

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT



YAŞAR UNIVERSITY

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: December, 2019

To: November, 2021

17 November, 2021

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE RECTOR OF YAŞAR UNIVERSITY

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Yaşar University reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement for the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our university has conducted to support the UN Global Compact and its principles as suggested for an organization like our university. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. M. Cemali DİNÇER

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS AND MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

INTRODUCTION

Yaşar University has been a devoted follower and disseminator of the UN Global Compact principles as an institution and an academic organization since its participation at the compact. Yaşar University serves the public, not only by abiding by these principles but also by conducting research, developing academic interest, and teaching the young and elder generations about them.

Since its foundation, Yaşar University has been committed to following social responsibility norms which are embedded in the motto of the University as: “Science, Unity, Success”. These norms are integrated into the strategic planning priorities of the university in the form of “human-first” and “supremacy of ethical science” approaches.

Yaşar University is an active participant of the UN Global Compact, both at the local and international levels. Yaşar University has been represented at the annual meetings of the UN Global Compact Network Turkey. The University representatives have participated in several activities, including meetings and workshops organised by the UN Global Compact – Network Turkey. Yaşar University contributed to the international activities of the UN Global Compact, such as the Business for Peace (B4P) annual events convened in Istanbul and New York as well as the finalisation process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN Headquarters.

Being an academic institution gives Yaşar University a broad spectrum of possibilities to contribute to the UN Global Compact principles and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by disseminating information, teaching, and developing projects about sustainability and social responsibility and by cooperating with various stakeholders at the city, country, regional and international levels. As an academic institution with a high quality faculty, committed administrative staff and dedicated students, Yaşar University disseminates information, develops projects and conducts teaching activities in relation to several SDGs, including eradicating poverty, ensuring gender equality, creating means for affordable and clean energy, reducing inequities, contributing to climate action processes, helping the transformation of urban environments into sustainable cities, working for peace, justice and strong institutions, and providing quality education. Yaşar University, with its quality academic faculty and administrative staff has the potential to contribute in all the above-mentioned areas of the SDGs.

Yaşar University actively contributes to promotion, dissemination and implementation of the UN Global Compact principles and the SDGs through its activities in the domains of education, social responsibility, life-long learning, workplace security and health, gender equality, environmental protection, energy efficiency and anti-corruption. Yaşar University seeks to further integrate the values associated with the UN Global Compact principles and the SDGs into its strategic plans and the future operations of the university.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES

AT YAŞAR UNIVERSITY

1. HUMAN RIGHTS

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.

Promotion and implementation of human rights are essential for achieving sustainable development worldwide. Integrating human rights principles in all institutional activities is critical for a transformative world vision and a planet-centred, gender-sensitive just development. In this regard, Yaşar University prioritises promotion and implementation of human rights above all and conducts the following actions:

1.1. Educational Activities at the Yaşar University

Having good quality education is one of the fundamental features necessary to improve people's lives and to ensure the sustainability of development in general. Despite observing progress towards an increase in access to education and improvement in the enrollment rates at schools, there is still significant room until achieving the SDG 4 education targets globally. There is also a strong need for improvement in the skill sets of the university students within the higher education system.

To contribute to the improvement of the overall intellectual progress of its students and the wider public, Yaşar University conducts the following activities:

- **Department of Science Culture and Foundation Courses Program**

Universities should provide and stimulate an intellectual environment where both science and critical thinking is promoted and encouraged. Universities should teach and cherish this principle, opening the door to a more prosperous way of life, where people are more in tune with their surroundings. At Yaşar University, it is anticipated that through acquiring specific fundamental skills, students will have the chance to recognise and internalise the university's values, expressed in its motto: 'Science, Unity, Success'. It is also expected that through the nurturing environment of the university, students will increase their thirst for learning and success through personally experiencing this respectful approach to life. Yaşar University is a scientific institution, which places great importance on these global values. It constantly strives to develop its 'unique' scientific assertions through question and analysis. Accordingly, it prioritises the prompt integration of new research findings from the university environment into education programs. Over time, this also benefits the proficiency of graduates. In this regard, Yaşar University has established a specific department, called "Department of Science Culture" that has interdisciplinary features and provides teaching and training to improve theoretical understanding of scientific theories and their practical implementations.

