-3 in COVID-19 patients.
- Investigation of the effects of COVID-19 on the coagulation system.
- Effects of antihypertensive treatment agents on the development of COVID-19.
- Effects of COVID-19 on odor.

### **SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)**

Koç University School of Nursing (KUSON) took a very active role during the pandemic, both to support nurses and increase public awareness. Between April and July 2020, twelve COVID-19 webinar events were held to advances clinical nurses' knowledge and skills, contribute to their professional development, and raise social awareness of public health issues. Approximately 5,000 people participated in the webinars.

- Professor Ayişe Karadağ, Chronic Wound Management During COVID-19.
- Assistant Professor Ayda Kebapçı, Current Approaches to Treatment and Care Interventions in Intensive Care Unit for COVID-19 Patients.
- Assistant Professor Kader Tekkaş Karman, COVID-19 and the New Normal Period in Public Health: Are we ready enough? What should we do to be ready? The presentation was for a general audience and discussed how to protect ourselves during the pandemic from a public health perspective.
- Begüm Yalçın, Effective Teamwork. The presentation discussed cooperative behavior for nurses, with special focus on the pandemic.



- Associate Professor Fahriye Oflaz, Psychological First Aid. A presentation for healthcare professionals on ways to be resilient and how to endure the difficulties of restricted lives during the pandemic.
- Assistant Professor Nilgün Göktepe, Management of Nursing Services During COVID-19. A presentation on the many ways to improve the functioning of management.
- Professor Ayşe Beşer and Selvinaz

Albayrak, Prevention of Home Accidents in Children During the Epidemic. A presentation on how to avoid common accidents home and guidance for parents and other caretakers.

- Professor Perihan Güner and Songül Kamışlı (Hacettepe University Cancer Institute, Department of Preventive Oncology, Psychosocial Support Unit), The Pandemic Process and Its Effect on Nurses Providing Active Service in the Hospital. A discussion about empowering nurses while serving under a pandemic.
- Professor Ayşe Ferda Ocakçı, Associate Professor Ayfer Aydin, and Selvinaz Albayrak, Children: The Hidden Victims of COVID-19. A panel discussion.
- Professor Sevilay Şenol Çelik, ICU During the COVID-19 Epidemic Period: What changed remained unchanged or will change? The presentation offered an analysis on Intensive Care Nursing (ICU) practices.
- Professor Kafiye Eroğlu and doctoral student Sinem Dinmez, Pregnancy and COVID-19. A discussion on the effects of the pandemic on pregnant women.
- Tuba Şengül and Zeynep Aksoy, Mindfulness for Healthcare Professionals. An workshop featuring mindfulness exercises.

During the reporting period, the School of Nursing organized three symposiums:

### **KOC UNIVERSITY NURSES WEEK SYMPOSIUM:**

# 3 MAY 2019 PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL NURSES COUNCIL: EVERY DAY NURSES ARE SAVING LIVES

The Koç University Nurses Week Symposium was held 3 May 2019 as part of global nurses' week celebrations, with participation of International Nurses Council (ICN) President Annette Kennedy.



The annual symposium is usually organized in collaboration with the Vehbi Koç Foundation Health Institutions and Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research Center (SANERC), but in 2019 it was organized as part of the Nursing Now campaign. Nursing Now is a three year global campaign (now at the end of its second year) which aims to improve the public recognition of the nursing profession and empower nurses to make health services more accessible for society – it is led in Turkey by KUSOM. The symposium's panelists included Professor Azize Karahan, (Turkish Nurses Association Board Member ), Serap Sener (World Health Organization Country Office in Turkey), Özge Karanfil (Koç University), and Ayşenur Asuman Uğur (television presenter).

The ICN's theme for the symposium was Nurses: A voice to Lead Health for All. Discussion included the roles of the World Health Organization, media and nurses. Kennedy emphasized the importance of nurses in fulfilling the World Health Organization's Health for All objective and said: "Every day nurses are saving lives,

they are there when others are not. Investing in nursing is an investment in the health of society and investing in health is an investment in the economy."

### KOÇ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENT SYMPOSIUM - IN THE ERA OF **CHANGE: THE ROLE OF NURSES**

The KUSON student symposium was held 22 March 2019 attended by more than 100 nursing students from public and private universities in Istanbul. Student representatives from six universities made presentations on the theme of: In the Era of Change: The Role of Nurses. The event was part of the Nursing Now campaign which aims to increase the visibility of nurses. Nursing students presented products, solutions and methods developed by nurses to improve the lives of patients. A workshop on innovative and design thinking was led by Burak Yaman, coordinator of the Koc University Entrepreneurship Research Center (KWORKS).

### **KOC UNIVERSITY NURSES WEEK SYMPOSIUM**



The Koç University Nurses Week Symposium 2020 was held online on 12 May, in cooperation with the Vehbi Koç Foundation Health Institutions and the Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research Center (SANERC). This year's Nursing Week celebrations gained greater meaning given the extraordinary efforts of nurses during the pandemic; 2020 was also designated International Year of the Nurse by the International Nurses Council and the World Health Organization in honor of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Issues discussed at the symposium included the media presence of nurses during COVID-19, the status of the nursing profession across the world, the sustainability of nursing

education using remote learning tools, and teamwork during COVID-19. Panel speakers included Professor Ayişe Karadağ (moderator, Dean of KUSON), Afşin Yurdakul (journalist and television presenter), Gülten Koç (Turkish Nurses Association Board Member), Professor Sevim Buzlu (Head of the Deans Council of Nursing Faculties), and Füsun Afşar (Health Care Services Manager of Health Sciences University Sultan Abdülhamid Han Training and Research Hospital).