Yaşar University's unique scientific assertions and the value of its education programs, as identified in its institutional identity, are reflected in its Foundation Courses Program (FCP). These courses are comprised to combine global scientific values with the most current educational demands in the most appropriate way. The courses aim to provide specific information about various intellectual perspectives and improve the necessary ability, skill, attitude, interests, habits, and students' social responsibility. They differ from the "compulsory lessons", determined by the Council of Higher

Education. They also diverge from the “specialized” and “elective” courses offered in the students’ regular study programs. However, they are in harmony and coordination with various academic programs offered at the university. The courses adopt the methods and principles of science and aim to provide awareness about philosophy and art as well as social responsibility. Yaşar University offers these courses both in Turkish and English, consistent with the universal educational standards.

Starting with the 2012-2013 academic year, the courses have integrated the facilities provided by Open and Distance Learning. ‘Foundation Courses’ are incorporated into the curriculum of Yaşar University to assist students in acquiring essential skills. These essential skills can provide graduates with advantages and differentiating abilities when compared to their contemporaries. Research and reviews are carried out of international higher education programs, to validate the relevance of these additional skills in the marketplace. In addition, a recent ‘needs analysis’ was also undertaken to identify the demands of the sector, institutions, and businesses, which may recruit our graduates. The courses are offered under two main categories: “Philosophy Courses” and “Activity Courses”.

The courses under the “Philosophy Courses” category teach the university’s scientific assertions. They reflect the institutional, academic, and cultural values of Yaşar University, its essential principles and the methodology needed to adopt the philosophical basis of these principles. The courses under the “Activity Courses” category are practice-based courses where students find solutions to actual, real-life problems out of the university campus by forming multi-disciplinary study groups. The purpose is to improve students’ awareness of real-life issues as well as to improve the students’ skills to offer solutions to these issues

The classes (both in English and Turkish) offered under the Yaşar University Foundation Courses Program are as follows:

SCUL 0703 Türkiye’de ve Dünyada Demokrasi Kültürü (Culture of Democracy in Turkey and the World)

SCUL 0704 Türkiye’nin Yakın Siyasi Tarihi (Late History of Turkish Politics)

UFND 1010 Davranış Bilimleri (Behavioural Sciences)

UFND 1110 Anlam ve Göstergebilim (UFND 1120 Semiology and Semantics)

UFND 1410 Felsefe Mantık (UFND 1420 Philosophy-Logic)

UFND1710 Kariyer Planlama (Career Planning)

UFND 2010 Araştırma Kültürü (UFND 2020 Research Culture)

UFND 3010 Tasarım Kültürü (UFND 3020 Design Culture)

UFND 4010 Estetik Kültürü (UFND 4020 Aesthetic Culture)

UFND 4220 Etiquette and Protocol

UFND 5010 Etik Kültürü (UFND 5020 Ethic Culture)

UFND 6010 Proje Kültürü (UFND 6020 Project Culture)

UFND 6110 Girişimcilik ve İş planlaması (UFND 6120 Entrepreneurship and Business Planning)

UFND 6210 Sürdürülebilirlik (UFND 6220 Sustainability)

SCUL7000 Sosyal Girişimcilik (Social Entrepreneurship)

UFND 7010 Sosyal Sorumluluk (UFND 7020 Social Responsibility)

UFND 7820 Sivil Toplum ve Göç (Civil Society and Migration)

- **Courses on Human Rights and Discrimination**

Recognizing the importance of providing specialized courses about human rights and discrimination, Yaşar University Faculty of Human and Social Sciences offers the following classes:

IR 3355 Human Rights: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the concept of human rights from a theoretical and empirical perspective. As part of this course, fundamental human rights developments are studied, and human rights issues are examined from a legal, political, and ethical perspective.

PRAD 0040 Discrimination Studies: The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of theories concerning prejudice and discrimination, including ageism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, and homophobia. As a part of this course, students understand the nature of prejudice and discrimination and discuss these issues from a theoretical and historical perspective.

1.2. Social Responsibility Programs at Yaşar University

Social Responsibility is an ethical framework that calls upon individuals, entities, groups, and institutions to act responsibly, and fulfills their civic duties towards society. To disseminate the teaching and integration of this principle, Yaşar University offers a specific course on Social Responsibility under the Foundation Courses Program, has founded Social Responsibility Community, and conducts various projects, such as “İzmir’de İyilik Var”. Due to its active support of the various social responsibility programs, Yaşar University has been accepted to be part of the National Volunteering Committee, established through the initiative of the United Nations Turkey. Yaşar University is the first-ever university in Turkey invited to take part in the National Volunteering Committee.

- **UFND 7010 Social Responsibility Course**

The Social Responsibility Course aims to enable students to learn about society and develop social awareness by taking part in a social responsibility project. The students develop and implement a social responsibility project outside of the campus and enhance their experience in team-building, project coordination and implementation. The course teaches both the basic principles of social responsibility and the methodology required to apply these principles in real life.