The panel discussion reached nearly 1,000 participants across Turkey and many other countries including

the United States, Finland, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Kuwait, and Cyprus. Within the scope of Nurses Week, Professor Ayişe Karadağ voiced current demands on improving the working rights and conditions of nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially through mainstream media channels (FOX TV, İsmail Küçükkaya, Alarm Clock / HaberTürk, Afşin Yurdakul, HT360) and social media via nursing associations and other professional organizations.

# KOÇ UNIVERSITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH CENTER (KWORKS) AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE



Koç University Entrepreneurship Research Center (KWORKS) was established in 2013 to support Koç University entrepreneurs and raise awareness for entrepreneurship among Koç University students, academics, and alumni. The center moved to its current location in Şişli, İstanbul at the end of 2014 and serves startups

both across the country. In 2018, KWORKS opened a branch on Koç University's Rumelifeneri Campus to serve entrepreneurs on the university's main campus. KWORKS is recognized as a leading startup accelerator program in Turkish entrepreneurship ecosystem.

In 2020, KWORKS formed a corporate startup collaboration platform called KWORKS COVID-19 Express, with support from the Istanbul Development Agency. The platform enabled startups to collaborate with companies, public institutions and NGOs to quickly bring to life innovative solutions that will decrease the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Seventy startups and over 70 corporations, public institutions and NGOs joined the platform. Over 300 pre-agreements for potential collaborations were made during the week long matching event in June 2020. Ten startups selected for the accelerator program following the matching event formed 29 notable collaborations. The outputs of those collaborations were presented in a Demo Day which was held in September 2020. The platform set a strong example for how solidarity-based collaborations can be formed between startups, corporations, public institutions, and NGOs to boost the implementation of innovative solutions.

## **PRINCIPLE 3**

Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

# **PRINCIPLE 4**

the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

# **PRINCIPLE 5**

the effective abolition of child labour; and

# **PRINCIPLE 6**

the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Koç University is a people-oriented organization and promotes values that demonstrate an individual's social responsibility towards the world and their country.



To this end, it aims to be a symbol of reliability, continuity and prestige for its national and global stakeholders, namely students, graduates, employees, suppliers, and non-governmental organizations.

The Koç University Code of Ethical Conduct has been prepared in line with the principles of Vehbi Koç, the founder of the Vehbi Koç Foundation: to be the best one can be, to create wealth for continuous development, to strengthen the country, to see human resources as the most important asset and to adopt superior business ethics and honesty.

# ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENT TO LABOUR RIGHTS KOÇ UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Koç University's Occupational Health and Safety department ensures that all university employees and students work, study and operate in a safe environment. The department also contributes to healthier living. Between 2018 and 2020, the department pursued multiple projects to improve workplace safety and improve wellbeing among the university community. The department also took a leading role during the pandemic to ensure that researchers and other university staff could conduct activities safely on campus. Ongoing activities and COVID-19 measures are detailed below.

Mandatory occupational health and safety training sessions are organized for Koç University employees.

- The Occupational Health and Safety department developed a ten module online laboratory safety training program and distributed to all laboratory users. From 2019 to 2020, 582 individuals completed the laboratory safety training.
- In 2020, training for ISO 45001: 2018 Occupational health and safety management systems was given to individuals in departments concerned with occupational safety activities at the University.
- From 2018 to 2020, 789 individuals received occupational safety training.
- When the pandemic began, the Occupational Health and Safety department prepared a COVID-19 training program for both campus users and laboratory users. It was completed by 2530 individuals.
- The KUBeGood project organizes activities and seminars to benefit bodily, mental, and spiritual health:
  - In 2018 and 2019 a Health Week was organized featuring seminars, healthy snacks, activities, etc.
  - From 2018 to 2019, a dietician provided services promoting healthy eating on campus, including weekly visits.
  - From 2018 to 2020 shoulder and back massage services were organized for office workers
  - Physical activities such as Zumba and Taebo were organized to promote exercise among employees.
     Trekking activities were also organized to promote exercise and enable coworkers to socialize outside of the workplace

### **During the pandemic:**

- KUBeGood Efforts
- Yoga video lessons were shared for 12 weeks.
- Pilates video lessons were shared for 7 weeks.
- A 'small habits' seminar was organized.

- During the remote working period, a series of suggestions to benefit bodily, mental, and spiritual health were prepared and communicated to employees.
- Live Taebo lessons continued during the pandemic.
- Infographics were prepared to raise awareness about:
- Social distance and pandemic planning
- Occupational safety during remote work
- Three basic rules for protecting your health on campus
- Measures to protect against COVID-19 during a vacation
- More than 1200 posters and 4000 signages were placed on campus.
- Information sessions about COVID-19 were held for faculty and staff.
- Self Checker application was introduced on KU Mobile app in cooperation with the IT Department for campus entries.
- Internal audits were conducted to ensure that social distancing rules are applied and facemasks are used.
- Consultancy services are provided for Koç University staff through AVITA-Employee Assistance Program.

### **KOC UNIVERSITY SOCIAL IMPACT FORUM (KUSIF)** SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SECTOR TURKEY RESEARCH

The British Council's Global Social Enterprise program expanded its research of the social entrepreneurship sector to Turkey. The program was conducted across 4 continents and 31 countries to increase the capacity of social enterprises, develop an international network and create an ecosystem that improves social investments.

Led by TED University and with collaboration from KUSIF, Ashoka Turkey, Istanbul Bilgi University, Mikado Consultancy, and Middle East Technical University, a research report was published. Additional support was also provided by Social Enterprise UK, which had consulted on previous country research programs.

The project aims to forecast the scale, size, and potential of the social enterprise sector in Turkey. The project provided data for future policies and studies in social enterprise. Additionally, the project was a base for measuring the development of social enterprises in respect of quantitative data.

The full report is available in Turkish and English in the publications section of KUSIF's website.

### **TURKEY SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK**

### THE STATE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN TURKEY

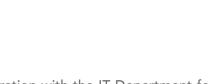


The Turkey Social Entrepreneurship Network was a project funded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey under the Civil Society Sector - Grant Scheme for Partnerships and Networks. It is led by the Vehbi Koç Foundation in collaboration with KUSIF, Ashoka Turkey, Social Innovation Initiative Association, Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development Association, TED University, Mozaik Foundation (Bosnia Herzegovina), and Social

Enterprise UK (England). The project aims to develop a social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Turkey. Abdullah Gül University, Ankara Development Agency, Eastern Anatolia Development Agency, Silkroad Development Agency, Nilüfer Municipality, Middle Black Sea Regional Development Agency, and The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey all support the project as local contributing partners. The Turkey Social Entrepreneurship Network project began in October 2018 and ended in October 2020. The network plans to continue with new partnerships and members.

Through the project NGOs and active citizens increased their capacity while strengthening dialogue with local and national governments to develop a social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Turkey.

Within the scope of the project, an online platform to bring network members together was established at sosyalgirisimcilikagi.org. The platform was an area where ecosystem stakeholders could meet, interact,



KU@GOOD

and share knowledge and experiences.

The project strengthened the capacities of non-governmental organizations and the dialogue between active citizens and public institutions. It carried out many activities contributing to the development of a social entrepreneurship ecosystem.

### Activities included:

Capacity Building: Trainers who work in the field of social entrepreneurship were given trainer training on topics such as social impact, social innovation and its different models, social entrepreneurship and active citizenship, business plan and revenue model development, community building, relations with public institutions from Turkey, best social enterprise examples, and social finance.

Trainers who took part in the Istanbul trainings, went on to give social entrepreneurship training in their own provinces (Bursa, Samsun, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Van) with the support of a training guide prepared by the project partners.

Network Communication Activities: Regular networking events were organized throughout the project, including #TSGA Açık Sahne, webinars, and #TSGA Thursday Meetings. Additionally, stakeholder networking events were held in Istanbul and Ankara to share experiences and latest information among stakeholders. A national social media and online awareness campaign for encouraging new social enterprises was conducted aimed primarily at CSOs and active citizens in the public and private sector. The campaign used video and photo content distributed through print and online media. A Turkey Social Entrepreneurship School was established, which included publicly accessible training videos made by social entrepreneurship project partners.

Advocacy Activities and National Action Plan on Social Entrepreneurship: Two research reports were published and disseminated to establish a baseline for Turkey's social entrepreneurship ecosystem and its legal status. Both reports are the result of two years of comprehensive stakeholder meetings, focus groups, consultations, interviews, and surveys. The reports:

### Legal Status of Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey: Needs and Recommendations Report

The report identified legislative obstacles to the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Turkey and made recommendation on how to overcome them. This is a unique study in that it is the first to examine the legal status of Turkey's social enterprises and give recommendations for strengthening their legal position.

### Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Turkey: Baseline Report

This report determined the current state of Turkey's social entrepreneurship ecosystem, looking at the needs and challenges faced by social entrepreneurs. Additionally, the report gave recommendations for policy developers and other supporting organizations. The study was exceptional in that its analysis focused on the ecosystem level rather than individual actors.

# RESEARCH COMMITMENTS TO LABOUR TÜSİAD ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM







Established in 2004 as a non-profit and non-partisan organization, the Koç University -TÜSİAD Economic Research Forum (ERF) promotes independent, objective analysis and

discussion on economic growth and the implications of different economic policy options. The activities of the ERF are conducted under the supervision of its board of directors and its executive council, which consist of members of Koç University and TÜSİAD (Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association), the organizations that provide its funding. The ERF is an active research center, focusing on empirical analysis that investigate questions relevant to the Turkish economy. ERF conferences serve to increase Turkey's international visibility and seek to supplement policy debates with the most current academic research. The ERF Working Paper Series is listed in the RePEc database. It is currently one of Turkey's fastest growing and highest quality working papers series. Each year the ERF issues around 20 working

papers written by outstanding academics from top international and domestic institutions. The ERF also publishes research reports on issues relevant to the Turkish economy. The latest report titled Central Government Budget Expenditures, sheds light on the deterioration of Turkey's fiscal deficit in recent years. The ERF website reflects the full scope of ERF activities, including conference programs and presentations, a fully downloadable list of working papers and research notes, and national media coverage of ERF activities: <a href="https://eaf.ku.edu.tr/en/">https://eaf.ku.edu.tr/en/</a>. To extend the forum's reach with younger people, ERF is now on Twitter with almost 3,000 followers. The Twitter account announces ERF conferences, research, and articles published by ERF Director Selva Demiralp.