Social Responsibility has been devised as Yaşar University’s institutional scientific identity assertions. Hence, the course is a compulsory course for all university students. It is offered both in English and Turkish.

The learning outcomes of the courses are as follows: to understand and discuss the principles of social responsibility; to express a social problem; to develop a social project with a team; to manage the defined phases of projects; and to apply the philosophical basis of social responsibility principles.

The projects conducted by the students as a part of the Social Responsibility Course include helping high-school students with their classes, painting the community walls in different parts of the city,

preparing houses for stray animals, providing clothes, toys and necessary equipment to the children in underprivileged parts of Turkey, and recording short films in various parts of Izmir.

- **Social Responsibility Community of Yaşar University**

Yaşar University aims to disseminate social responsibility principles among its students and encourages them to engage in related projects. Hence, the students of Yaşar University have organised themselves under the roof of the “Social Responsibility Community”, which organizes several events throughout the academic year. The community has been active since 2011. The events organised by the Social Responsibility Community includes the following: “Toy Studio”, “Game is Our Business” project, Orientation Days, “Turkish Sign Language” Studio, and Yoga.

- **Social Responsibility Projects: “İzmir’de İyilik Var”**

Yaşar University actively supports the dissemination of social responsibility spirit outside of the university. Hence, Yaşar University cooperates with several actors, such as the Izmir municipality, civil society actors, and international organisations, to organise social responsibility projects at the city and regional levels. One of the principal examples among these projects is called “İzmir’de İyilik Var (There is Goodwill in Izmir)”, organized by the professors at Yaşar University in cooperation with Izmir municipality and various local civil society organizations. The event was organized for the 4th time in Izmir in 2019, and the topic was “Terrestrial life and Deforestation”.

- **Yaşar University Radio Station Programs on Social Responsibility**

Yaşar University Radio Station RadYu has been broadcasting special programmes as “Fairness in the Campus”, “Zero Waste”, and “Live Your Career Healthy” to raise awareness on social projects.

1.3. Yaşar University as an Accessible University

Yaşar University campus has been designed to provide equal access to all individuals to reach every point in the campus without any problems. Yaşar University is an example of a barrier-free university where there are no barriers to equally participating in university life. The significant efforts of Yaşar University for providing equal access and participation opportunities to all individuals have been recognised by the Council of Higher Education. The Council of Higher Education has granted certificates for acknowledging the accessibility of Yaşar University in three spheres: namely the Orange Flag for Accessibility in Space, the Green Flag for Accessibility of Education, and the Blue Flag for Accessibility of Socio-cultural Events.

- **Disabled Students Unit**

To minimise the limitations affecting the campus's academic and social life, Yaşar University founded the Disabled Student Unit. Disabled Students Unit coordinates the necessary arrangements to create an accessible university for all students and staff. The unit identifies the obstacles against equal access to university life and implements the measures against them. The identification of the challenges against equal participation in the university life is conducted with the involvement of the differently abled students by considering the specific needs of each student. The unit focuses on the obstacles related to campus infrastructure and access to course materials, and the learning/working environment essential for equal participation in university life.

- **Barrier-Free Living Community**

For creating an accessible university environment without any barriers, Yaşar University students have established the “Barrier-Free Living Community”. The community organises various events, such as conferences, seminars, and documentary screenings, to raise awareness about the significance of creating a university environment accessible for everybody.

1.4. Lifelong Learning at Yaşar University

Life-long learning is the voluntary act of earning thought-out life. It enhances social inclusion, promotes community development, supports active citizenship, and increases the chances of employability. Yaşar University supports life-long learning through its Continuing Education Center.

- **Yaşar University Continuing Education Center (YUCEC)**

Yaşar University Continuing Education Center was established to meet the needs of lifelong learning, in-service training, and personal training. YUCEC organises various educational programs, courses, seminars and conferences for individuals, the public and private sector, and international institutions. Its mission is to provide participants with new information and skills by integrating theory and practice. YUCEC organises various certificate courses on many topics, such as career planning, personal development, foreign languages, theatre, ceramics, music, and cooking. In addition, YUCEC designs education programs to meet the specific needs of corporations and institutions. Examples of corporates and institutions for which YUCEC has organised education programs include Vestel, Grundfos Pompa, Izmir Gaz, Izmir Commodity Exchange, Aras Kargo, Mazhar Zorlu Holding, Izmir St. Joseph French High School, and Selçuk Municipality.