# DR. NÜSRET - SEMAHAT ARSEL INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW IMPLEMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTER (NASAMER)



The Dr. Nüsret - Semahat Arsel International Business Law Implementation and Research Center (NASAMER) was founded in 2006. The aim of the center is to offer an interdisciplinary perspective of legal research and disputes in international commercial law. The center's primary focus is on academic activities such as symposiums, conferences, workshops, and seminars. It conducts research and scholarly collaborations in international commercial law, including areas such as international business transactions, international trade regulations and disputes, mergers and acquisitions,

international commercial arbitration, trade barriers, joint ventures and governance. The center's activities extend to legal implementation, profession and research in international private law, business transactions, all fields of economic law, intellectual property and information technology law, law of contracts and international sales law, transport law, insurance law and tax law. The center supports research into comparative and international judicial studies and alternative dispute resolution and encourages interdisciplinary research as well as research that interrogates the boundaries and relationships between public law and private law at the global level.

The Center has collaborative initiatives with the Koç University-TÜSİAD Economic Research Forum, maximizing impact by analyzing the cross-sections of law and finance. Since 2014, the center has also supported the research activities of the Law Schools Global League (LSGL). LSGL research groups in the field of business and investment, business and human rights, and corruption are closely related with the center's activities. The center has recently been declared a World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) repository for Turkey, which is an important step toward strengthening ties with international organizations. Faculty members with an active role in the center's activities are also involved in the International Insurance Law Association's (Association International de Droit des Assurance, AIDA) Presidential Council and attend the European Center of Tort and Insurance Law events on a regular basis.

### **KOC UNIVERSITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH CENTER (KWORKS)**

KWORKS offers pre-accelerator and accelerator programs for entrepreneurs. Pre-accelerator programs are for entrepreneurs aiming to validate business ideas before incorporating a company. An entrepreneur can join the pre-accelerator program if KWORKS decides that the entrepreneur's idea is worth validation. The accelerator program is for entrepreneurs who have legally started a business and are already showing traction in the market. Both accelerator and pre-accelerator programs last 12 months. In the sixth month of the program, a demo day is held to showcase startups to investors, business partners, and other stakeholders. A total of 23, 33 and 35 startups were supported by the KWORKS accelerator and pre-accelerator programs in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively.

KWORKS designs and runs accelerator programs in market or technology verticals such as IoT (internet of things) and Fintech (financial technology) through collaborations with external parties. In 2019, KWORKS ran a Fintech accelerator program and an IoT accelerator program with the support of Istanbul Development Agency.

### **LABOUR**

KWORKS designs and runs startup accelerator programs in collaboration with corporations. KWORKS ran an intensive six month accelerator program called Code, with Yapı Kredi bank, which began in 2018 and ran until May 2019. In 2019, KWORKS partnered with Tüpraş to support entrepreneurs with a program called Tüpraş ile Inowhatif.

KWORKS partners with TÜBİTAK in the BiGG program (1512-Bireysel Genç Girişimci Programı). The BiGG program offers young entrepreneurs a grant of up to 200,000 Turkish liras (TL). KWORKS collects applications from candidates with early stage technology-based startup ideas and prepares them for the TÜBİTAK grant application. KWORKS ran three BiGG programs between 2018-2020. In the first program held in 2018, 17 selected candidates sent applications to TÜBİTAK, of which 5 received the 200,000 TL grant. In the 2019 program, 15 candidates applied and 6 received the 200,000 TL grant. In the 2020 program, 22 candidates applied and 12 received the 200,000 TL grant. In this last program, the number of startups which KWORKS helped receive grant support was the highest among all BiGG programs.

# PRINCIPLE 7

Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

# PRINCIPLE 8

undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

# PRINCIPLE 9

encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

The University protects natural resources, uses them efficiently by enhancing consumption methods, minimizes waste creation at source, and prefers recyclable products with minimal negative environmental impacts. This is one of the University's central principles.

All Koç University campuses are equipped with automatic systems designed to achieve maximum energy efficiency. A central system controls lighting and ventilation of classrooms and corridors. Office lighting, heating and cooling are managed by motion sensors, which automatically shut off after fifteen minutes if no motion is detected. Koç University achieved the ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems certificate and campus operations are in line with international environmental standards.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS TO ENVIRONMENT**

The Koç University Sustainability Task Force (STF) was established in 2014 after Koç University became a member of the International Sustainable Campus Network. The STF's main objectives are to coordinate sustainable campus activities at Koç University, set goals and indicators with departments, plan activities, report, evaluate, monitor and improve environmental sustainability. In 2015, Facilities Management introduced Koç University Sustainable Campus Operations as a way of developing measures for campus buildings, transportation and services which decrease energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while increasing use of renewable and sustainable energy resources.

### **KOC UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

In 2019, Koç University participated in the Zero Waste initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Urbanization. The University aims to establish policies for Zero Waste by 31 December 2020 and to obtain first level certification in Zero Waste.

Activities performed under Zero Waste aim to make our use of natural resources more efficient and increase recycling by improving waste management skills and educating users.

A Zero Waste training video was made available online for employees. An additional member of staff was recruited to collect and manage waste. Existing University procedures for managing hazardous waste, such as weighing and measurement, were extended to non-hazardous waste. These procedures are carried out daily.



The results of these actions could not be evaluated in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down campus and reduced waste to minimum. However, campus management is preparing to monitor and evaluate the transition in the upcoming months.

In 2019, consistent with a sustainability outlook that encompasses all living things, the University began a program to care for and protect stray animals living within the boundaries of campus. Sheltering and feeding spots were prepared where animals could comfortably rest and eat. A personnel member is assigned to check and refill water and food bowls every day. Istanbul Municipality provides veterinary services.

### **KUSIF SOCIAL IMPACT LAB**

The Social Impact Lab carried out social impact and sustainable development activities through the Awareness Group and the Environment Club, operating under Koç University Volunteers. In collaboration with the Environment Club, KUSIF organized a recycling workshop with Upcycle Turkey, and an ecological literacy workshop with the Yuva Association.

# RESEARCH COMMITMENTS TO ENVIRONMENT

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY TÜPRAŞ ENERGY CENTER (KUTEM)**

KUTEM (Koç University Tüpraş Energy Center) is an energy research center at Koç University established in 2012 with a generous donation from Tüpraş. KUTEM, which functions as an umbrella for energy related research activities at Koç University, is the first energy research center to be funded by a private energy company in Turkey. KUTEM strives to educate new generations while placing a great emphasis on sustainable development. The center attracts bright young minds to energy research, provides seed funds for faculty energy research projects, and supports new students with tuition grants and stipends.

KUTEM research efforts are mainly focused on fuels and divided into fossil fuels, biofuels, and solar energy.



### KOÇ UNIVERSITY TÜPRAŞ ENERGY CENTER

Our fossil fuel research focuses on developing more efficient fuel production technologies and novel catalysts for a wide variety of industrially important reactions. Development of new adsorbents for applications, such as emission control, energy storage, and gas separation processes, is another fossil fuel focus area. In 2019, a KUTEM research project carried out in collaboration with Tüpraş R&D, developed a catalyst which converted carbon dioxide into dimethyl ether-a fuel substitute-at a record high rate.

Our biofuels research focuses on using biomass feedstocks, such as microalgae. Significant research efforts are underway to genetically

modify algae strains with high lipid content and rapid growth rate, develop new photobioreactors that efficiently grow algae, and develop new technologies for extracting fuel from algae. In 2019, KUTEM received an exciting new grant from TÜBİTAK for a biofuels research project to develop catalysts that convert microalgae oils into jet fuels. The large-scale project is funded under the 1003 Priority Areas Research Program, and involves partners from Boğaziçi University, Tüpraş R&D, Turkish Airlines, and Opet Technique.

In our solar fuels research, we are developing novel light absorbing systems and devices for converting solar energy into chemical and electrical energies. In 2019, KUTEM partnered with Tüpraş R&D to develop technologies for producing hydrogen from hydrogen sulfide, one of the major toxic components produced in a crude oil refinery. Although the center primarily focuses on fuels, the center supports many different energy-related projects, such as lithium ion batteries, solar cells, and thermal insulation. In 2019, KUTEM also geared up to boost research on data analytics focusing on developing sensors and cutting edge computing technologies that will process data where they are generated without the need of central computing clusters. The research includes new machine learning algorithms designed to predict failures in refining units.

KUTEM continued to be a platform for world-class education. Eleven master's and nineteen doctoral students graduated in 2019. One student received Koç University's Academic Excellence Award for her doctorate thesis and two (PhD and MS) joined Tüpraş.

### Selected KUTEM activities from the reporting period:

• KUTEM began a new monthly seminar series featuring top-class researchers from varied fields of energy research. The distinguished speakers included Simon Bare from (Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource), Şuhnaz Yılmaz, Metin Türkay, Eşref Ünsal (all Koç University), and Ziya Gürün (Tüpraş R&D). In April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the KUTEM Seminar Series continued online with a webinar by Gökhan Çelik (Middle East Technical University). For May 2020 our speaker was Distinguished Professor Bruce C. Gates of University of California, Davis, one of the top researchers in the field of catalysis. The webinar, organized with the Catalysis Society of Turkey, was made available to all catalysis researchers in Turkey. The seminar was a big success with nearly 250 participants from academia and industry in Turkey. With the series' continued success and seminars drawing a significant audience, the KUTEM Seminar Series is now a flagship KUTEM outreach activity. Lectures given by the top energy researchers in their field

encourage our community to explore new research directions and provide opportunities for developing new multidisciplinary collaborative research efforts.

- KUTEM was a sponsor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anatolian School of Catalysis 'From Fundamentals to Applications,' organized by KUTEM's co-directors on behalf of the Catalysis Society of Turkey. The school hosted more than 20 lectures offered by world-class experts reaching more than 120 participants in Turkey.
- The management team began a new meeting series with Tüpraş R&D to be held every three months to strengthen relationships, decide on new directions for collaborative research, and shape KUTEM's future. The meetings will set targets for the KUTEM's third phase, covering the period beyond 2023.

### Research Highlights from Affiliated Members (from 1 April 2019 to 30 May 2020):

 KUTEM members continued to publish in top tier journals. The total energy-related articles published by KUTEM members exceeded 200: 35 were published in journals with an impact factor greater than 5, and 9 with an impact factor greater than 9.

KUTEM members continued to receive prestigious awards, including the TÜBİTAK Incentive Award, Professor Mustafa N. Parlar Research Incentive Award, Turkish Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Award, Professor Aydın Köksal Computer Engineering Science Award, and the Science Heroes Young Scientist Award.

KUTEM members received funding for ten new projects from different external sources.

### KOC UNIVERSITY MARITIME FORUM (KUDENFOR) AND SEA ENVIRONMENT



Founded 4 December 2015, Koç University Maritime Forum (KUDENFOR) focuses on interdisciplinary scientific research of maritime affairs. The forum's principal aim is to contribute to key areas of Turkish Maritime Power including the sea environment by raising situational awareness, developing goals, objectives, and strategies, and cultivating maritime awareness across state and society.