YUCEC offers skills and expertise to working individuals who wish to improve themselves in a certain field; those who wish to get a different and/or appealing job offer; and those who wish to learn a foreign language or improve language skills; those who did not have the opportunity of attending a university. YUCEC is also a member of EUCEN (European University Continuing Education Network).

1.5. Chairs on Migration

Migrants and refugees are most vulnerable to human rights violations, including economic and social exploitation, exclusion, discrimination, and abuse. Yaşar University Faculty of Human and Social Sciences has developed significant knowledge and experience in migration studies. As a recognition of these efforts, Yaşar University has been granted the UNESCO Chair on International Migration (2016-2020) and Jean Monnet Chair on “Migration in Turkey-European Union Relations” (2019-2022). The principal purpose of these chairs is to establish dialogue and collaboration between policymakers and academics working on migration.

2. LABOUR

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.

To ensure equality and social progress, all employees worldwide should have safe and decent working conditions. All forms of child labour, as well as forced and compulsory labour, should be abolished. Businesses should respect the freedom of association, and employees should implement the right to collective bargaining. For Yaşar University, top priorities are ensuring smooth implementation of employees' rights and providing safe and healthy working conditions. Yaşar University puts utmost importance to protecting employees' rights according to Turkish Labour Law and international labour standards.

2.1. Workplace Health and Security Unit

As part of the efforts to ensure safety and well-being of the employees at Yaşar University Workplace Security and Health Unit is founded. This unit aims to optimize working conditions and technological tools at the university for the purpose of supporting social, physiological, and physical conditions of the employees. The unit puts the "human factor" at the core of its actions, spreads awareness about the importance of security and health in the workplace to prevent undesirable events which may threaten health and security of the employees and the students.

2.2. ISG 9110 and ISG 9219 Occupational Health and Security Courses

As required by the Council of Higher Education, Yaşar University offers two courses on occupational health and security: ISG 9110 and ISG 9210.

2.3. Preventive Measures of Pandemic COVID-19

Internationally, countries have reacted to the COVID-19 outbreak by introducing key public health non-pharmaceutical interventions to protect vulnerable population groups. In response to COVID-19, Yaşar University has taken a series of policy actions beyond public health initiatives. These preventive measures are as follows:

- When personnel and students apply to the health unit, an examination is carried out. If necessary, a hospital referral is made for further examination and examination.
- Information meetings on health issues are held for staff and students in certain periods. Educational presentations are shared through the SAKAİ (open learning platform) system.
- Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the regulations and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health / Ministry of Internal Affairs / Presidency have been followed and necessary information has been provided to personnel.
- Since March, 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic started in Turkey, every day, both personnel and students who are Covid-19 patients/contacts/suspects have been contacted and necessary information is provided to them.
- Disinfection and cleaning works are regularly carried out throughout the university, including the cleaning of door handles, chair armrests, etc. Various surfaces and materials used are regularly wiped with disinfectant throughout the day.
- Collaborative work is carried out with occupational safety experts on issues such as risk analysis, emergency team training, drills, regular Occupational Health and Safety Board meetings, etc., as a part of the framework of Occupational Health and Safety Law.
- Sanitary inspections are carried out in the cafeteria.

- Central air conditioning systems are maintained and cleaned.
- In the dining hall, arrangements are made according to the social distancing.
- Mental health support has been provided to employees and students to overcome the negative effects of the pandemic.

General Rules to be followed by all staff and students are as follows:

- The use of masks is mandatory within campus boundaries. Our employees and students are required to pay attention to the social distancing rules within the campus.
- For waste that carries the high risk of contamination (mask, tissue paper, etc.), trash receptacles cans are placed at certain points on the campus.
- Students, staff, and visitors should not create overcrowded environments.
- No more than 2 people are allowed to use the elevators at the same time.
- It is necessary to present a personnel card at the entrance and exit of the cafeteria, and all staff and students must comply with the social distancing rule.
- It is obligatory for all personnel who will travel abroad and who will return from abroad to inform the doctor of our university about their travel status.
- It is mandatory to wear masks in the personnel service vehicles.
- All visitors, personnel and students are required to show the HES Code and Covid Vaccine Card or PCR Test Results at the entrance and exit of the campus. In addition, temperatures are taken by officers at all entrances.

2.4. Center for Women and Family Studies

Yaşar University Center for Women and Family Studies (YÜKAM), was established on December 7, 2020, aims to undertake research about the problems arising from gender inequality, to raise awareness, and to develop project collaborations, and strengthen our university's stance on gender equality.