KUDENFOR organized two conferences in 2018. Professor Mikdat Kadıoğlu hosted a conference on Global Climate Change. Doug Woodring, founder of the Ocean Recovery Association, hosted a conference on Sources and Control of Sea Pollution.

On 30 January 2020, Professor Alper Unal, ITU, hosted a conference on Global Warming and Maritime Pollution.

KUDENFOR also operates a 10 meter engineless, sailing pinnace to increase the student awareness of wind power as a means of clean propulsion.

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# PRINCIPLE 10

Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

### **ANTI-CORRUPTION**

Koç University enforces zero-tolerance policies and programs regarding corruption across the University's administrative policies and those of research centers that are part of academic collaborations, as a way of introducing the principles to the public and private sectors.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS TO ANTI-CORRUPTION**

The University's purchasing and procurement policy applies to the acquisition of all goods and services. It aims to ensure ethical, transparent, efficient and accountable practices are used for sourcing, procuring or other supply chain related activities and strives for balanced competition and negotiation as permitted by the purchasing policy.

Koç University's ethical code is designed to give suppliers, competing parties and competition objective criteria based on preventing nepotism, favoritism, personal gifts and gratuities.

### **RELATIONS WITH SUPPLIERS**

- To create mutual value in business relations with suppliers.
- To maintain open, direct, and accurate communications with suppliers.
- To select suppliers based on objective criteria.
- To respect reasonable confidentiality and work safety rules required by suppliers in supplier auditing and visits.
- To maintain the ethical values of the university within and during the relations with suppliers.

### **RELATIONS WITH COMPETING PARTIES AND COMPETITION**

- Not to make agreements or not to act in any way, directly or indirectly that prevents, distorts or restricts competition except in cases permitted by the legislation.
- To refrain from discussing or sharing information with competing parties about market, market conditions or inside details about competitors.
- To avoid any discussions and actions at meetings of associations, assemblies or chambers that may lead to or may be described as the situations mentioned above.

Koç University's curriculum, academic tracks, certificate and outreach programs related to sustainability, offer students numerous opportunities to engage with sustainability issues.

Additionally, Koç University hosts over 74 student clubs and over 400 volunteers who work on various social responsibility projects and activities. The undergraduate curriculum offers a wide range of core courses on social, economic and environmental responsibility. At present, all students regardless of their majors must take social sciences and ethics courses as electives. Students can choose from some 20 core courses on social issues and ethics ranging from city and society, migration and globalization to human rights, environmental ethics and media ethics. Koç University continues to steadily integrate sustainability into existing courses. The Graduate School of Business has already integrated sustainability into its programs.

KUSIF, the Office of International Programs (OIP), related departments of the Dean of Students, academic faculties and the Office of the General Secretary collaborate on sustainability-related academic and outreach programs.



### **CORE CURRICULUM**

The core program at Koç University provides an interdisciplinary foundation for all undergraduates, irrespective of their choice in major. Launched when the University was founded, the program initially taught the history of civilizations. In 2017, major revisions were made to the core program. A key objective of the change was to better explain to students why taking courses in social and natural sciences and learning ethical and quantitative reasoning, interpretive understanding, and economic and strategic analysis are essential regardless of a student's major. The Ethical Reasoning (ETHR) path of the core program focuses on legal philosophy, teaching that 'what we do and what we say' has ethical implications. The program's objective is to cultivate students who are global citizens who understand the historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity of the world in which we live, who understand the ethical dimensions of what they do and say, and who recognize and democratically participate in processes that improve the civic life of communities. Courses offered in ETHR include legal philosophy, ethics and everyday life, sexism and discrimination, a quest for ethical foundations and environmental ethics.

In 2019, evaluation of the current structure of the core was conducted based on previous quantitative and qualitative data; new qualitative data based on focus group interviews with students and faculty; examination of syllabi of all core courses; and examination of core programs on offer at the leading US universities. A new document was drafted revising the philosophy of the core program. This document was shorter, more practical, defined the principles of the core education better than the previous document (2011 revision). The document included clear, practical definitions of the seven knowledge areas and set out well defined content criteria for all knowledge areas. The intention is to provide a guideline for designing new core courses and evaluating the suitability of existing courses for inclusion in the core program.

During the 2019 -2020 academic year 64 courses with 105 sections were offered in the core program. These courses were taught by 81 fulltime faculty members and 27 parttime instructors.

### ALIS (ACADEMIC AND LIFE SKILLS)



Founded by Professor Zeynep Aycan in 2010, ALIS is a student-centered program to ensure students enjoy a successful and enriching experience throughout their academic life and to introduce them to fundamental skills for personal and professional life. The program offers three courses: academic and life skills, transition to professional life, and next generation leadership. These courses present students with opportunities to practice skills often required in

today's competitive professional life. Enrichment by diversity is the core concept of all ALIS classes. Experiential learning methods and reflections are also widely employed.

### OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (OIP)

The core mission of the Office of International Programs (OIP) is to enhance international project development by pursuing specific programming efforts focused on global engagement which drive 'internationalization at home' (IaH). OIP's global engagement programs are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. They are designed around a 21st century global citizenship model, encompassing global awareness and systems leadership, intercultural sensitivity, personal development, interpersonal skills, narrative literacy, creative problem-solving, and entrepreneurship. OIP works continuously to

integrate this model to its flagship global engagement, service-learning and social entrepreneurship programs. The office also provides international opportunities to students to help them experience change in both their attitudes and behaviors, gain a better understanding of other people and cultures, be more open to diversity, broaden their horizons, and develop a more inclusive mind toward the world.

In 2019, the Special Projects unit experienced a good turnout of international students for its short-term programs such as, International Migration and the Crisis, and Prelude to the Middle East. The variety of nationalities of the participating students was promising. While there was a slight decrease in the numbers of outbound exchange students, there was an increase in the number of Koc University students applying and participating in the Special Projects unit's short-term summer programs. The Peacemakers project, OIP's only Erasmus+ KA2 project, yielded sufficient outcomes and activities to establish and sustain Peace Envoy student networks at Koç University and collaborating institutions. The outputs of Peacemakers project and a co-led project called Waladu have been publicly shared.

The International Projects unit has advanced and developed new partnerships for OIP's unique cocurricular program, the Global Learning and Leadership Program (GLLP). While the program became more successful with the growth of internal and external stakeholders, 2019 also saw new corporate and individual partnerships formed. Student-led projects on and off campus have been an influential component of GLLP: the Leadership Development and Community Building Program held in Santos, Brazil, was received very positively by participating students. The KUGlobal Aid student group conducted service learning projects around the migration issue in Istanbul. The International Projects unit also supported the initiatives and activities of GSVC, Hult Prize, and Dalai Lama Fellows.

Summer and Fall of 2019 were fruitful in terms of participation in OIP's short-term summer and winter programs. A diverse group of international participants attended the International Migration and the Crisis program, and a specially designed custom-made program for Nanyang Technological University, Prelude to the Middle East, took place for the ninth time. OIP also provided various short-term study abroad options to Koc University students via programs designed with prestigious partner institutions. Towards the end of 2019, a new team member joined OIP to promote Erasmus+ KA2 & KA3 projects at Koç University and increase the number of project applications originating from Koç University's administrative and academic departments.

Every summer, OIP organizes a short-term summer abroad program for Koc University students in the fields of social innovation and leadership in which participants work in teams to undertake various social entrepreneurship and community impact challenges related to issues of sustainable livelihoods and inclusive development for communities in need. In summer 2019, this program was Designing for Leadership and Innovation, and took place in Ibiza.

The International Community Office (ICO) introduced new engagement programs and activities to increase awareness of and understanding amongst different cultures at Koç University, and to support the integration of the international community. ICO also continued its mission to educate undergraduate and graduate student groups on intercultural communication via workshops. While ICO performed collaborative projects with internal and external stakeholders to improve the services offered to the international community, the office also reacted promptly to provide advice, updates and FAQs for the international community in response to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19. In 2019-20, ICO served almost 700 students, staff members, researchers ,and dependents. ICO also worked diligently to improve its services and operations, updated and created guidelines and resources for the international community, and updated its website extensively to offer the Koç University community a single, convenient point of access for available information.

In response to the rapid changes in international education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Koç University has begun offering virtual mobility options for inbound and outbound exchange students, which support from the European Commission. The virtual and blended mobility program options have yielded positive outcomes for students, faculty members (i.e., budget, time management, etc.), and campus life and

resources. With most of the world's universities making plans to offer virtual and blended mobility programs for participants starting 2020-21, OIP strongly believes such programs should also be offered at Koç University, and academic and administrative regulations should be re-evaluated and re-structured accordingly.

# COURSES AND PROGRAMS SUPPORTED AND COLLABORATED BY KUSIF COLLABORATION WITH THE GLOBAL LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (GLLP)



KUSIF works with the Global Learning and Leadership Program (GLLP), which is a cocurricular, hands-on program designed to complement the academic studies of Koç University undergraduate students. Students who attain the status of Changemaker, are required to be part of the KUSIF Mentorship Program. This ensures students receive mentoring, professional support, and access to research tools and work space in the Social Impact Lab. The mentorship program supported six groups whose projects covered topics such as refugee women, education support for orphan children, creating public awareness of sustainability, and data about active

and passive sustainability projects at Koç University.

### SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT MANAGEMENT ACADEMIC TRACK

Since 2015, KUSIF has run an academic track program aimed at developing students' understanding of issues related to social impact and the internal links between business and other social institutions. The program was designed to increase students' knowledge and skills and support leadership capacities in education and practice, social innovation, contribution to society, and social impact.

The program's content which includes interdisciplinary themes such as corporate social responsibility, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, social impact creation, and social impact measurement, was recently revised. The program is now called Sustainability and Impact Management and will be conducted jointly with the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics.

The program offers mandatory and a wide range of elective courses that will prepare students in their future careers to be responsible leaders who are part of solutions to social and environmental problems. The program's primary goal is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills for sustainability and impact management. There are 23 elective courses in the track program drawn from across the University. These are: Next Generation Leadership and Transformation, Introduction To Global Political Economy, Gender and Politics, International Organizations And NGOs, Survival And Prosperity In An Interdependent World, International Migration In A Global World, International Human Rights Law, Gender And Law, Insurance Law, Social Design Studio, Creating Social Impact Through Collaborative Project Management Experiential Learning, Strategy In A Global Environment, Social Entrepreneurship, Corporate Responsibility, Ethics In Healthcare Services, Sustainable Operations Management, Applied Ethics, Energy And Environment, Global Health: Disparities & Determinants & Outcomes, Balance Sheet For Sustainable Energy, Social Problems, Rural Sociology, Environmental Sociology.

### KUSIF supported Koç University's academic agenda by teaching the following courses:

- Social Entrepreneurship, for undergraduate students,
- Creating Social Impact through Collaborative Projects: Experiential Learning, for undergraduate students.