In the first six months of its establishment, the dynamic and highly motivated YÜKAM prepared the Yaşar University Policy Document for the Prevention of Gender-Based Discrimination, Violence and Sexual Harassment. By adopting the Gender-Based Discrimination, Violence and Sexual Harassment Prevention Directive, Yaşar University has sharpened its stance on gender equality and revealed its unyielding stance against violence and discrimination towards women.

Continuing its activities with the wind of the European Union Horizon 2020 CALİPER (Research and Innovation for Gender Equality) Project, YÜKAM accelerated its awareness-raising efforts with the "Gender Equality, Patriarchy and Violence" seminars that it started with the Gender Talks-1 on March 4, 2021.

3. ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility;

Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

The planet is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, including climate change, food shortages, biodiversity loss and water and energy insufficiencies. Hence, environmental protection and efficient use of energy are central for promotion of sustainable development. In this regard, universities should take the lead for spreading environmental awareness, teach the public and the private sector about the necessary environmental precautions and implement these measures within the campus.

In order to create a sustainable campus, Yaşar University is committed to continuously improving its energy performance. In this regard, Yaşar University efficiently uses energy and water in all activities at the campus; defines energy consumption targets and continuously updates and monitors them. Yaşar University also performs regular energy efficiency audits for defining the possibilities of energy efficiency improvement; follows new legislation about energy and water use and meets their requirements; conducts trainings and seminars about energy efficiency and environmental protection; includes energy performance assessment and improvement at the design phase of new projects; and purchases and utilizes energy-efficient products and services.

As a recognition of the efforts of Yaşar University in implementing energy efficiency at its campus, Yaşar University has become the first university in Turkey to receive the Energy Management Certificate (TS- EN-ISO 50001).

3.1. Department of Energy Systems Engineering

For disseminating knowledge about efficient energy use and production, Yaşar University has founded the department of Energy Systems Engineering. The department offers an undergraduate degree in Energy Systems Engineering since the 2012-2013 academic year. The education language is English. The curriculum consists of various energy-related courses in the fields of mechanical and electric-electronic engineering.

3.2. MSc in Energy Management

At the graduate level, Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences offers a master program in Energy Management. The program is offered in Turkish. The purpose of the program is to train experts who are equipped with the knowledge of energy technology and management, and who can produce sustainable solutions for reducing energy consumption.

3.3. Energy Productivity and Management Coordination Board

For effectively improving the energy performance at the campus, the Energy Productivity and Management Coordination Board was founded. The board is active since 2014. It is composed of 7 members and one academic advisor. The purpose of the board is to raise awareness about energy efficiency within and outside of the campus and to support educational activities in the field. For instance, the Board facilitated the organization of a summer course at Yaşar University in 2018, which is called “Exergy and Its Applications”. Parallel to this, the university uses a system that converts solar energy into electrical energy, built with photovoltaic panels. The hot water used for showering in the rooms in the Student Dormitory are provided with natural gas boilers, and solar energy panels on the

roof of the building are used to support this system. Thus, the university provides efficiency by heating hot water with solar energy.

- Hot water used for showering in the rooms in the Student Dormitory is provided by natural gas boilers, and solar panels on the roof of the building are used to support this system.

3.4. Zero Waste Action

Regarding the Zero Waste initiative launched by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, first of all;

- A study was conducted to determine the types of waste generated in the university.
- The waste bins and containers needed to cover the entire campus were provided.
- A "Temporary Hazardous Waste Collection Area" behind the Selçuk Yaşar Campus Cafeteria is planned.
- A "Temporary Non-Hazardous Waste Collection Area" has been built inside the closed area next to the security booth at the Y building of our university. The wastes accumulated in the boxes are taken and left in this area. When the waste area is full, the company authorized by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization for waste collection is invited and the waste is collected in return for a receipt.
- For the cleaning staff of the university, within the scope of zero waste action, an informative study was conducted on the types of waste generated in the university.
- An information e-mail about zero waste actions was sent to the academic and administrative staff of the university.
- To inform our students about zero waste actions carried out at the university, a presentation was prepared and presented to all students via the SAKAI system.

3.5. Energy Efficiency and Management Student Community

Energy Efficiency and Management Student Community has been established by the Yaşar University students to raise awareness about energy efficiency and sustainability both within the Yaşar University community and the wider public. The community is active since 2015. It organizes various events and technical visits with the purpose of disseminating knowledge about energy efficiency and management.

4. ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all forms, including extortion and bribery.

Yaşar University has always been a committed supporter of universal ethics and principles about anti-corruption. Yaşar University avoids all forms of bribery and extortion, and proactively implements the principle of transparency in all of its internal actions. Yaşar University's operations and governance is audited by the Council of Higher Education.