KUSIF draws on its expertise and social impact to deliver courses which are interactive and based on experiential learning. Students work with real life problems and are offered free social impact consultancy throughout the course. The output of these courses between May 2018 and May 2020 included:

- Pro-bono consulting for 8 NGOs, 2 companies and 3 social enterprises to help them develop a theory of change with their social programs and social investments.
- A Social Impact Projects Bazaar was organized at Koç University.

### **SOCIAL IMPACT LAB**

The Social Impact Lab is a KUSIF project established in November 2018 to help students with social entrepreneurship ideas on their path to becoming full social entrepreneurs. The project provides workspace, mentorship, professional support, seed funding, workshops, intense trainings, a wide network, and research tools.

The Social Impact Lab also hosts workshops, roundtables, podcast interviews, and film screenings to increase students' interest and capacities in social entrepreneurship, civil society and social impact. Activities in the last two years include:

- Since the Spring 2019, the incubation program has supported 9 social entrepreneur groups (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral student groups). At present, there are 3 active groups in the program working to validate their ideas and products. These social entrepreneur groups work on peer guidance, animal health, and street animals.
- Since Fall 2019, the Social Impact Lab Talks series has hosted 7 speakers who have shared their knowledge and experience on how to use entrepreneurship to solve social problems. Topics include social impact, funding opportunities, product-market fit, how to convince investors, startup ecosystem, design thinking solutions, connecting to the business world.
- During Fall 2019, KUSIF and the Social Impact Lab organized two seminars for Koç University students, Social Entrepreneurship and Social Impact. These seminars were organized under the UNIV 101 Seminar Program of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences.
- KUSIF and the Social Impact Lab continued to offer support and guidance to Koç University's Career Development Center for co-organizing Careers in Social Impact Days for Koç University students who are interested in social impact.
- During Spring 2020, the Social Impact Lab began a Social Impact Lab Talks podcast which is broadcast through Spotify, Apple and Google. The podcasts are modelled on a roundtable concept and discussed topics such as the contribution of the subscription system to sustainability, growth hacking, innovation, and entrepreneurship in institutions.
- Moderated and provided content support about social impact for the Awareness Summit organized by the Awareness Club.
- Organized pro bono training on social impact and social entrepreneurship and theory of change workshops to students of Ataturk University in Erzurum as part of a Social Entrepreneurship Summit organized by the Güçlü İyilik Project.
- Organized pro bono training to students of Sabancı University on Social Awareness Projects-Social Impact Strategy for Sustainable Development Goals with Sabancı University.

### DEAN OF STUDENTS, STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS OFFICE

Koç University's mission and values embrace a liberal arts education: The Dean of Students Office shares the institutional vision that the development of students' core competencies cannot be realized solely through



academic programs. Thus, the Dean of Students Office works in several major areas to help students develop these skills.

In line with this objective, the Dean of Students established the Diversity and Inclusion Office (D&IO) in December 2019, the first in Turkey within a university. Although not yet fully operational because of the social and physical limitations caused by COVID-19, the office was able to support students during the pandemic, especially those belonging to vulnerable socioeconomic groups.

With a wide spectrum of activities varying from cultural to academic, professional to athletic and with its accumulation of organizational experience and high motivation, the Student Activities and Volunteer Projects Office is one of the strongest supporters of students who are engaged in extracurricular activities. A cooperation between the students, companies and the University in general, activities structured and monitored by the office this year have been full of high-achievements and innovative activities.

Each year the Student Activities and Volunteer Projects Office supports over 400 activities. This year, in addition to the improvements made to already existing activities, many events and activities were held for the first time. For example, the Awareness Summit was a first-time event organized by the Koç University Volunteers Club. The summit's goal was to create awareness about social entrepreneurship. Various other career-based events are organized on campus, such as Kamp, The One, and Leap, and received more than 500 applications.



The Student Activities and Volunteer Projects Office worked to reinforce participation in national and international off-campus activities. To increase the attendance of international students in campus events, many seminars and workshops were held in English.

In line with Koç University's complementary approach to education—academic and social—the office conducts student activities and volunteer projects which allow students to gain real world project management and organizational experience while working on their hobbies and developing a sense of cultural and artistic appreciation. As a result, increasing the number and efficiency of social responsibility projects and international events are among the new and important objectives of the office.

The office also established stronger ties with public institutions and expanded the number of projects where public actors are actively involved. A new course on Philanthropy and Volunteerism was offered in the Fall 2020 term, which examines the role of philanthropic activities, the process and legal framework of philanthropy on a local and global level, and the contribution that volunteerism makes to civil society. The course will give participants the chance to put theory into practice by working on public and community services projects, or certain private NGO projects, as part of course requirements.

The Dean of Students has adopted a new 'general' approach, to increase active cooperation with national and international public institutions. To achieve this aim, the Dean of Students works with units within its structure such as Career Advisory Services, ALIS, KURES and the Office of Disability Services, to serve as a liaison to certain projects including various public actors.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY PRESS**



Koç University Press (KUP) was founded in 2010. In 2014, it expanded production to 60 titles per year and had published over 200 titles by the end of 2018. It is on its way to becoming the leading academic press in Turkey. In 2019, 40 new titles were published in humanities, arts, literature, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, business, and technology. By the end of

the year, children's titles were added to the list.

KUP contributes to science and scholarship through the publication of new research and aims to publish state-of-the-art books in all fields of science which are accessible for a wider audience, thus contributing to Turkey's cultural life. KUP transforms new ideas, projects and research into books as a way of transmitting those ideas and efforts to the public.



